



## MSGT(ret) Fred J. Cook

December 17, 1943 - May 30, 2021

MSGT(ret) Fred J. Cook 77 went to be with his Heavenly Savior on the Lord's Day of Memorial Day Weekend, May 30, 2021. Fred was born December 17, 1943 to the late J D & Cora Mae Cook, so close to the state line that his birth certificate read Graceville, Houston County, Florida. He is preceded in death by his parents and one sister Judy Cook Miles. He is survived by wife, Melba Bennett Cook of 57 years, their children, Sheila Cook Stitt (Bruce) and Darrell Cook (Stephanie) grandchildren Christopher Stitt( Jessica) Chloe Stitt and Darius Cook, and one Great grandchild Zachariah Stitt, siblings Ann Cook Roberts, Eugene Cook (Liz), Terry Cook (Trish) and numerous nieces and nephews.

He graduated from Graceville High School with the Class of 1962. After retiring from the Air Force in 1982, he continued his education and earned his Bachelor in Theology Degree at Baptist College of Florida and his Masters in Psychology, Counseling from Troy University in Troy. He worked with the State of Florida in various areas before serving with the International Mission Board as a missionary in Mexico. At the time of his passing "Mr. Fred" was director of Chipola Family Ministry Center, Marianna, Florida.

In the days preceding his death, he stated several times he was "ready to go" to heaven. How appropriate coming from a man whose life theme was one of readiness to go and serve. As a young boy he looked up at the planes from

the local Air Force Base that flew over the cotton fields where he and his family worked, he was ready to serve in the military. While in the Air Force, he was always ready to go. Vietnam, Thailand, Korea, Cambodia etc. Wherever he was sent he went and found something he liked about it. Wherever he went he earned the respect of those who knew him and earned the recognition of his country. He was awarded 3 Distinguished Flying Cross medals and numerous others. When he retired from the Air Force, he was ready to serve others as a Police Officer, Truancy Officer, Child Abuse Investigator, Pastor, Missionary, and director of Columbia Baptist Ministry Center. The last 14 years he served as the director of Chipola Family Ministry Center, providing meals and clothing to those in need on a regular basis in Jackson County, Florida. He was eager and ready to assist FEMA with recovery efforts. He was Chaplain for the Florida Baptist Disaster Relief and Chaplain for Talladega Raceway Ministry. He had the privilege to give the opening prayer for Talladega 500. He also served in his church, and the list could go on and on. He was always ready to travel somewhere, on a motorcycle, in the motorhome, on the pontoon boat, or simply in a car. But, he was always ready to go somewhere and definitely ready to go to Heaven. There was a vacuum created when he passed, as he was involved in so much, He positively supported his family and extended family in so many ways. Everywhere he went he had a way of making whoever he met feel important and seen, whether they were a 3 Star General in the military, or the person cleaning the convenience store restroom. He never met a stranger; he taught his grandchildren that people are important to God so they should be important to them as well. He lived that every day. He touched so many people that we can never know the extent or the impact he had this side of eternity. It is fitting as a Christian he passed away on a Sunday, and as a Veteran, he passed away on Memorial Day weekend. His family and community grieve their loss and celebrate a life lived in service to God, people, and country.

A Home-going service will be held 11 a.m., Saturday, June 5, 2021, at First Baptist Church, Bascom, Florida, with James & Lipford Funeral Home in Graceville directing.

Family will receive friends at the church on Friday, 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Interment will be held 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at Barrancas National Cemetery in Pensacola, FL with full Military Honors by the U. S. Air Force.

Flowers accepted or those wishing to make donations in Fred's honor can give locally to the Chipola Family Ministry Center in Marianna, Florida or, to international missions for his granddaughter Chloe Stitt who is a missionary with Globe International.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 4. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Bascom  
4951 Basswood Road  
Bascom, FL 32423

## Home-going Service

JUN 5. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Bascom  
4951 Basswood Road  
Bascom, FL 32423

## Interment

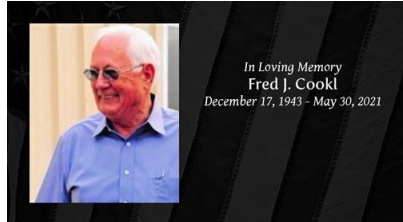
JUN 15. 11:30 AM (CT)

Barrancas National Cemetery  
1 Cemetery Road  
Pensacola, FL 32508

# Tribute Wall



“ James & Lipford Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of MSGT(ret) Fred J. Cook



James & Lipford Funeral Home - June 03, 2021 at 05:38 PM

JH

*Fred was a fine man. I don't know any better accolade than that. I'm glad I knew him.*

Jane Campbell Hayes - June 04, 2021 at 09:46 AM

DG

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Cook, and im so glad I had that privilege. He was a real Christian, really cared about people, and did so much to help his fellow man..He will be sorely missed by many.

doris a green - June 05, 2021 at 04:46 PM

AR

“ My condolences to Fred's family. His passing is felt heavily by his Green Hornet brothers. We all loved and admired him greatly. His courage during the Fleming Medal of Honor mission is legendary. Rest in Peace dear brother Hornet.

Alfonso "RT" Rivero - June 05, 2021 at 01:48 PM

FW

“ I worked with Fred in the 20th SOS at Hurlburt AFB. What a nice guy! Always with a smile and a lending hand for all who needed it! My sincere condolences to his family and friends! RIP Fred! You will be missed!

Floyd Watson - June 05, 2021 at 07:44 AM

JB

“ It was my honor to have have know and served with my fellow Green Hornet Brother and he will be missed by all who have know and served with him. God rest the soul of Fred J. Cook. God comfort and protect you Melba and the entire Cook family.

Jim Burns - June 04, 2021 at 07:54 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of MSGT(ret) Fred J. Cook.



June 04, 2021 at 01:17 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of MSGT(ret) Fred J. Cook.



June 04, 2021 at 01:14 PM



“ *Garden Cross was purchased for the family of MSGT(ret) Fred J. Cook.*



June 03, 2021 at 04:49 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of MSGT(ret) Fred J. Cook.*



June 03, 2021 at 04:12 PM



“ *Melba and family,  
Jimmy and I care so much for you and Fred. Our prayers have been with all of you and will continue to be. I will send a copy of Fred's obituary to the class member of 1962.  
Becky and Jimmy Kelly*

**Kelly's** - June 02, 2021 at 12:08 PM



*Melba, wanted to let you know I too will miss Fred and our talks at the Ministry Center. He touched everyone he came in contact with. I know we will meet again. God bless you and your family. Live you much.  
Bruce and Jeanette Adams*

**Bruce Adams** - June 03, 2021 at 12:37 AM

PK

“ It was such an honor to know and work with Fred for a short time as we planned and trained volunteers for the opening of the Columbia Baptist Ministry Center and Thee Store. The Ministry Center had been a dream of mine for many years and as I retired before it officially opened, I had great confidence that my dream would be realized with Fred serving as the Director. He gave it a good foundation for others to build on. He will surely be missed by many. But he has now reached his ultimate goal - life forever with the Lord he served. You are all on my heart and in my prayers during these difficult days of adjusting to his absence.

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**Pat Kines** - June 02, 2021 at 09:15 AM