



Leon F. Cook, Jr.

October 8, 1923 - April 15, 2014

Leon F. Cook, Jr., 90, passed away on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at Columbia Memorial Hospital.

He was born on October 8, 1923 and was the eldest son of Marion and Leon F. Cook, Sr. of Claverack. He married Eleanor Chamberlin on February 24, 1945 and they were together for 66 years, until her death in 2011.

In addition to his wife, he was predeceased by his parents, his sister, Dorothy (Van Deusen), and two brothers, Calvin and Alan Cook.

Leon is survived by his children, Dr. William "Bill" Cook, Wendell "Wendy" Cook (Kay), and Lesley Sherman (Mark). Also surviving are seven grandchildren, Marieke Cook, Nicolette Cook, Erin Cook Bornt, Amanda Weaver, Michael Weaver, Melissa Pollack, and Michael Pollack, and two great-grandsons, Jeremy Bornt and Christopher Pollack.

He was born and raised in Claverack, attended Hudson High School, and attended college in Cobleskill. He enlisted in the Army in 1945. He "slipped away" from his post in NYC and returned to Claverack to marry, two days before shipping out to Germany.

After the war, he returned to Claverack and soon went into business for

himself. He owned and operated Leon F. Cook, Jr., Inc. for over 60 years, doing plumbing, heating, and electrical work.

He served as Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 121 for over 20 years, where he educated, guided, and mentored countless scouts, many of whom maintained contact with him over the years.

Leon was a member of the Masonic Lodge #7 in Hudson, The A.B. Shaw Fire Company in Claverack (where he was past chief), and a 75 year member of The Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack.

Visiting hours are 4-8 pm Friday at the Bates & Anderson - Redmond & Keeler Funeral Home. Services will be conducted at 11 am Saturday at The Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack.

Memorial contributions to The Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack and A.B. Shaw Fire Company are welcome.

Tribute Wall

TJ

“ Wendy, Bill and Leslie,

I am so sorry that I was unable to attend your father's funeral. I was visiting my son in England. I am so sorry for your loss. I lost my own dad last year and it's always hard, no matter how expected, to lose a father. We will surely be praying for you and your family.

Your father played a very important role in my young life. He was my scoutmaster when I was in Boy Scouts from the time I was 11 to the time I was 18. My time as a Boy Scout played a large part in my development, and Cookie was right in the center of it. He taught me important outdoor skills, and about the importance of leadership and working together. But probably the biggest thing I remember about him was that he was a lot of fun to be around. He'd joke with us, tell us stories, and we felt like we were his friends. We liked him, but it was clear that he liked us too, and that was the best part of it. For me, that filled a real need in my life. I shall never forget him, or the wonderful memories of the camping trips, singing around the campfire and the hot chocolate we always had afterwards. I'm so thankful to God that he was in my life.

Tom Johnson

Tom Johnson - April 20, 2014 at 04:51 PM

CM

“ To the Cook Family,

Cookie has given me, and many others, some of our best life lessons and memories. The times with him will not be forgotten. May he rest in peace.

Chuck Mellyn

Chuck Mellyn - April 18, 2014 at 08:09 PM

BA

“ *My condolences to Michael Weaver and the family of Leon Cook, Jr. Mr. Cook represents a very respectable, caring man. My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this difficult time. May fond, happy memories carry you through. Brenda Albright*

Brenda Albright - April 18, 2014 at 08:03 AM

EB

“ *Hope you know how much I loved you Grampy.. I didn't get to see you and Grammy as much as I'd have liked but it never changed how I felt. Miss you and love you always*

Erin Cook Bornt - April 17, 2014 at 08:38 PM

DH

“ It is difficult to put into words the positive impact that Leon Cook had on my life. I went into his scout troop an awkward kid and left a confident man. Along the way I met lifelong friends and learned lifelong lessons. Through the hiking and camping I learned teamwork, leadership, and how to work to complete objectives. It was my privilege to be steered in the right direction by a true pillar of the community. Thanks Cookie!

Donald F. Hilton Jr.

Don Hilton - April 16, 2014 at 10:57 PM

JS

“ Bill, Wendy and Wesley,

Will always remember your father as the Troop 121 Scoutmaster. Enjoyed each summer camp at the Stratton Mountain Scout Reservation. Especially the year that it rained all week and the year my patrol almost burned down a tent on going home day. Always looked for him when walking or driving past the Cook's business building on Old Lane. Sometimes I looked out my bedroom to see if anyone was there. Visited him for a short time in July when I was in Claverack for my class reunion. I thanked him for always bring all us scouts home safely. I will always miss him for what he taught us (or have us learn by teaching younger scouts) in those Friday meetings and camping trips.

*John Edward Swab
Fayetteville, Georgia*

John Edward Swab - April 16, 2014 at 10:06 PM

PM

“ As everyone's favorite Scoutmaster, Cookie impacted more kids, in more way, than he could possibly imagine. It is a legacy that will endure forever. God Bless You, Cookie.

Patrick Morris - April 16, 2014 at 07:47 PM

DM

“ Dear Cook family,

I am so sad to learn of Leon's passing. I was just going to go and watch a Yankee game with him like I used to so many times. It was an honor to get to know him and to make him laugh. He was the sweetest man I have ever met. Thank you for letting me be a small part of his life. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

*Sincerely,
Dawn Myer*

dawn Myer - April 16, 2014 at 04:07 PM

CJ

“ Bill, Wendy and Lesley,

I just learned of your Father's passing and I wanted you to know that even though I cannot make it back to the Hudson area for the services I will be there with you in spirit. I have many memories of "Junior Cook" from my childhood. I remember hearing about your Dad or one of you from my sisters, Barb and Joan or my Mother. There was always a smile in their voices when they spoke of your Father!

Charles (Junior) Call

Charles F. Call, Jr. - April 16, 2014 at 03:17 PM

LM

“ *Our thoughts are with the family at this time. Mr. Cook was a longtime client and a wonderful man.*
David H Rivenburgh Agency Inc Staff (Laura, Guy and Amanda)

Laura Mortefolio - April 16, 2014 at 09:47 AM

DA

“ *Dianna&Greg Almstead lit a candle in memory of Leon F. Cook, Jr.*



Dianna&Greg Almstead - April 16, 2014 at 05:15 AM