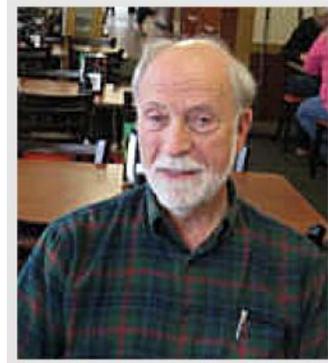




John T. Cooper

Feb 12, 1941 - Aug 11, 2021



John at a high school class lunch, on May 23, 2016
Marysville, WA

JOHN COOPER EULOGY

John Trevor Cooper was born in England on February 12, 1941, in the thick of World War II.

John lived a long life that touched many people, but he had a close call as a baby born during the German Blitz on England. John's mother Valerie sometimes told the tale of pushing the infant John in his perambulator, only to be strafed by a rogue German fighter pilot who spotted her and the baby. She threw herself and the pram into a ditch, covering John with her body. God protected both of them, and they survived the war, immigrating to America by steamship with John's father Trevor and younger sister Margie in 1951.

John graduated from Edmonds High School in 1958 and from the University of Washington as a mechanical engineer in 1963. He served in the US Air Force after graduating from college.

Naturalized as a U.S. citizen prior to serving the the Air Force, John was a proud American, but he never completely lost his British accent. He remained devoted to the British traditions of four o'clock tea-time, scones and marmalade, and he made one of the best Christmas cakes known to man.

After college, John spent half his career with Western Gear Corp. in Everett, the other 20 years with Boeing. One of his notable achievements at Boeing was helping to design the air stairs on Air Force One, the President's airplane.

John's life was changed forever in his late twenties when he joined a men's prayer group and gave his life to Christ. He was a quiet, gentle witness, always better at listening than speaking. He genuinely cared for those he encountered at work, at church, in his family, and in his circle of friends. John was generous and forgiving. He never gave up praying for people.

John enjoyed tooling around in and rebuilding his red 1968 Ford Mustang. He grew a beautiful garden; one of his favorite winter activities was perusing his

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collection of seed catalogs and picking out the following year's crops.

He was always handy, repairing or improving anything mechanical that needed fixing or upgrading. His skills were such that he designed and built (with some help) the Mukilteo house where he and Diane have lived for 46 years.



John and the Red Mustang

John was an active member of Westgate Chapel in Edmonds. He served in the Men of Valor prayer group, and he mentored with the New Heart Place program. Several years ago, he delighted the children who attended Westgate's vacation Bible school, helping them to memorize Scripture and rewarding them with praise and prizes. Children naturally felt comfortable with John because he was so patient and humble.

John endured a seven-year battle with prostate cancer. Throughout that ordeal, he tried to remain cheerful and optimistic, always quick to minimize his own discomfort. He continued to trust in the Lord's provision, and he took great solace in his faith.

John was a faithful servant of God, country, family, and 80 years-worth of friends. He is survived by Diane, his wife of 49½ years, daughter Andrea (Jerry) Gonzalez, son Matthew (Ann Marie) Cooper, three teenage grandchildren, and his sister Margie.

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*The foregoing eulogy was written by John's daughter, Andrea Gonzalez,  
and read by Pastor Ron Brooks at John's memorial on August 21, 2021,  
at Evergreen Cemetery in Everett, Washington.*  
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