



## Joe Ray Cooper

September 21, 1937 - February 1, 2023

Coleman Funeral Home of Southaven

Joe Ray Cooper, 85, passed away February 1, 2023, in Southaven, MS. A visitation will be held Saturday, February 4, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Coleman Funeral Home of Southaven (626 Star Landing Road East, Southaven, MS, 38672). A memorial service will immediately follow at 12:00 p.m., also at Coleman Funeral Home of Southaven. David Dickson will be officiating.

Joe Ray Cooper was born September 21, 1937, in Ravenden Springs, AR. He spent his life dedicated to his country, his career, and most importantly, his family. Joe served in the United States Air Force for 23 and a half years. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service during the Vietnam War and was awarded a total of seven Air Medals throughout his career for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight. After he retired from the United States Air Force, he spent 26 years as a Flight Engineer Instructor for Fed Ex. Although Joe was very successful in his career, his favorite role in life was being a family man. He married the love of his life, Melba, February 22, 1960. Together, they raised their sons, Perry, Scott, and James. Joe was also a very dedicated grandfather, and his grandchildren were his pride and joy. He loved attending their softball games and spending time with his family every chance he had. Joe also enjoyed

repairing automobiles, fishing, golfing, watching sports, and serving others. He had a true servant's heart and would go out of his way to help anyone in need. Joe left an impact on every life he touched and will be greatly missed by all who loved him.

Joe Ray Cooper is survived by his wife, Cora Melba Cooper of Southaven, MS; his sons, Perry Cooper (Myra) of San Antonio, TX and James Cooper (Melissa) of Southaven; his granddaughters, Erin Smith (Alex) of Houston, TX, Elise Alvarez (Vince) of Yuma, AZ, Kristen Rush (Parker) of Southaven, Kelcey Cooper of Southaven, and Sydney Cooper of Southaven; his grandson, Kyle Cooper of Houston, TX; his great-granddaughters, Eleanor Rush and Emmy Rush, both of Southaven, and Jane Alvarez of Yuma; and his great-grandson, Nolan Alvarez of Yuma.

Joe Ray Cooper was preceded in death by his mother, Oma Cooper Dalton; his son, Edwin Scott Cooper; and his great-granddaughter, Harper Fell.

Contributions and donations in honor of Joe Ray Cooper may be made to St Jude Children's Research Hospital.

In honor of Joe Ray Cooper's service to our country, the flag of the United States Air Force will be flown at Coleman Funeral Home of Southaven the day of the service. Online condolences may be made on his Tribute Wall at [www.colemanfuneralhome.com](http://www.colemanfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 4. 11:00 AM (CT)

Coleman Funeral Home of Southaven  
626 Star Landing Rd E  
Southaven, MS 38672  
(662) 349-3900  
info@colemanfuneralhome.com  
<http://www.colemanfuneralhomeSH.com>

## Memorial Service

FEB 4. 12:00 PM (CT)

Coleman Funeral Home of Southaven  
626 Star Landing Rd E  
Southaven, MS 38672  
(662) 349-3900  
info@colemanfuneralhome.com  
<http://www.colemanfuneralhomeSH.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ Coleman Funeral Home of Southaven created a Webcast in memory of Joe Ray Cooper



Coleman Funeral Home - February 04, 2023 at 10:50 AM



“ Dearest Melba, children, Grand & Great;. Thinking of you all at this time of sadness. My Love and Prayers are with you. He was more to me than a cousin. GOD BLESS YOU ALL. Vera Dawn Cooper

Vera Dawn Cooper - February 04, 2023 at 12:25 PM



Melba and family, what a beautiful service. Thank you and Joe for always being there for all us girls. God Bless you all. love you.

deb hibdon - February 04, 2023 at 01:47 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joe Ray Cooper.



February 03, 2023 at 11:55 PM

MD

“ At this time...so much caring, so many thoughts and prayers for strength to endure this loss. Our love and respect for Joe, our precious friend and neighbor will always be in our hearts and memory. Beyond SYMPATHY, Jack&Martha Day

Martha Day and Jack Day - February 03, 2023 at 06:08 PM



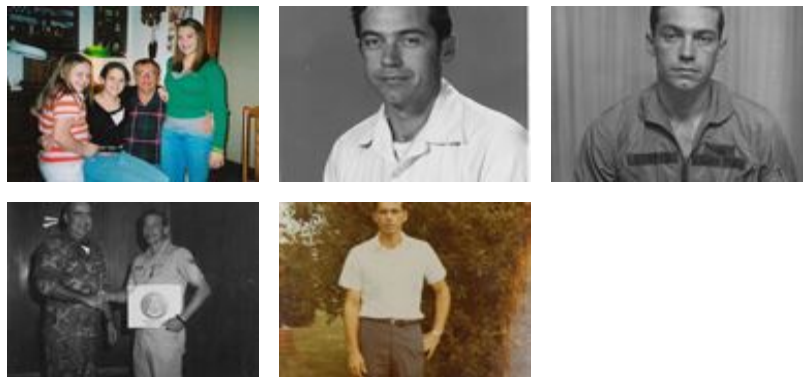
“ 41 files added to the album LifeTributes



Coleman Funeral Home - February 03, 2023 at 02:24 PM



“ 40 files added to the album LifeTributes



Coleman Funeral Home - February 02, 2023 at 04:21 PM