

One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village
The child of a peasant woman
He grew up in another obscure village
Where he worked in a carpenter shop
Until he was thirty

He never wrote a book
He never held an office
He never went to college
He never visited a big city
He never traveled more than two hundred miles
From the place where he was born
He did none of the things
Usually associated with greatness
He had no credentials but himself

He was only thirty three His friends ran away
One of them denied him
He was turned over to his enemies
And went through the mockery of a trial
He was nailed to a cross between two thieves
While dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing
The only property he had on earth
When he was dead
He was laid in a borrowed grave
Through the pity of a friend

Nineteen centuries have come and gone
And today Jesus is the central figure of the human race
And the leader of mankind's progress
All the armies that have ever marched
All the navies that have ever sailed
All the parliaments that have ever sat
All the kings that ever reigned put together
Have not affected the life of mankind on earth
As powerfully as that one solitary life



IN LOVING MEMORY



JOHN PAUL COFER

1937-2025

*In Loving Memory
of
John Paul Cofer*

Memorial Service

Saturday, December 20, 2025

11:00 a.m.

*St. Ann's Catholic Church
Winnsboro, TX*

Officiating

Father Mami Mathai

Interment

*Smyrna Cemetery
Winnsboro, TX*

Honor Guard

Texas Dept Of Public Safety

John Paul Cofer, age 88, of Winnsboro, Texas passed away peacefully into eternity on December 14, 2025, with his wife, present.

John was born on November 15, 1937, in Winnsboro, Texas to George (Red) Cofer and Beulah Cofer. He was raised in Winnsboro, experiencing all the joys of childhood friends. He married Marjorie Ruth Stark on June 1, 1961. To that union was born Cheryl and Mark - (now deceased). Marjorie passed away September 9, 2009. Cheryl married Randy Gilbert in October 1985, and to that union 12 children were born, Olivia, Shaunessi, Vernon, Justus, Luke, Seth, Samuel, Julia, Grace, Belle, Truman, Dan, and twenty-five grandchildren rounds out this fine family.

On October 2, 2010, he married Lou Vane Sandhaus of Carrollton, TX. They traveled extensively and enjoyed each other's families greatly. He was loved by her three children, John and spouse Pati, Caryl and spouse Rex and Jennifer and eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

He served his country with the United States Air Force, spending most of his career on the Alaska Dew Line. His position in Alaska was the teletype operator responsible for sending the codes to launch airstrikes on Russia.

He was selected to the Texas Department of Public Safety and served in Houston, Dangerfield and Garland. Upon obtaining the rank of Lieutenant, he was transferred to Midland where he served in many different capacities until retirement.

After retirement he settled on a country place in the desert outside Midland, where he successfully grew large amounts of tomatoes and watermelons. Family decisions were later made to return to East Texas and he and his wife followed.

He was an active member of St. Ann's Catholic Church in Winnsboro for nearly 30 years. He contributed many hours to benefit his fellow parishioners in cookouts and entertaining events.

This only represents a small portion of this man's extraordinary life. He touched many people's hearts and is fondly remembered by his community. In lieu of flowers donations may be to St. Judes Children's Hospital. The family thanks all who have offered prayers for us during this time of illness.