



James Donald Cooper Sr

JUN 11, 1933 - AUG 17, 2024



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James Donald Cooper Sr

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James Donald Cooper Sr, aged 91, of Plant City, Florida, passed away on August 17, 2024. Born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, James dedicated his life to serving his community and cherishing his family. A proud Navy veteran, James upheld the values of honor and commitment throughout his service. After his military career, he joined the Tampa Police Department in 1957, serving with distinction until his retirement in 1979. His dedication to law and order earned him respect and admiration within the community. James was also known for his varied interests. His passion for working on airplanes and his love for music, including playing the guitar and bass fiddle, brought joy to those around him. His warm smile and welcoming nature made him a beloved figure, always eager to make new friends and share kind words. He is survived by his children, Caroline Cooper, James Cooper Jr., and Jennifer Epps; his grandchildren, Jessica Ingram, Jacob Ingram, and Hannah Zeigler (Tyler Zeigler); and his sister-in-law, Jean Bennett. James was preceded in death by his wife, Joan Cooper; his sisters, Aloha Johnson and Jamie Teachout; and his brother, Bill Davis. A service to honor James's life will be held at Sunset Memory Gardens, 11005 US-301, Thonotosassa, FL 33592. Sunset Memory Gardens Funeral Home is assisting the family during this time. The visitation will be from 10am-11am. The memorial service will begin at 11am. The committal service will follow the memorial service.



Events

James Donald Cooper Sr

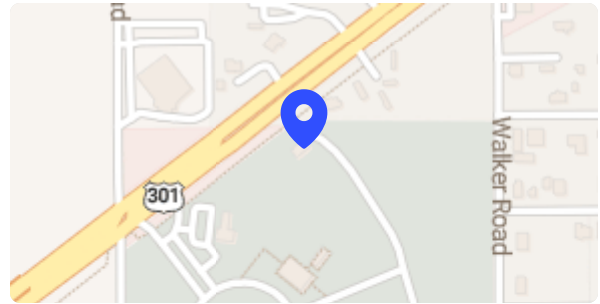
JUN 11, 1933 - AUG 17, 2024

Visitation

Saturday, August 24, 2024

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET

Sunset Funeral Home
11005 N US Highway 301, Thonotosassa FL
33592

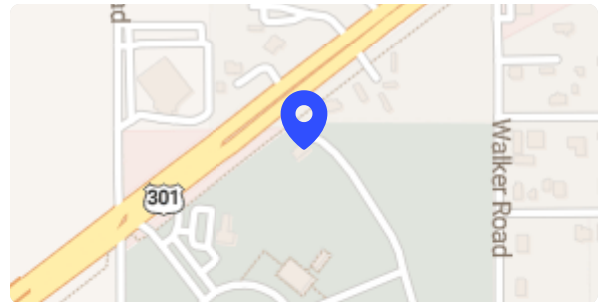


Service

Saturday, August 24, 2024

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

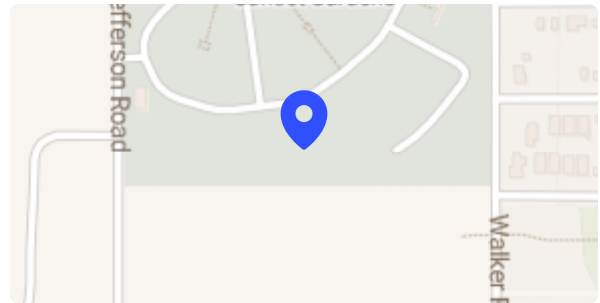
Sunset Funeral Home
11005 N US Highway 301, Thonotosassa FL
33592



Cemetery Details

Sunset Memory Gardens
11005 N US Highway 301, Thonotosassa FL
33592

(813) 440-4973





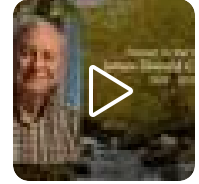
Tribute Wall

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Sunset Funeral Home & Memory Gardens shared a **Video**.



August 22 at 2:23 PM



Clayton Hamilton lit a candle in honor of James.

I offer sincere condolences to the Cooper family. I really miss having breakfast with Mr. Cooper at Plummer's Family Restaurant each morning. It was always a pleasure to be in his presence. GOD Bless his family and friends. Clayton P. Hamilton "CHIEF"



August 23 at 9:19 AM



The Hammond Family sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Cooper family.



August 23 at 5:45 AM



Debbie (Williams) Rogers Family sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Cooper family.



August 21 at 5:51 PM



Debbie (Williams) Rogers Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of James.



August 21 at 5:51 PM



Mike & Linda Burton sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Cooper family.



August 21 at 1:55 PM



Tribute Wall

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DB

David Beaumont posted:

Jim Cooper changed my life. I met him when I was 14 years old at Perk's Bluegrass. That was 47-and-a-half years ago. Jim came in the store wearing his police uniform one day. When Marilyn Perkins introduced him to me, he reached out to shake my hand. I shook his hand. Jim said, "You shake hands like a girl!" Then he proceeded to teach me about shaking hands. My father had died when I was 11. I had never had to shake hands before then. So I never knew how. Jim saved me from a life of embarrassment and wimpiness. I enjoyed knowing Jim and watching him play in the Bluegrass Ordeal and then Sawgrass throughout my teenage years and as a young adult. His stage presence was amazing. He didn't have to talk a lot. His body language said much. He always looked like he was confident and he was where he wanted to be. Hanging around Jim was a great place to pick up on little bits of wisdom here and there. I loved jamming with him. He was always encouraging and always the relaxed and wise sage. Jim had talked about being a guitar player in the Tampa Police Band back in the good ole days. One day I found an LP record of the Tampa Police band at a garage sale. Sure enough, there was Jim on the back cover, with a guitar, along with 20 or so other policemen. I bought that record, of course, and kept it a long time until I eventually gave it to Jim at his 90th birthday party. Eventually, I ended up playing in the same band with Jim. Actually, I filled in with Sawgrass once, that was a lot of fun. But then Jim was in the Foothill band with me for a few years in the early 2000s. He was a pleasure to be around. Always had something to say, though sometimes you could barely hear it. Though he was always encouraging, he was not always complimentary. Jim told the truth. I especially appreciate that about him. Jim loved people enough to tell them what they needed to hear, not what they wanted to hear. Thank God for Jim Cooper! Thankfully, I was near enough to him to hear lots of wisdom over the years. Jim's comments were not always "politically correct", but they always hit the nail on the head. At the Sertoma Ranch, where we were playing, I had brought a date with me. Jim was impressed. He whispered to me that I "should keep her." I did. That was twenty years ago now. I love Jim Cooper. May he rest in peace.

August 21 at 12:39 PM

EG

Ernie Gafford August 22 at 6:20 AM

Jim and I met at TPD. When Jim was on the TPD boat crew, I would go with them to lunch at the Sea Breeze Restaurant when I was assigned to Davis Island. Later on we worked together in Dist. 2. We were friends and neighbors for over 50 yrs. Jim and John Fairbanks had a Goat that they ferried back and forth on the Pontoon Boat across Lake Thonotosassa to eat grass out of their yards. They got a lot of stares from the boaters on the lake during transport. Lots of laughs when Jim was around as he would always say funny things. RIP my Brother. Prayers to the family

CC

Caroline Cooper August 22 at 5:33 AM

Thankyou David That was Daddy to a T



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Jerry Foley August 21 at 2:21 PM

Well done David-he was a best friend of mine-anyone who knew him shared your characterization of him. He was a huge influence on my life. I loved him too! RIP Jim! ❤️



Anonymous sent a Sacred Duty Spray to the Cooper family.

August 21 at 1:41 PM



Greg Davis planted a Memorial Tree in honor of James.

August 21 at 1:41 PM



Michael Burton posted:

Jim Cooper was probably one of the best men I've ever known. I considered him my best friend however life drew us apart. JD was my supervisor at TPD and was one of the best. I loved playing music with him over the years and he taught me a lot about life in general. God rest his soul and wrap your loving arms around his family in thier time of grief.

August 21 at 1:24 PM



Thomas (Tj) Pinta posted:

I was blessed to have had Jim as my Sergeant to the Tampa Police Department for a short while. He was the best!! Took care of us young over-eager troops and always made us feel important. May God welcome him with open arms and bring peace and comfort to his family.

August 21 at 1:06 PM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Cooper family.

August 21 at 12:39 PM





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Mike Briwn And Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of James.



August 21 at 12:39 PM



Media

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August 22 at 2:23 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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