



## Joseph H. Cooter Sr.

August 15, 1946 - December 6, 2017

Joseph “Joe” H. Cooter, Sr., 71, of Syracuse, passed away suddenly on Wednesday, December 6, 2017, at Upstate University Hospital at Community General. Born in Buffalo, NY, he was a son of the late William Sr. and Catherine (Smith) Cooter. He was an Army Veteran, stationed in Japan and South Korea during the Vietnam Era, serving as a Traffic Analyst in the US Army Security Agency. He married his loving wife of 50 years, the former Diane Wellington, on March 31, 1967.

Joe earned a Bachelor’s degree in history from Syracuse University, and went on to earn his Master’s degree in both history and information science from SU. He worked for Onondaga County Department of Social Services for 20 years, starting as a case worker and retiring as a supervisor in Child Protective Services. In his free time, he enjoyed following the New York Yankees, dabbled in painting, was an avid chess player, and had a passion for genealogy.

In addition to his wife, Diane, Joe is survived by his sons, Joseph Cooter, Jr., and Jonathan (Melissa) Cooter; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his brother, William Francis Cooter, Jr., infant sister, Dorothy, and beloved cat, Picabo.

Calling hours will be Saturday, December 16, 2017, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at

Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home, 4612 S. Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13205. A memorial service will follow at 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

To express sympathy, please visit [www.ballweg-lunsford.com](http://www.ballweg-lunsford.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **16**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home - Syracuse  
4612 S. Salina Street  
Syracuse, NY 13205  
(315) 492-3504  
info@ballweg-lunsford.com  
<https://www.ballweg-lunsford.com/>

## Service

DEC **16**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home - Syracuse  
4612 S. Salina Street  
Syracuse, NY 13205  
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# Tribute Wall

BL

“ Dear Diane,  
I'm sorry to learn of Joe's passing. Please  
accept my sincere condolences.

*Bill Lee*



Bill Lee - December 16, 2017 at 02:04 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of  
Joseph H. Cooter Sr..



December 14, 2017 at 08:52 PM

JW

“ Dear Diane, I am so sorry for your loss. My  
prayers are with you and your family. Jean  
Whitmore



Jean Whitmore - December 14, 2017 at 05:07 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family  
of Joseph H. Cooter Sr..



December 13, 2017 at 10:58 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Joseph H. Cooter Sr..*



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December 13, 2017 at 09:10 PM



“ *Diane,  
I'm so sorry to hear of Joe's passing. Sending my condolences to you and your family. I remember visiting with him at the genealogy meetings.*

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**sally sessler** - December 13, 2017 at 12:13 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to you Diane and the family. Joe was a pretty good guy. He and I started in HEAP the same time and quickly became friends. I enjoyed the many discussions we had about different books and history in general. I haven't had any contact since I retired and moved back to Utah but I have thought of I'm many times.  
God bless and keep you all.  
Bill Strode*

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**Bill Strode** - December 12, 2017 at 10:33 PM

MW

“ Joe was one of the most interesting people I have worked with over the years.

Condolences,

Mary Leahy Wesche

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**Mary Wesche** - December 11, 2017 at 12:11 PM

WJ

“ Joe was my colleague, Supervisor and most of all my friend. One of the most interesting men in my life. Prayers and condolences for a great guy. Bill Glaski

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**William Glaski Jr** - December 11, 2017 at 12:04 PM

SB

“ Diane, I had a chance to visit with you and Joe at our 50th high school reunion. I was so struck by his sensitivity and good sense and regretted that I had missed knowing him in high school. I lost my own husband recently also, so you are in my thoughts and prayers. Sarah Bentley, Austin, Texas

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**sarah bentley** - December 11, 2017 at 10:41 AM

BC

*“ We are deeply saddened by the passing of Uncle Joe. It was wonderful to be with you all two years ago and were very comforted by Joe's presence. He was a calming force during a very difficult time. It was wonderful to know that Bill's brother was there to say goodbye and bring some light in a dark time. It is also comforting to know that they are now together again. We love you all very much and are wishing you sympathy during this very difficult time.*



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**Billy & Deseray Cooter** - December 10, 2017 at 08:47 PM

WC

*“ With sympathy, Billy, Deseray, & Brian Cooter purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Joseph H. Cooter Sr..*



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**With sympathy, Billy, Deseray, & Brian Cooter** - December 10, 2017 at 08:22 PM

LP

*“ I am so sorry to hear about the passing of such a wonderful man. I worked with him at the county. He helped me keep my sanity when I was going through a very rough time at work. He was a kind and loving man, who talked about his wife with great joy and love. The world will miss this man. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers.*

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**Linda Pierce** - December 09, 2017 at 08:48 PM

RD

*“ So sorry for your loss.*

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**robert and susan diperna** - December 09, 2017 at 11:58 AM

B(

“ Bonnie Garropy (Randall) lit a candle in memory of Joseph H. Cooter Sr.



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**Bonnie Garropy (Randall)** - December 09, 2017 at 09:04 AM

JB

“ Joe and I worked together in CPS. I remember when I transferred a case to him as he did long term and I was an investigator. When we presented the case to Alliance who coordinated services for CPS, she asked us to sum up what we had just said. Joe and I looked at each other and without missing a beat he said, "she is a few fries short of a happy meal, does that sum it up for you." After that every time we had a case together we would burst out laughing. He was an absolute gem with one liners and had a way to make you smile. RIP Joe. You have done your duty to your God, family, and country and helped to improve the life of families. You will be missed.



*Jan Randall Bailey*

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**Jan Randall Bailey** - December 08, 2017 at 08:47 PM

AS

“ To Joe's family -

*I am very sorry to hear of Joe's passing. I worked with him for many years at Children's Division. He was always very helpful, especially when it came to using shortcuts on the computer. He was a very dedicated and hardworking employee, who cared deeply about the families and children that he worked with, along with his fellow employees. He made a big difference in the lives of others. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. May he rest in peace.*

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**Anne S.** - December 08, 2017 at 08:42 PM

YB

“ Your Co-Workers At Community Bank purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Joseph H. Cooter Sr..



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**Your Co-Workers At Community Bank** - December 08, 2017 at 02:30 PM

JR

“ So very sorry for your loss Diane. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers

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**JAN RECEK** - December 08, 2017 at 01:33 PM

GA

*To the Cooter family. I an very sorry to hear of Joe's passing. I regret I never was able to make it up to visit him. I apologize I worked with Joe for 29 yrs. He was a great guy and dedicated to the Children and families of Onondaga Co. Please forgive me for being unable to be there for you at the funeral . We are visiting our daughter and family in Charleston SC. We will not return until after the New Year. Praise Joe a fellow Veteran and a gentlemen.*

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**Gary Allen** - December 09, 2017 at 11:31 AM

TL

*Joe and I grew up together in DeWitt. He lived 2 doors away. I have fond memories of summer games in the fields around our houses. I was glad to connect with Joe at our 50th High School Reunion. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Tana Lockwood-Jansen*

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**Tana Lockwood-Jansen** - December 11, 2017 at 07:44 PM

DS

*Dear Diane I am so sorry to hear of your husbands passing. Please let me know if you need to talk or anything. You have helped me so much in the past. I am thinking of you and saying prayers for you. Love you  
Donna Shirtz*

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**Donna Shirtz** - December 30, 2017 at 05:13 PM

CB

“ *Cathy Brochu lit a candle in memory of  
Joseph H. Cooter Sr.*



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**Cathy Brochu** - December 08, 2017 at 01:17 PM