



Udell V. Cook

June 19, 1931 - August 16, 2022

Udell V. Cook, age 91 of Highland, IL, died Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at Barnes-Jewish Hospital (BJC) in Saint Louis, MO.

Udell, named after a heroic young man in a Christian book, was born on Friday, June 19, 1931, in Highland, IL, the son of Isaac and Stella (nee Frey) Cook.

On Saturday, October 17, 1953 at the age of 22, he married Kathryn A. (nee Noll) Cook at E & R Church, St. Jacob, Illinois. Kathryn passed away last year in April 2021, after 67 years of marriage to Udell.

Udell was a longtime member of Saint Jacob United Church of Christ, served extensively on the Church Council; was an active and respected participant in the Madison County Farm Bureau and Masonic Lodge #355, A.F. & A.M. (Masons), Marine.

Udell grew up southwest of Highland on the small family farm. He attended Frey Country School and graduated from St. Jacob High School. He worked the farm until he was drafted into the US Army and served on active duty during the Korean War. He and Kathryn moved as newlyweds to where he was stationed at Ft. Belvoir, in Virginia. After his military service, Udell owned and operated a farm south of Marine. Initially a dairy farm, it was converted

over time to a grain farm and livestock operation. While remaining a full-time farmer, for 10 years Udell was a licensed realtor, specializing in selling farm property. Udell maintained a lifelong interest in the value of agricultural and related property. Udell and Kathryn enjoyed worldwide and domestic travel. They enjoyed visiting Arizona often and also sailed the Panama Canal and toured in Europe. They became accomplished dancers over their 7 decade romance. Udell enjoyed the outdoors in general and gardening in particular. He especially liked growing tomatoes and had an annual goal to have tomatoes to enjoy by his birthday in June. Conservation was an early and important focus in his life. In recognition, Udell received the 'St. Clair County Outstanding Accomplishments In Conservation of Soil, Water and Related Resources Award' in 1986, and the Madison County, 'Conservationist Farmer of the Year' Award in 1995. Udell believed in physical fitness, lifelong learning and living an active life. On his 90th birthday he enthusiastically climbed all 154 steps of Monks Mound at Cahokia Mounds and celebrated that he made it to the top for the rest of his life. He was very proud of his children (the 'Cook 5' as they are still known). Udell had developed a strong belief in the importance of academics and each of his children achieved college degrees. That philosophy has carried through to his grandchildren.

Survivors include:

Son - Rodney V. (Rebecca) Cook, Mascoutah, IL

Daughter - Rhonda K. Kern, PHD, O'Fallon, IL

Daughter - Karla M. (Mark) Haun, Edwardsville, IL

Son - Kevin J. (Kathryn) Cook (Twin), Collinsville, IL

Son - Keith J. (Christine) Cook (Twin), Mascoutah, IL

Grandchildren - Ten

Great Grandchildren - Seventeen

Sister - Evagene A. Gusewelle, Highland, IL.

He was preceded in death by:

Father - Isaac H. Cook - Died 12/29/1960
Mother - Stella M. (nee Frey) Cook - Died Oct. 1985
Wife - Kathryn A. (nee Noll) Cook - Died 4/14/2021
Son-In-Law - Kevin P. Kern - Died 1/11/2021
Brother - Morris S. Cook - Died 5/04/2016
Sister - Doris Cook (Twin to Morris) - Died at birth

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Sunday, August 21, 2022, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL and from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Monday, August 22, 2022, at Saint Jacob United Church of Christ in Saint Jacob, IL.

Funeral Service will be at 11:00 AM on Monday, August 22, 2022, at Saint Jacob United Church of Christ in Saint Jacob, IL, with Rev. Philip J. Barbier, Pastor, officiating.

Interment will be at Keystone Cemetery in Saint Jacob, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to Keystone Cemetery or St. Jacob United Church of Christ.

Cemetery Details

Keystone Cemetery

St. Jacob, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *Our deepest, most heartfelt condolences are with you and your family during this difficult time.*

Jay Boulanger - September 01, 2022 at 10:04 AM



“ *Udell would come to my house to check on me often. Just to say hello talk for a bit. We usually ended up together at most family functions, always sharing the same stories. Ill miss him.*

Ed Fetter - August 21, 2022 at 10:28 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Udell V. Cook.*



August 19, 2022 at 08:53 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Udell V. Cook.*



August 18, 2022 at 08:40 AM

JJ

“ *A wonderful man with a wonderful spouse. I spoke with Udell a couple of weeks back after not seeing him for several years. Great memories of the warmth and kindness both shared with others. Proud and honored to have known them both.*

john jatcko - August 17, 2022 at 05:38 PM