



Chester Leo Cooley

August 3, 1946 - August 27, 2020

Chester Leo Cooley was born in Buffalo Valley, OK, August 3rd, 1946. He left us on August 27th, 2020, following years of bad health and pain. His brave heart finally stopped beating after a 40 day battle with covid and follow-up complications.

Those who had made this journey ahead of him include: two infant children, two infant grandchildren, his son-in-law, Michael Poe, his parents, W.A. and Vernie (Foster) Cooley; brothers, William Albert Cooley, Doyle Cooley, Nathan (Mutt) Cooley, H.O. (Nook or Joe) Cooley, Billy Cooley, Bobby Cooley, Eddie Cooley, and Deuel Rose. Some of these brothers were gone before Chester was born but they were important to him. When he called the family roll, he always included their names.

He leaves behind; his wife, Helen (Sturdivant) Cooley of the home in Buffalo Valley, daughter, Kay Lynn Poe of Buffalo Valley, and son and daughter in law, Vernon and Misty Cooley of Tulsa, OK; grandchildren, Matt and Laura Poe of Ringling, OK, Kris and Jessica Poe of Brookfield, WI, Kassi and Jesse Kilcrease of Ratliff City, OK, Ben and Amanda Poe of Ft. Benning, GA, Sarina Cooley and Jackson Cooley of Tulsa, OK; great grandchildren, Ryker, Ryder, and Ryler Poe of Ringling, OK, Natalie and Audrey Poe of Brookfield, WI, Noah, Brynlee and Jentry Kilcrease of Ratliff City, OK, Noah and Vivian Poe of Ft. Benning, GA.

He is also survived by brothers and sisters-in-law, James and Marcella Cooley of Sapulpa, OK, Haskell and Jolee Cooley of Wichita, KS, Edna Cooley of

Ada, OK, sister, Louise Winsworth of Broken Arrow, OK, brother-in-law and sisters-in-law, Kenneth and Zenith Sturdivant, Peggy Young, and Nevada Sturdivant, all of Ozark, AR. He leaves many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He is also survived by the residents, current and former, of Buffalo Valley, OK, all of whom he considered to be part of his family.

Being a Cooley, Chester had to sing. His first concert was in Leflore, OK, when he was five years old. He had wonderful memories of his time with the Cooley Joy Bells, and later singing with many members of his family. He was performing as part of the Cooley Brothers trio when he felt led to go into full-time preaching.

Chester knew as a preschooler that God had called him to preach. He delivered his first sermon at the age of 12 in Yanush Assembly of God. His life-long desire to be a pastor was fulfilled when, at age 23, he left the area he loved to take a church in the Oklahoma panhandle. Over the years, he served five Assemblies of God congregations in Oklahoma, Boise City, Dustin, Wetumka, Holdenville, and Haileyville.

Some of those years were not easy physically or financially, but much good was accomplished spiritually. Seeing his own children living for God was his highest reward for his work.

No sacrifice was too great for him to make. He often quoted 1 Timothy 1:12, "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry."

He sincerely believed that God had given him the privilege of knowing and working with some of the best people in the world.

When failing health prevented further pulpit service, Chester began a Facebook ministry, which proved to be a blessing, even to many strangers from all parts of the United States. He spent his last days in the hospital praying and witnessing to his nurses.

He fought a good fight and he kept the faith. Today, he is with Christ, which is far better.

Pallbearers will be Matt Poe, Ryker Poe, Ryder, Poe, Kassi Kilcrease, Kris Poe, Ben Poe, Gary Cooley, Gordon Sturdivant, Gary Dutton, T.L. Sturdivant, and Cason Cooley.

Visitation will be on Monday, August, 31st, 2020 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at McCarn Funeral Service in Talihina, Oklahoma.

Graveside services will be on Tuesday, September 1st, 2020 at 10:00 AM at Laura Cemetery in Buffalo Valley, Oklahoma with Bro. Vernon Cooley officiating. Services have been entrusted to McCarn Funeral Service of Talihina, Oklahoma.

DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS, SERVICES HAVE BEEN MOVED TO THE CHAPEL AT MCCARN FUNERAL HOME

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 31. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

McCarn Funeral Service
500 Dallas Street
Talihina, OK 74571
(918) 942-5004
<https://www.mccarnfuneralservice.com>

Graveside Service

SEP 1. 10:00 AM.

Laura Cemetery

Tribute Wall

JG

“ *Joann Gryder purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Chester Leo Cooley.* ”



Joann Gryder - August 31, 2020 at 01:37 PM

DW

“ *Dr Cecil and Linda Todd Branson West,Mo purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Chester Leo Cooley.* ”



Dr Cecil and Linda Todd Branson West,Mo - August 31, 2020 at 11:07 AM

BT

“ *BCBS of OK Executive Leadership Team purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Chester Leo Cooley.* ”



BCBS of OK Executive Leadership Team - August 31, 2020 at 11:02 AM

RK

“ My first memory of meeting Chester was when I was a child about 12. I was going to church with my grandpa Ted Melton. We were headed for Buffalo Valley Assembly of God. There was someone walking on the side of the road carrying a guitar case. Grandpa said, 'Looks like someone needs a ride. I think it's young Chester Cooley.' We stopped, he got in, said thank you and said 'I am going to church and my car broke down.' Grandpa told him we were going to church too. I don't know which church Chester was headed for but that Sunday night he went with us to BV Assembly. Chester has always been an amazing example of how to live our lives. I truly enjoyed listening to his singing and preaching. Rest now cousin and enjoy All the beauty and joy of Heaven. You are missed.
Regina Sage Kennedy



Regina Kennedy - August 30, 2020 at 09:17 AM

DP

“ Diana Payne lit a candle in memory of Chester Leo Cooley



Diana Payne - August 30, 2020 at 02:10 AM

DP

“ I am so sorry of your loss but heaven is so glad. Chester was a friend to our family as was his Mom and Dad knew them all my life. I could always go to the chat room on fb when I had to talk to someone and Chester would be there going to miss him so very much. Sending prayers and love in this time. The Payne Family

Diana Payne - August 30, 2020 at 02:09 AM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Chester Leo Cooley.*



August 29, 2020 at 11:39 AM



“ *Pastor Cooley , so often encouraged me with his knowledge of God's word that he shared on Facebook. I was at some of my lowest times and I will never forget his encouragement and faith, even through his illness. I know he will be always remembered as a wonderful servant of God. He is in glory and singing in God's choir praises to his King. Heaven has gained an angel. I pray for God to wrap the family in his arms and comfort them by knowing he is with God and they will be with in glory when we all meet Jesus our King. Lesa Kay Shelton Reynolds I am so sorry for your loss.*

Lesa Reynolds - August 29, 2020 at 10:57 AM

CB

“ When i was 10 years old I was at the Halloween carnival in Wetumka & I had a really bad Asthma attack. My mom was at revival at Wetumka Assembly of God church and Mrs. Alene Renfrow who wotked at the school & went to church at the Assembly of God church took me to the church to find my mom. I was wheezing so bad when i walked in the back door Brother Cooley was in the pulpit stopped and him & my mom came to me & they prayed for. me. This was the first time i had ever been in the church or met Brother Cooley & I was so scared when I walked in the church I thought I was gonna die but as soon Bro. Cooley layed hands on me and started praying I felt a comfort come over me like I had never felt. That night we stood outside (in the night air, which I had never done before in all my life) and talked for 3 hours. Brother Cooley was such a wonderful man. I am gonna miss your encouraging words. I love you Brother Cooley give my mam & dad a hug for me.

Christie Banta - August 29, 2020 at 03:12 AM

NC

“ Bro. Cooley will always be in my heart!! He was always there for my family (The Ralph Basquez family). We were all family and still have so many great memories. You will be missed and another angel got his wings. Prayers for your family. We will meet again some day!

Nina Basquez Creason - August 28, 2020 at 10:04 PM

JD

“ Sincere condolences to the entire family... I didn't know Mr. Cooley, but I know his son - and if Vernon is any testament to the life of his father, I know he was the best kind of man there is. “When you teach your son, you teach your son's son” according to the Talmud... and that's a testament to Vernon as he passes his father's love and lessons down to his own son and daughter - what a wonderful legacy Chester Cooley shared with us all.

Jenny & Lauren Dahl - August 28, 2020 at 09:10 PM

JB

“ Will forever be grateful for the word of God Pastor Cooley sowed into our lives! Will miss him being our FB preacher. He fought a good fight and kept the faith and oh what blessings are in store for him. Thinking of all the people he pastored at Wetumka A/G and what a reunion they are having!! Love and prayers to the family💕
🙏

Joetta Brinlee - August 28, 2020 at 06:24 PM

PF

“ Peggy, Gordon, Cheryll, and Family. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Chester Leo Cooley.



Peggy, Gordon, Cheryll, and Family. - August 28, 2020 at 05:45 PM

BW

“ Love & Prayers for all the family during this most difficult time. Chester is rejoicing while we mourn. Great memories of when we were kids & we would visit at Memorial day if no other time. The last visit we shared was Memorial day 2011. So glad I was privileged to get to visit with all the family that day..See you on that Glad Reunion Day.

Betty Cooley Watson - August 28, 2020 at 04:43 PM

RG

Lot of souls saved under his Ministry, including me. For every grateful for him as a Pastor but also a friend. Prayers for Sis Helen & family 😭

Rick Griggs - August 29, 2020 at 09:27 AM



Chester was our neighbor and we grew up together. I will always have him in my heart. i will miss his comments on facebook and will always remember this sweet little boy coming to our house by himself and playing with my sister shirley and looking thru my comic books.My love goes out to all his family and may God comfort you and know that he is in the arms of Jesus. No more pain and suffering for him to bear. Love always Darlene and Roy

Darlene Winton - August 29, 2020 at 12:07 PM



Chester was in my life as far back as I can remember. My mom Faye Webster always loved Chester like family. Chester had a gift of being blunt on how he felt about things and he knew just how to handle my mom. After my mom passed Chester was a friend to me. He spent time with me on the phone and emails helping me fill in some spots on my mom's life. Through him, he brought more peace and understanding to us about our mom. He told me as far as he was concerned he was my uncle. I will always and forever be grateful for you Chester. See ya later, Jenny Webster Jackson

Jenny Jackson - August 29, 2020 at 12:45 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Chester Leo Cooley.*



August 28, 2020 at 04:29 PM



“ *To the family we love you all! You were not just the pastors of the church in Holdenville Assemblies of God you were family to us! In most of the family's activities you all were apart of them! We know a angel named Chester got his wings the minute he entered the gates of Heaven! Love all of you! Prayers going up!*



Mary Watters - August 28, 2020 at 03:48 PM



“ *Chester fought a great battle, now he is running free with "Bunny". What a glorious reunion they must be having....*

Tina - August 28, 2020 at 03:14 PM