



Mr. Willis Harvey Cook

December 17, 1944 - March 16, 2024

Willis Harvey Cook was born on Dec. 17, 1944 in New Orleans, Louisiana. His parents were Ervine Harvey Cook of Anguilla, MS and Noelie Ruth Laborde of Marksville, LA. After WWII they moved to Anguilla to farm the family's property there. In 1950 they moved to Jackson, MS where Willis attended middle and high school. He met his future wife, Carolyn Louise Addkison, at St. Joseph's High School there. They married in 1967 while Willis finished his Electrical Engineering degree at Mississippi State University.

After graduating Willis accepted a job with Georgia Power Company, moved the family to the Atlanta area and raised a family there. During this time he was at the forefront of the computer revolution. He wrote for and helped edit a magazine for Morrow Computer owners. Later he accepted a job with Patterson and Dewar Engineers, a consulting firm in Decatur and worked with electric coops across the South.

He retired on Dec. 31, 1999 at age 55. He and Carolyn then built their dream home together in Carnesville. Willis' hobbies were woodworking, writing and reading. He was a square dance caller after retirement and also wrote a monthly column for the Commerce News for several years.

In addition to his wife, Willis is survived by two sisters, Ditter Ingle of Rockport, TX, and Theresa Johnson of Laguna Niguel, CA and one brother, Mark Cook

of Florence, MS. He also leaves two sons, Stephen Cook of Stone Mountain, GA and David Cook (Jennifer) of Manitou Beach, MI, 3 grandchildren, Julia Dean of Glasgow, Scotland, Gage Dean of Rossvile, GA, Savannah Burkhart (Devin) of Ringgold, GA and one great granddaughter, Ava Jade Burkhart also of Ringgold.

A visitation will be held Saturday, March 23 at Little-Ward Funeral Home from 12 to 2 PM. Funeral Mass will be held at a later date at St. Catherine Laboure, Jefferson.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to one of Willis' favorite charities, Mercy Ships, or to St. Mary's Hospice here in Georgia.

Little-Ward Funeral Home, Commerce is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **23**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Little-Ward Funeral Home
115 State Street
Commerce, GA 30529
(706) 335-3175
lwfh@windstream.net
<https://www.little-wardfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

SB

“ Back in 2001 or 2002, after Round Dancing at the Square Dance club in Clarkesville for nearly a year where Willis Cook Called, the GA State SD Convention was coming up and everyone wanted me to attend. I didn't SD, so I didn't see the point in attending. My sister and I "shared" SD Caller Jim Roper as our Round Dance partner, dancing frequently with him as neither of us had a Round Dance partner.

Well, someone organized a Square of seasoned Square dancers, my sister being one and Parks Miller and his sweet wife were there, for about two hours, every Sunday afternoon, in Jim Roper's carport, in the hot month of August, for 4 or 5 weeks, and Willis Cook taught me all the Basic and Mainstream SD moves!! I was the ONLY student in the Square, and Jim Roper was my partner for those lessons. (Remember, I had been exposed to it - watching the SD tips - for nearly a year - and attempting to learn to Line Dance!) Well, I learned the SD moves quickly, with all those seasoned dancers, and then off we went to the GA State SD Convention (Macon) in September. And I danced my legs off in the MS and RD Halls and had a blast! I was then sold on Square Dancing!!

A HUGE thank you to Willis for doing that, and being patient with me, while I learned - as well as to everyone in the Square, and to Jim Roper for being my partner and for the use of his carport! I will never forget Willis' kindness and commitment.

And then there was all the engineering discussions we enjoyed during the breaks...

I really appreciated and enjoyed Willis - AND YOU, Carolyn!! I will never ever forget what Willis did for me in teaching me how to SD in Jim Ropers' carport those hot Sunday afternoons - at no charge to me!! How special that memory is to me. And I STILL love to SD!!

Thank you, Willis, for being an awesome person and SD Caller! I won't ever forget you and your kindness to me.

Sue Blair - March 28, 2024 at 04:05 AM

SB

“ We lost a great man this week. My grandfather was one of a kind and someone I looked up to. He was incredibly smart and nurtured my love for learning. Visiting his and my grandmother’s house was always an adventure! We’d explore the property, climb trees, play in the creek, shoot guns, and so much more. My siblings and I may have grumbled about the drive and lack of internet, but we had a blast every time. I will miss you Pawpaw.



Savannah Burkhart - March 23, 2024 at 11:27 AM

AM

“ Willis Cook was my favorite square dance caller. He had the most beautiful singing voice. He did Fisherman's Luck and Pink Cadillac better than anybody! He had great music . One of my very favorites was God is great, beer is good, and people are crazy. What other caller would even attempt that! Hugs to you, Carolyn. This world lost a great one.

Annabel Milton - March 22, 2024 at 06:50 PM

SB

Willis did have a wonderful singing voice. He truly was a great Caller and a LOT of fun. One of my favorites was Barnicle Bill; it was crazy fun!!

Sue Blair - March 28, 2024 at 04:13 AM

RR

“ Willis and I were learning to call square dance at about the same time. We would spend Sunday evenings at the barn where Dan Mitchell taught several of us the ins and outs of calling. We were present with our wives who suffered our better and our not so good attempts to resolve the squares. Willis always had a new sequence he would use and it was an interesting time when he took his turn at the microphone. During these times we both relied on each other for a genuine honest opinion on things we discussed as we tried to improve our abilities. Later we would call dances together as grew to be great friends. He will be greatly missed. God must have needed another caller in heaven. He picked a good one no doubt.
Randy Ramsey

Randy Ramsey - March 22, 2024 at 05:22 PM

SB

Amen, Randy!!

Sue Blair - March 28, 2024 at 04:09 AM

JC

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Jennifer Cook - March 22, 2024 at 05:07 PM

DM

“ For years I had wanted to learn to square dance. When I came to N. Ga, my dream came true. I found Habersham Squares, Willis Cook, teacher and caller. For 10 years our club had dances and went to surrounding states to dance. So much fun!. One time my bracelet got caught in my full skirt. It was hard to raise my hand..After the dance, I looked at Willis laughing. Not only was Willis a great teacher and caller, Carolyn helped with many club duties, What a great pair. Much Love and Yellow Rocks! Dee

Dee Mitchell - March 22, 2024 at 03:44 PM

DM

“ I had the pleasure of working with Willis during his years at Georgia Power. Those were the most fun years of my career, though I did not realize it at the time. Willis's sharp wit could make the most mundane work fun. His artistic ability made him one of the most unique and talented engineers that I ever worked with.

David Majors - March 22, 2024 at 09:13 AM

WC

“ I am very sad today to learn of Willis passing. I met Willis Cook in 1982 when I began my career with Patterson and Dewar Engineers. We worked together for almost 20 years, all over the south at electric coops on special projects and teaching Power Line Design Schools. Willis was a great engineer and teacher. Some systems used discarded wood from Furniture Factories for stakes to show proposed pole locations. I passed some mahogany, teak, cherry and walnut on to Willis. With that junk wood, he made jewelry boxes and all kinds of master pieces of art. He was a man of many talents. I will miss you my Brown Ink old friend.

Winston M Chambers - March 20, 2024 at 09:39 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Willis Harvey Cook.



March 20, 2024 at 12:18 PM



“ I will miss you dad. I loved your quiet humor and the expressive way your eyes would sparkle and crinkle up when you thought something was funny. I respected your creativity, kindness, work ethic, imagination, and curiosity. I especially loved the excitement you shared with David during our travels and bond you developed. You are so very missed, but I know Heaven is a better place with you in it. ❤️

Jennifer Cook - March 19, 2024 at 08:36 AM



“ I love you dad! Thank you for all your guidance, patience and love you showed me growing up. I am the man, father, husband I am thanks to you and mom. I will carry you in my heart no matter where we go.

David Cook - March 19, 2024 at 08:09 AM



“ Ditter, Mark, and Theresa purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Mr. Willis Harvey Cook.



Ditter, Mark, and Theresa - March 18, 2024 at 09:51 PM

TF

“ Trevia & Jerry Pereira and family purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Mr. Willis Harvey Cook.



Trevia & Jerry Pereira and family - March 18, 2024 at 03:26 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Willis Harvey Cook.



March 18, 2024 at 11:19 AM

SS

“ Schellings Family, Seattle. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Willis Harvey Cook.

Schellings Family, Seattle. - March 18, 2024 at 11:19 AM

JD

“ I will always be grateful to my grandfather (PawPaw) for accepting my brother and I as his own grandchildren without question. He was a gifted craftsman and an incredibly smart person. He will be missed.



Julia Dean - March 18, 2024 at 10:32 AM

LN

“ We are honored to say that Willis and Carolyn have been our friends since 1978. Stephen and David grew up with our son Ed. Such a wonderful love story and a marriage to admire. Willis had a brilliant mind, a gentle spirit and a talented woodcrafter. Hugs and prayers to your whole family.



LOIS NELSEN - March 17, 2024 at 08:27 PM

VF

“ If I could put into words how many times that Shannon would tell me stories of Willis Cook, not just Willis. Right now, just in time for St.Patrick's Day. I can imagine that Shannon has greeted him with their long-time gone friend, Johnny Beadle. Surely, they will lift an Irish beverage in honor of those who are here to remember and honor them. We miss them but continue to honor their wishes by letting them go to their Lord and live in glory.

Vicki Flynn - March 17, 2024 at 07:00 PM

GB

“ Enjoyed square dancing when Willis called the rounds. We always had fun tricking him when swapping the squares. Such an enjoyable time with Willis and Carol. God Bless his family. Glenda Barron

Glenda Barron - March 17, 2024 at 01:35 PM