



James Frank Cook

July 1, 1937 - October 5, 2020

OBITUARY MATERIAL

Frank Cook was born July 1, 1937, in Levy, Arkansas, the youngest of three sons born to Delmas Darrow Cook and Bertha Lou [Starrett] Cook.

He grew up in rural Arkansas, graduating from Jacksonville High school in 1956.

Frank chose to pursue a blue collar career in electronics in the aircraft industry, so moved to Greenville Texas, and began employment with Texas Engineering and Manufacturing Company, a large aircraft company with a number of government contracts.

On a return visit to his rural neighborhood in Arkansas, he asked his high school buddy who that gal was he saw standing by the road waiting on the bus into Little Rock. His buddy replied "Why, that's Colette, one of the Goforth sisters." Frank said, "Hey, she grew up!"

Frank began a year and a half long distance courtship of Colette, driving 600 miles round trip every other weekend. Her parents agreed to their marriage after his promise that he would see to her graduation in Texas the next year. They were married in a small church ceremony in North Little Rock on July 13th, 1959. Thus began a lifelong journey together.

Frank diligently pursued his career in electronic instrumentation to A class, with top secret status, interrupted only by his being drafted into the Army in December of 1960, serving his entire two years at Ft. Hood, Texas.

The highlight of his nearly 20 year career in the aircraft industry was the two

and a half years spent with his family in West Germany instructing the West German Navy personnel in the operation of the reconnaissance aircraft his company designed and built as part of a NATO contract. Both Frank and his work partner on that contract were specifically asked to accompany the aircraft to Germany to facilitate it's intended use.

In 1975, feeling the need for a career change, Frank moved his family to Morenci, Arizona where he helped set up an electronic stack monitoring system at Phelps Dodge Corporation, an international copper company.

In 1978, on a vacation trip to Idaho and Montana, Frank asked his wife if she'd consider moving

to the mountains. She told him if he could find work she'd be happy to move again. Together they composed a functional resume and mailed it to all pertinent companies in Montana and Idaho. A year and a half later he was hired by Mountain States Energy, a Butte Montana company engaged in the development of instrumentation needed to measure the efficiency of clean coal technology using magnetohydrodynamics. He spent the rest of his working career at that worksite.

A quadruple bypass in late 1997, after which his cardiac physician told him he'd have 5 or 6 good years led to his decision to retire in May of 1998, and make the most of those years by pursuing his beloved gun sports in earnest, developing his already considerable shooting skills in competition on a regional and national level. Those 5 or 6 years stretched to 20 years of serious competition.

Frank was a charter life member of the United States Practical Shooting Association, no. CL-118. He held many Super Senior awards, the category awarded to those competitors over 60 years of age. He also took super senior honors at several World Speed Shooting Championships held in Montrose, Colorado. He did his own gunsmithing so he would know it was done right. When Frank began his shooting career after retirement, he came to the attention of the owners of Montana Gold Bullet Company, Norm and Jolene Bjelland, who approached him to represent Montana Gold at shooting

matches. He was honored to do so, as he had been shooting Montana Gold bullets since before his retirement. He became a member of the Montana Gold Team, sporting their colors with his shooter nickname "Old Fossil" emblazoned in red on the back of his shooting shirts. Their support of him was most appreciated, allowing him to further pursue shooting on a national level. At his last national match, he was the only USPSA charter life member still shooting in national competitions.

Frank also competed in fast draw competition, cowboy shoots, black powder shoots, and defensive pistol shoots when there was no USPSA sanctioned shooting available. He was a creditable trapshooter, though he could never find the time to diligently pursue that discipline.

When ice and snow covered shooting ranges, Frank and his wife could be found dancing the weekend away to the John Fox Sound on the many great dance floors in southwest Montana. They helped teach social ballroom for several years, putting several hundred dancers through a six week free course to help folks enjoy dancing as a pastime

Frank sailed through two battles with cancer during his retirement years, barely slowing his pace, but a third occurrence ended his time on earth on October 5th, 2020 at his home in Butte.

Frank was preceded in death by both his parents, his two older brothers, John David and Delmas Jr., and an infant son.

He is survived by his wife of over 61 years, two sons, James Franklin Cook of Freeland, Michigan, and Marshall Wayne Cook of Butte, Montana, former daughter-in-law Nancy Rae Anderson of East Jordan, Michigan, three grandchildren, granddaughter Jamie Lynn Roach, her husband Samuel and their children Sienna, Haden, Kellen and Harper, all of Rapid City Michigan, grandson Alex Cook of East Jordan, Michigan, and grandson Michael Wayne Cook of Amarillo,

Texas, nephew, David Cook, his wife, Debbie of Greenville Texas and their children, and niece Martha Lou Reynolds, her husband Mike, and their

children of Campbell, Texas.

Many thanks to Frank's shooting partner Neal Hansen, with whom he travelled and competed over many years, including his escorting Frank to shoots the last several years when it became difficult for Frank to travel alone. He kept Frank going long after it would have been necessary to give up serious competition.

Cremation has taken place and no services are planned at this time. Perhaps in the spring, when Covid- 19 is not such a serious concern, friends will gather at some place to be determined and remember the good times enjoyed in the company of this good man.

Old Fossils never die, they just sink into the earth.

Tribute Wall

MC

“ Frank was a man of many talents. He combined his life’s experiences with ingenuity to accomplish almost anything. His talents were only exceeded by his generosity and eagerness to help others. Frank often said “give me any job that is mechanical but don’t give me electronics.” He was modest in this statement because he was also good at electronics.

Frank designed and made a tool to use in adjusting the cutters on a commercial wood chipper, adjusted many carburetors on my logging and turf equipment, repaired a multitude of accessories to my skid steer. He rebuilt various gasoline operated sprayers. He helped troubleshoot electric woodworking machines.

One day when having coffee in our kitchen he even took apart, cleaned, and reassembled the coffee grinder in the kitchen. No job was too large or too small.

I appreciated everything Frank did to assist me, but I mostly I appreciated being with Frank and listening to him while he so willingly went about helping me.

Mike Christianson



Mike Christianson - November 15, 2020 at 08:15 PM

MC

“ 2 files added to the album Visits to Bozeman



Mike Christianson - November 15, 2020 at 08:11 PM

NE

“ Living in the same town, belonging to some of the same clubs, Frank and I spent a lot of time together. Our enumerable trips to the range and the many drives to competitions in Montana and the Pacific Northwest racked up a lot of windshield time. I can't calculate the number of miles we traveled together. We bought our tickets, packed our bags and gear and took to the wild blue yonder to places like to the Linea De Fuego Area 2 Championship north of San Diego or to Frostproof, Florida for the USPSA Open National Championship match. They were great times. With Frank's passing, memories like these and so many others, become more and more special. Often times the most important person in his life, wife Colette, accompanied us to competitions. With trusty video at hand, she recorded Frank's performance on all the stages he shot so he would be able to study and critique movement, engagement and score. The end result of these videos is a rich history demonstrating Frank's skill on the range. I was a recipient of some of those videos. I now realize that I have a chance to see him again, in his glory, in the heat of competition, having great fun, doing the thing he was so passionate about. He was special to me. I hope he felt the same. It won't be the same but I know Frank will be there in spirit, every time I step to the line and hear the Range Officer's command, "Make Ready."

Rest in peace Frank!

Friend Neal

Neal - November 06, 2020 at 01:12 PM

PK

“ I spent a fair amount of time with Frank and Collette (they were wonderfully inseparable) on and off the range. Frank was a great sportsman and tremendous shooting talent. He built many of his own competition shooting tools and ran them with enviable skills. Quick with a smile and wicked fast on the draw, Frank even into his 70's quite amazing to watch and a great guy just to talk to. It is a shame that all too often we don't know how much we miss someone until they are gone. Hope your time above will have you teaching and showing off a bit to the "Big Guy" as he will truly enjoy your company as we all have. And thank you Collette for sharing him with us, we are blessed for that! Patrick.



Patrick Kelley - November 02, 2020 at 12:53 PM

DS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



David Schneider - October 20, 2020 at 05:32 PM

DS

Toni and I, with many other folks, enjoyed ballroom dancing for many year on Sunday afternoons at the Elk's Clubs in Butte, Anaconda, and Great Falls. Frank and Colette were almost always attending, and Frank stressed that it was a social event and he made sure that he gave every lady a spin on the dance floor. He was an excellent dancer, and also a very good tutor for the new dancers.

David Schneider - October 20, 2020 at 05:59 PM

MC

“ We didn't always get along.....especially after my Brother, ran him thru the ringer, then I came up to teen years.....we had different hobbies....his was Fishin', Guns, Hunting, and Tennis.....I knew Bob Munden personally, and my Dad and him put on Pistol Matches here in Butte in the 80's.....Dad helped out Bob when he was doing the dialysis thing a few years back before his passing....In later years, we got along a lot better.....and he knew my love of Ham Radio, Hobby Electronics, and love of Muscle cars (I still miss his 70 Charger R/T SE Car) started with him....he had gotten me books, and helped me in Arizona in the late 70's get a Shortwave Radio set up in the garage, and a fellow co-worker he had was a Ham Radio guy, so I had help from them both.....I'm the awesome CW (Morse Code) radio guy I always wanted to be....we respected each others' unique talents....glad your pain is now over.....and sure hope the fishin' holes in Heaven are waitin' for him to show up.....RIP, Dad.....Marshall Wayne Cook.

Marshall W. Cook - October 18, 2020 at 01:22 AM

BK

“ I will miss my Instrument & Control (I & C Tech) and trout fishing buddy. Until it is my time to wonder off to where Frank is now. Hopefully Frank will share with me all of his newly discovered favorite fishing holes. Reflecting back on our work history and times spent fishing. When I think of Frank, I think of Cool Hand Luke! He just never got upset as he always had an easy-going attitude and a smile. Despite my previous considerable work experiences as an I & C Tech, Frank could and did enlighten me more than a few times. I always admired Frank and his wife Colette as an example of a great marriage and a great couple. Outside of his employment, whenever you saw Frank you saw Colette. I truly envied their marriage, their commitment to share life together with all it had to offer, and overcoming all obstacles together. When I lost my wife, Frank & Colette were there to support and help me. I will not forget the care and compassion the both of them gave me.

Bill Kehler - October 17, 2020 at 10:38 PM

BS

“ Frank helped me and 3 boys learn how to shoot steel and shoot fast. My oldest son, Adam loved shooting with Frank at every steel match and was mentored by Frank on how to get a faster draw.

Adam went in to become an Army Airborne Ranger, soon to be 18 years and we will all remember Fossil Frank on Team Montana Gold

RIP Frank, we will see you on the other side....but not too soon!
Bill, Adam, Luke, & Jon Sahlberg

Bill Sahlberg - October 17, 2020 at 08:36 PM

NA

“ God gave me the best father in law a gal could ever ask for over 33 years. After my divorce from James we kept the lines of communication open. I love both Frank & Colette as if they are my own parents and didn't want to lose that part of my life. Rest in eternal peace Dad until we meet again. Mom I love you and out you need me I'm just a phone call away 💕💕

Nancy Anderson - October 17, 2020 at 01:13 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home - October 16, 2020 at 01:02 PM