
COLUMBUS -Richard E. “Dick” Cooper, 74, of Columbus, died at 8:45 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 6, 1994 at Maude Norton Memorial Hospital in Columbus, after an apparent heart attack while driving his vehicle.

He was born April 20, 1920 at Columbus, the son of Calvin Macy and Jessie Pearl (Mullin) Cooper. He attended Columbus City Schools and graduated from Cherokee County Community High School. He attended Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University, obtaining a bachelor of science degree in 1948 and a master of science degree in 1955, and the Wichita State University.

He married Verda Louise McCall, Jan. 20, 1943 at Columbus.

He was a Naval cadet-lt. sr. grade and a Naval flight officer from 1942-1946.

His business career included being owner and distributor of Page Milk, a wholesale company, in Columbus; a teacher-principal in the Columbus City Schools, Central School-elementary and junior high, 1949-1957; superintendent of Columbus City Schools, 1957-1965; assistant executive secretary, Kansas National Education Association, Topeka; and manager, Columbus Telephone Company, 1972-1985.

Memberships included the Columbus Presbyterian Church and elder of the church; past president, Columbus City Teachers, Columbus Lions Club, Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, Kansas Telephone Association and Kansas Commission on Aerospace Education.

He was past commander of the Keith Reeves Post No.3 American Legion in Columbus.

He served on the board of directors of the Columbus Lions Club, Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, Columbus American Legion, Columbus Telephone Company, Columbus Housing, Inc., Columbus Housing Authority, Columbus Tree Committee, Kansas Telephone Association, Columbus United Fund, Boy Scouts of America, Retired Teachers Association and Pittsburg State University Alumni Association. He was president of the alumni association from 1987-1988.

Membership in other organizations included the American Legion (chairman)Boys State, Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce-Industrial Committee and the Kansas Highway Commission.

Survivors include his wife, of the home; one son, Richard E. Cooper Jr., of Raytown, Mo.; one daughter, Caroline Cassidy, of San Antonio, Texas; four grandchildren; two brothers, Dr. Calvin M. Cooper, of Fort Scott, and Dr. Donald Cooper, of Stillwater, Okla; and one sister, Catherine Stover, of Alva, Okla.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Monday in the United Presbyterian Church of Columbus, with the Rev. Christine Iannucilli officiating. A private committal [sic] service will be held at a later date after cremation. Visitation will be Sunday evening from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Murdock Funeral Home of Columbus.
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