



Richard Mark Cooley

July 19, 1947 - September 22, 2022

Richard Mark Cooley, 75, of Bristow, Virginia, passed away on September 22, 2022. He was born on July 19, 1947, in Putnam, Connecticut, to Francis and Rosalie (Ayers) Cooley.

Rick, as he was known to his family and friends, left his small-town home in Connecticut to attend Providence College. While there, he met the love of his life, Rita Short, at a dance. After marrying Rita and serving his country in the U.S. Army, Rick moved his family to the D.C.-area and enjoyed a long career in the federal government, including at the Office of Personnel Management, Radio Martí, the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. Following his retirement from federal service, Rick joined a government-contracting firm to continue providing human-capital and human-resources expertise to the government.

Although Rick took pride in his military and civilian service, his family and friends will remember him foremost for his strong Catholic faith, his love of family, and his passion for coaching soccer.

Rick was a parishioner of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Gainesville, Virginia. Previously, he was an active member of St. Andrew the Apostle's Church in Clifton, Virginia, and St. Joseph's Church in Herndon, Virginia, where, consistent with his life-long devotion to protecting the unborn, he helped to

found the pro-life group. Rick did not keep his Catholic faith to himself, instead he shared it with his family and friends. Rick made many sacrifices to ensure his children were educated in the Catholic faith that he loved so much. He became a dedicated supporter of Seton School in Manassas, Virginia, enduring a long daily work commute to ensure his children received the Catholic education it offered, and serving on the Seton School Board of Directors for several years. He also delighted in seeing a significant number of his grandchildren attend Seton.

Anyone who spoke to Rick for more than a few minutes heard him talk about his large family of six daughters and one son, which was so important to him. Although many people downsize in retirement, Rick moved to a substantially larger home so that the family (with an ever-increasing number of grandchildren) could comfortably gather together for holidays and other celebrations. Rick, who was a huge sports fan, drove innumerable miles, so that he could enjoy countless sporting events in which his children and grandchildren participated.

Although Rick followed many sports and welcomed any opportunity to discuss or debate the qualities of particular athletes and teams, soccer occupied a special place in his heart. As his children began to play soccer, he became a student of the game and obtained his coaching license.

During his nearly twenty-year coaching career, Rick coached all of his children and several travel soccer teams. The highlight of his coaching career was his time leading the girls' varsity team at Seton School, where he received numerous accolades and repeatedly led his team to conference championships. Although he liked to win, it was more important to Coach Cooley that he taught his players to love the game and to develop habits for success that would benefit them well beyond the pitch.

He is survived by his loving wife of fifty-three years, Rita Mary Cooley; his children: Martha, Melissa (Robert), Jason (Jean), Michaela (Joseph), Shannon (Anthony), Deirdre (Kody), and Bridgit (Zachary); his forty-two grandchildren; his two great-grandchildren; and his brothers: Herbert and Craig Cooley. Richard is preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, and his grandson Bosco Joseph Paul Cooper.

A viewing will be held for Richard from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at Pierce Funeral Home (9609 Center Street, Manassas, Virginia 20110), with the Rosary starting at 6:00 PM. Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 10:30 AM on Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church (8213 Linton Hall Road, Gainesville, Virginia, 20155). Burial will follow immediately after Mass at 12:00 PM at Stonewall Memory Gardens (12004 Lee Highway, Manassas, Virginia 20109).

In lieu of flowers, please consider making donations in loving memory of Richard Mark Cooley to Texas Alliance for Life (<https://www.texasallianceforlife.org>) , 8000 Centre Park Dr., Suite 380, Austin, Texas 78754 or Seton School (<https://setonschool.net/>) , 9314 Maple St., Manassas, Virginia 20110-5118

Previous Events

Viewing

SEP 27. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

SEP 28. 10:30 AM (ET)

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
8213 Linton Hall Rd
Gainesville, VA 20155-2997
(703) 753-6700

Burial

SEP 28. 12:00 PM (ET)

Stonewall Memory Gardens
12004 Lee Highway
Manassas, VA 20109
<http://www.stonewallmemorygardens.com>

Tribute Wall

MC

“ *Dear Rita and Family,
I was honored to meet Rick last year as a care-giver for him. It was such a joy to see his smile and love for Jesus. I wished I had known him earlier than that, but I thank Our God for the time I did have with him.*

*I pray blessings over the Cooley family 🙏❤️✝️
Very sincerely, Mary Cresswell; Acts of Love,LLC*

Mary Cresswell - September 28, 2022 at 08:08 PM

JW

“ *1 file added to the album Dad*



Jeff Williams - September 28, 2022 at 05:48 PM

SF

“ I met Rick when we were both branch chiefs at the U.S. Soldiers' & Airmen's Home (working under the extraordinary Joan Ring/Esch, RIP). He handled Staffing/Processing, and I handled employee/labor relations. When a supervisor requested disciplinary action, the SF-52 was typically worded "appropriate action." He used to kid me that--apparently--his branch handled only "inappropriate actions". (His dry sense of humor was unfailing.) He was brilliant and among the top experts in staffing...and, of course Catholic. It was an inspiring joy to work with him...and we got to know each other quite well. Due to his influence, we sent our kids to Seton School which was a blessing for all of us.

Although I was already Catholic when I met him, he (and his family) represented the sort reasons that I converted. Yes, there are all the intellectual arguments, but for me it came down to Chesterton's claim that it is really beyond argument: Catholicism is like an intricate key. It either fits the lock (i.e., reality) or it doesn't. It does.

With his family, coaching, and work, he was busy, and we did not get together very much in later years: but his influence never left me.

Steve ("Brock") Fowler - September 28, 2022 at 10:02 AM

JW

“ Here is a brief video clip of Seton Lady Conquistadors Head Coach Rick Cooley in 2004 hoisting another conference championship trophy. This clip was taken from a sports highlights video. God Bless you Coach Cooley for your many years of dedication to Seton sports.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let Your perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed. rest in peace. Amen.

Jeff Williams



Jeff Williams - September 27, 2022 at 05:40 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Richard Mark Cooley.*



September 27, 2022 at 06:42 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Richard Mark Cooley.*



September 27, 2022 at 05:55 AM

MA

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Martha - September 26, 2022 at 08:08 PM

JM

Beautiful, beautiful tribute photos ♡ I'm so sorry.

Jane Mee - September 26, 2022 at 08:38 PM

MA

“ *Dad*

Martha - September 26, 2022 at 08:05 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard Mark Cooley.*



September 26, 2022 at 05:49 PM

CE

“ To the Cooley family. You have my deepest condolences and sympathy. Chaun Eason



Chaun Eason - September 26, 2022 at 01:57 PM

SC

“ I had the cubicle next door to Rick at YRCI and he always had time for my questions and just to catch up. He was a great mentor. He was always so proud of his family. I'm very sorry to hear of his passing and my thoughts are with his family and friends at this very sad time. He was a wonderful man!



Sarah Coetzee - September 26, 2022 at 01:39 PM

MA

“ Marcia and Basil Aldaghstani purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Richard Mark Cooley.



Marcia and Basil Aldaghstani - September 26, 2022 at 01:31 PM

YF

“ Your YRCI Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Richard Mark Cooley.



Your YRCI Family - September 26, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Richard Mark Cooley.*



September 26, 2022 at 11:05 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Richard Mark Cooley.*



September 26, 2022 at 11:04 AM



“ *Intertek Alchemy- Austin TX purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Richard Mark Cooley.*



Intertek Alchemy- Austin TX - September 26, 2022 at 10:31 AM

JC

“ 13 files added to the album Dad



Jake Cooley - September 26, 2022 at 10:08 AM

ND

“ I'm so sorry Bridgit. I have the very best memories of soccer growing up and many of those are thanks to your dad! As an adult and parent now I can look back and truly appreciate all of the hard work and dedication he put into coaching us girls. It couldn't have been easy with working and a family at home but he was always there for the team, was so calm, and such a great coach. I grew as a player so much because of him. I am so sad to hear of his passing. Thinking of your entire family.

Nicole Davis - September 25, 2022 at 11:20 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Richard Mark Cooley.



September 25, 2022 at 07:13 PM

JS

“ When I was 12-13 a bunch of us spent a month in Germany with Rick and Rita.
I don't recall a single moment that Rick was anything but gracious as we (7) overtook their apartment.
Rick was into photography and as I would take photos and have them made into pictures or slides he would take the time to look at them with and offer positive comment.
That's the kind of thing a young person can really enjoy, being treated like a “ big kid” by someone you thought was pretty cool (he did drive a mustang)
Love to all the Cooley s

Joe Short

joe Short - September 25, 2022 at 05:34 PM

SB

Our deepest sympathies to the Cooley family. May this gentle and kind but steadfast pro-life warrior rest in peace.

Steve & Mary Kay Bailey

stephen bailey - September 27, 2022 at 07:40 PM