



William J. Cook

September 27, 1960 - March 24, 2021

William James Cook, 60, of Interlochen, Michigan passed away suddenly on March 24, 2021. Bill, as he was known, was born on September 27, 1960 to the late James O. Cook and Judith (O'Neil) Cook who raised him in Saline. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Audrey (Melenyk) Cook. He is also survived by his two children, Alexis Cook and William Cook of Whitmore Lake and his nephew James Cook of Brighton, son of Bill's brother, the late Timothy Cook, and other nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his fur baby, Shyann (German Shepherd Dog), his grandpuppies, Asteri and Athena, and grandkitties Artemis and Apollo. Bill was a natural born pilot, beginning his career at the Ann Arbor airport fuelling airplanes at age 16, soloing an airplane at age 18 and continuing on to achieve the ranks of Captain, Chief Pilot and Director of Training later in his career. Bill's career allowed him to see many parts of the world, from Iceland to Italy and beyond, and it gave him a wealth of knowledge and stories to share with anyone who would listen. Bill achieved a major milestone in his life, celebrating nearly 11 years of sobriety after battling active alcoholism for much of his adult life. His family and friends were so proud of this amazing accomplishment. He enjoyed Classic Rock, living Up North, fishing the Great Lakes, riding his "stupid fast" motorcycle and making friends with all sorts of wildlife. Bill deeply loved his wife and children and enjoyed FFF (forced family fun) with them. A Funeral Mass will be held at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Ann Arbor on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 11:30 A.M. with a public visitation starting at 10:30 A.M. Burial will

immediately follow the Mass at Oakwood Cemetery in Saline. Memorial contributions in his name may be made to Brighton Center for Recovery and envelopes will be available at the church or can be made at: <https://stjohnprofoundations.org/ways-to-give/donate-online>. To leave a memory you have of Bill, to sign his guestbook, or for directions please visit www.rbfhsaline.com.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Cemetery

227 West Michigan Ave
Saline, MI 48176

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 30. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
2250 E Stadium Blvd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 30. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
2250 E Stadium Blvd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Graveside Service

MAR 30. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Oakwood Cemetery
227 West Michigan Ave
Saline, MI 48176

Tribute Wall



“ *William J. Cook*

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *I am holding the Cook family close in my heart. I know your memories will be a balm for your grief. I have made a donation to the WLPS Scholarship Fund in Bill's name.*

Jan Pardy - April 02, 2021 at 01:02 PM



“ *Valerie Palazzolo lit a candle in memory of William J. Cook*



Valerie Palazzolo - March 30, 2021 at 12:36 PM



Audrey, I'm truly sorry for your loss. My prayers and thoughts are with you and your family during this time. From one pilot to another, "Bill - may you have fair winds and clear skies on your final journey".

Valerie Palazzolo - March 30, 2021 at 12:50 PM



“ *I met Bill as a junior in high school. He was very welcoming to me and my family as we had moved two doors down. Bill knowing I was interested in Flight provided me with a beginners book on how to fly. I know your spirit is flying high brotha. Until we meet again. God bless.*

John-Sebastian Trim - March 29, 2021 at 02:21 PM

KS

“ *In memory of Bill, a gift has been made to the Therapy Dog Program at Ascension.
Best Blessings to you all,
with Hugs,
Kathy*

Kathy Squiers - March 29, 2021 at 01:14 PM

KH

“ *sending comfort to Will and his family during this time. So sorry for the loss of your father!*

Karen Harris, WCPARC

Karen Harris - March 29, 2021 at 01:12 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of William J. Cook.*



March 29, 2021 at 11:29 AM

CD

“ *Cousin Laurie, Alex & Andreas in D.C. purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of William J. Cook.*



Cousin Laurie, Alex & Andreas in D.C. - March 29, 2021 at 10:09 AM



“ *Tender Tribute* was purchased for the family of *William J. Cook*.



March 29, 2021 at 09:37 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket* was purchased for the family of *William J. Cook*.



March 29, 2021 at 09:35 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket* was purchased for the family of *William J. Cook*.



March 28, 2021 at 08:57 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *William J. Cook*.



March 28, 2021 at 09:39 AM



“ *Fue un honor conocerte Bill.
Fuiste un hermano espectacular, y un amigo encantador.
Toda la vida he recordado cuán divertido, positivo y gentil fuiste
conmigo en 1976 cuando Tim me invitó a pasar unas vacaciones a
su casa en Saline, Michigan.
¡Te veré pronto!*

Juan Campuzano - March 28, 2021 at 02:43 AM

AH

“ *Aunt Mimi, Uncle Mike, Maura, Hugh purchased
the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of
William J. Cook.*



Aunt Mimi, Uncle Mike, Maura, Hugh - March 27, 2021 at
12:29 PM

JC

“ *I had the privilege of getting to know Bill through recovery here in
the Brighton area. He was a very wise man and I learned a lot from
him when we were together. He will be missed by many in the
recovery community. I always enjoyed the loving stories about his
family and especially his pride in his his wife, the runner (a sport I'm
embracing late in life). Bill will be dearly missed. John C.*

john cassidy - March 27, 2021 at 10:21 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray* was purchased for the family of William J. Cook.



March 27, 2021 at 09:22 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of William J. Cook.



March 27, 2021 at 09:04 AM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes* was purchased for the family of William J. Cook.



March 26, 2021 at 10:31 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of William J. Cook.



March 26, 2021 at 10:17 PM

BH

“ *Bill was one day older than me. We lived just a few houses away. We shared a lot of great memories in scouts. My most vivid memory of Bill though was of him always wanting to go to the small airfield just south of Saline on Macon road to watch people parachute. Bill knew he wanted to be a pilot when we were still just riding bikes. He was a great friend.*

Brian Hanson - March 26, 2021 at 09:42 PM

WB

*RIP bill
God bless you and your family.*

william bracey - March 30, 2021 at 03:25 PM