



Dr. Jennie C. Cooper

June 2, 2014

Dr. Jennie C. Cooper, 82, of Cape Girardeau died Monday, June 2, 2014, peacefully at her home, with her two children present. She was born Sept. 4, 1931, in Brinkley, Arkansas, to Allen B. and May Lawrence Cooper. She and William H. "Bill" Frye were married in 1952 at Charleston, Missouri. They both graduated from Southeast Missouri State University. She went on to earn a master's degree from Washington University in St. Louis and a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri at Columbia. Her teaching awards include the Faculty Merit Award at Southeast, the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and The Honors Program Exempla Gratia Award. She taught English at Southeast 38 years (Shakespeare, Victorian poetry and women's studies) and at the University of Sinaloa in Mexico and the University of Mexico City. She developed the Missouri London Program, which was successful many years. She also taught college preparatory classes for the NAACP after the Civil Rights Movement. When she wasn't entertaining friends at her home, she enjoyed working logic problems, raising scholarships and finding ever creative ways of teaching. She was particularly fond of the class Victorian Studies, an interdisciplinary course she designed and taught with fellow Southeast professor and friend Paul Thompson. Survivors include a daughter, Annie Finnegan; a son, Allen (Robyn) Frye, both of Cape Girardeau; four sisters, Betty Cooper Hearnnes (Gov. Warren E., deceased) and Julia Cooper Warren Jr. (Harry "Joker", deceased) of Charleston, Dr. Rose Marie Cooper Jordan (William Henry, deceased) of Greer, South Carolina, and Jane Cooper Stacy

of Cape Girardeau; a grandson, Jordan Lowry; two granddaughters, Layne Lawrence Finnegan and Holly Cooper Finnegan of Cape Girardeau. She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Dr. James F. Cooper and Allen Autry Cooper; and a sister and her husband, Velna (Audley A.) Brown. A celebration of her life will be at 4 p.m. Thursday at the Baptist Student Center on the campus of Southeast, followed by a dinner to which everyone is invited. Private burial of her ashes in the family plot in Charleston will take place at a later date. Memorial contributions may be given to the Dr. Jennie C. Cooper Endowed Scholarship Fund, Southeast Missouri State University, Department of Development, or to the A.B. Cooper Memorial Fund at the Baptist Student Center at the university. Ford and Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall

MS

“ Our deep condolences to her family and friends that had the good fortune to keep company with her.

Marcus Stephens - June 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ Jane, Was sorry to read about Jennie. She was a beautiful and inteligent person. It was a pleasure to know her. I know you will miss her. Give my condolences to the entire Cooper family. Thanks for remembering Milton. Billie Roth

Billie Roth - June 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Dr. Cooper was incredibly supportive of me during my freshman year of college. She wanted me to know that she believed in me at a time when I am not sure that I believed in myself. I am a high school English teacher, and I often reflect on her style of teaching in my own instruction. I know there are many others who can say the same, and as a result her legacy will continue. She was an incredible woman and an exemplary teacher.

Maeve Bolin - May 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Annie, Allen, Ms. Stacy, Jordan, Layne, We are very sorry we couldn't join you in the celebration for Dr. Cooper's life. We are proud to say that we were part of Dr. Cooper's life. It was a privileged for me to teach her spanish, get to know her, know her family and then being invited move in her basement. There are so many memories in my mind of her. I will always be thankful for all her help, support, love, friendship, and the all the food. She was a blessing for my life. Love you guys. Prayers and love.

Christiane & Brady Mancel - May 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Aunt Jennie and I spent hours in the dirt. She loved gardening and taught me most everything I know about it. I still garden and remember her laughing with me as she sorted the flowers around the bed in front of the house on Scott's Lane. Dinner was never as important as getting the flowers in the ground before nightfall!

Sara Stacy Dyer - May 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ Jane and the family, I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Ellen Busch

Ellen Busch - May 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ Annie, I'm so sorry to hear the news. You & your family are in our prayers.

Lori Schopp & George Davis - May 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ My thoughts are with Jennie's family and friends as I mourn her loss. I never saw a better "teacher" at any level of education, and I use that word in the most respectful of terms. Jennie was so much more than a classroom lecturer. She wanted to know what we all thought, and why. And then she remembered. I was fortunate to be at her home on a few occasions, and she always made me feel welcomed, and with a valued presence. She was truly, to use her vernacular, quite a gal.

Ben Britt - April 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Saddened to hear of the passing of Jennie Cooper. Our thoughts & prayers are with her & her family. Professors Emerati Dennis & Ellen Seyer, Mary Ann Vogelsang, Peter & Peggy Hirschburg currently traveling in Ireland

Dennis C. Seyer - April 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ Allen, Annie, I am so sorry for your loss. I think of you often. Pat

Patricia Frye - April 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ Wonderful teacher-even more wonderful friend!

Dennis C. Tucker - April 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ You will be missed. I met so many interesting people at your house as a kid! I loved your sense of humour.

James Stacy - April 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM