

In Loving Memory of
Paul Franklin Cook

March 12, 1936 – February 15, 2025

Pallbearers

Randall Cook (Son)	John Cook (Son)
Gregory Cook (Son)	Joseph Cook (Son)
Spencer Cook (Grandson)	Tyler Cook (Grandson)
Jackson Cook (Grandson)	Caleb Cook (Grandson)
Jonathan Cook (Grandson)	

Interment

Pleasant Grove City Cemetery
500 North 100 West Pleasant Grove, Utah

Dedicatory Prayer..... Randall Cook (Son)

Funeral Services

Friday, February 21, 2025 - 11:00 a.m.
Wheeler & Sundberg Funeral Home
495 South, Orem, Utah

Conducting..... President Barney Madsen-Jamestown Branch
Family Prayer Karen Cook (Daughter-in-law)
Organist Karen Cook (Daughter-in-law)
Chorister..... Hannah Mace (Granddaughter)
Opening Hymn #142 Congregation

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

Invocation..... Emma Cook (Granddaughter)
Musical Number..... Libbie Cook (Granddaughter)

Piano Solo - “I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

Eulogy..... Randy Cook (Son)
Speaker..... Joe Cook (Son)
Musical Number..... Gavin and Jenna Lawrence (Granddaughter)

“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

Speaker..... Greg Cook (Son)
Speaker..... John Cook (Son)

Closing Remarks President Barney Madsen-Jamestown Branch President
Closing Hymn #166 Congregation

“Abide with Me!”

Benediction Rebecca Cook (Granddaughter)

Paul Franklin Cook passed away peacefully on February 15, 2025, at 88, surrounded by loved ones. Paul was born in March of 1936, in Price, Utah, to Margaret Iva and Merrill Eugene Cook. The second of four children, he was raised alongside his siblings Don, Barbara (Saunders), and Myrlene (Thorpe).

From a young age, Paul demonstrated a deep love of learning, an appreciation for family, and a strong faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Losing his father at the age of twelve was a defining moment in his life. In the years following this loss, Paul's mother, Margaret, worked tirelessly to support the family, instilling resilience and a profound work ethic in him.

Paul graduated from Logan High School and attended Utah State University (USU), where his thirst for knowledge was nurtured by institute teachers, including his uncle Wilford Richards. Paul served a two-year mission in the East Central States Mission, presided over by his uncle, M. Ross Richards.

Upon returning, Paul completed his bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in history at USU and was a member of the ROTC. Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, he trained at Fort Benning and Fort Holabird before serving in Würzburg, Germany, with the 3rd Infantry Division's G2 section, where he specialized in intelligence work during the Cold War. After nearly two years of service, he left the Army to teach seminary briefly in Cedar City, Utah. He then pursued a master's degree in School Psychology, followed by a doctorate in Educational Psychology at Brigham Young University (BYU).

In 1964, Paul married Jan Kurtz in the Logan Temple, and together, they had four sons: Randall (Randy), John, Gregory (Greg), and Joseph (Joe). He cherished fatherhood, striving to show his boys love, patience, and faithfulness.

Paul's career included teaching, conducting educational research, and developing testing centers in Africa (Botswana and Swaziland) with the American Institutes for Research (AIR), and ultimately serving as a professor at BYU in the David O. McKay Institute and the Department of Elementary Education.

Later in life, Paul and Jan divorced. During this period, he relied on his faith and the support of family and close friends. He returned to Africa on a second AIR educational work project. In 2002, he married Connie Blakemore, a BYU Health and Human Performance professor. Their union brought new joy, adventures, and opportunities for church service, including work in China, humanitarian service in Zimbabwe, guiding the Tiberias Branch, and serving at the BYU Jerusalem Center in the Holy Land.

Throughout his life, Paul remained steadfast in his faith, emphasizing the importance of prayer, hard work, and trusting in the Lord's guidance. He believed in learning from every experience, setting goals, and pressing forward with hope. Ever the adventurer and scholar, he was known for his gentle humor, genuine kindness, and willingness to serve.

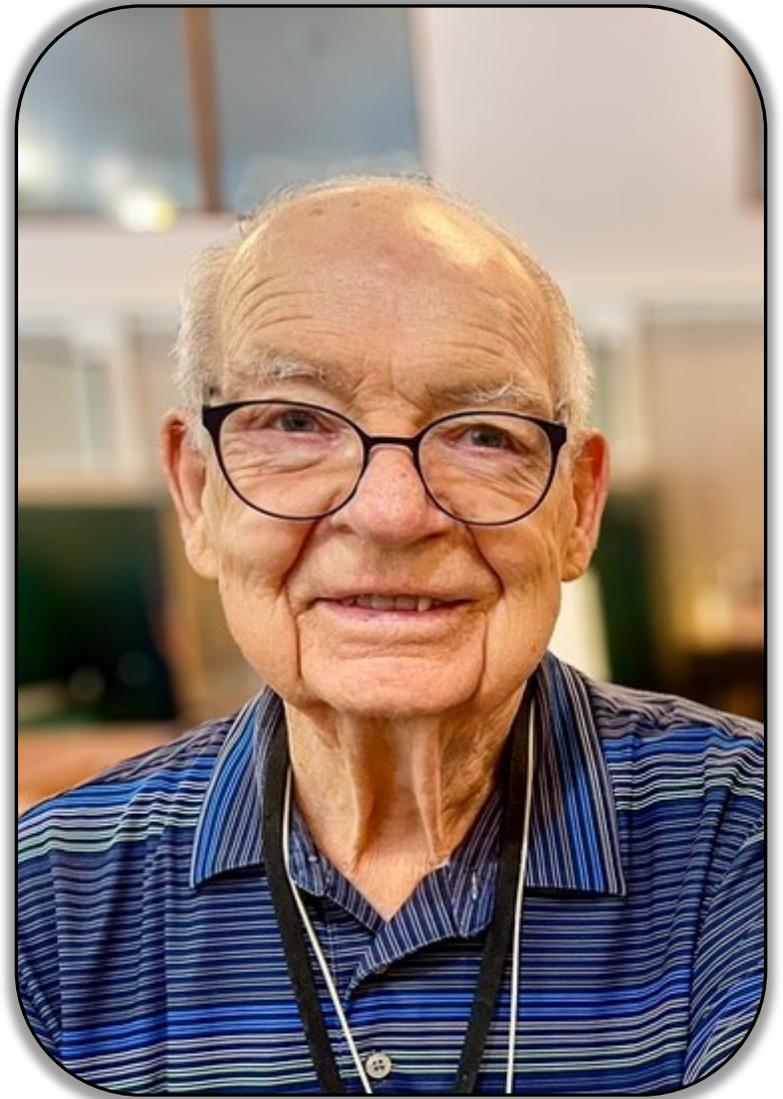
Paul is survived by his four sons, Randy (Janette), John (Karen), Greg (Julie), and Joe (Melissa), many cherished grandchildren and great-grandchildren, his former wife, Jan Cook, and his sisters, Barbara Saunders (Reed) and Myrlene Thorpe (Tim).

He was preceded in death by his wife, Connie Blakemore Cook, his parents, Margaret and Merrill Cook, and his brother, Don Cook, and is now joyfully reunited with them.

Paul's family extends heartfelt thanks to all who have offered love, support, and friendship throughout his life. He leaves a legacy of faith, perseverance, and devotion that uplifts and inspires those who knew and loved him.



In Loving Memory



Paul Franklin Cook

March 12, 1936 — February 15, 2025