



Paul F. Cooney

December 23, 1935 - January 22, 2024

Menands, NY-Paul F. Cooney, 88, longtime Menands resident, died Monday, January 22, 2024 after a long illness. He was born in Albany, son of the late William P. and Mary Donnelly Cooney. He was a 1953 graduate of Christian Brothers Academy in Albany and later graduated from Union College. He served in the U.S. Army from 1957 to 1959, where he was an infantry School instructor at Fort Benning. He married Phyllis Harte on April 4, 1959, at St. Vincent DePaul Church in Albany, and they lived in Menands for more than 60 years.

A NYS Licensed Professional Engineer and Surveyor, Paul began his civil service career in 1955 with the former NYS Department of Public Works, serving as a project engineer on several major Capital Region highways, including the construction of interstates 787 and 890. In 1972, he moved to DOT's main design office, where he was a design engineer on several major highway projects statewide, and he was named the NYS Engineer of the Year in 1975 by the NYS Association of Transportation Engineers. In 1979, he became Albany County Engineer from until 1983, and again from 1986 until retiring in 1993. As county engineer, he successfully led a \$25 million program to rebuild or replace major portions of the county's infrastructure system and assisted in the construction of the now-MVP Arena in Albany. He was the executive secretary to the NYS Licensing Board for Engineering and Land Surveying and after leaving Albany County, he was a part-time engineering

consultant for more than 15 years with Boswell Engineering. He was also an adjunct instructor for several years at HVCC, teaching courses in surveying, highway design and engineering. He was active as an instructor and adviser with the Federal Highway Administration's local Technical Assistance Program at Cornell University, the University of Rhode Island, the University of Conn. and the University of Wisconsin. He also served as a volunteer engineering and highway consultant for the Village of Menands for many years. He was a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers and a member of the American Society of Highway Engineer, the NYS Association of Transportation Engineers, and the Albany Society of Engineers.

Paul was also active in the community, where he accomplished many first, including: one of the first licensed paramedics with the former Riverside Volunteer Ambulance Corps in the Town of Colonie from 1972 to 1982; a charter member of the Albany International Airport Ambassador program in 1995 (he was the last surviving original member); and the first chairman of the Parish Council at the former St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Menands, where he also served as a trustee and chairman of the Building Committee for the construction of the new church in the early 1980's. He also served as a longtime adviser to the Capital District Future City Competition, ombudsman for nursing homes in Albany County as part of the NYS Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, and choir member at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Loudonville, where he was a member. He also enjoyed participating as a member of The Sons of Civil War Veterans (which he joined in honor of his grandfather, James Cooney) and as park of the Men's Retreat Group at the Dominican Retreat Conference Center in Niskayuna, where he learned so much about himself and his faith.

Paul always saw life as a learning experience, and for every lesson that he taught others, he learned at least one lesson of his own. He was also a welcoming and gracious conversationalist who quickly put people at ease-

often with a humorous and insightful story or two, or three. It was a particularly invaluable skill that he used as an Albany Airport Ambassador to help harried travelers and assist them on their journeys.

In addition to his wife, he was the father of Patrick Cooney, Kathleen Knight (Tony), his late infant son John and three grandchildren. His late siblings, William E. Cooney and Mary Therese Cooney.

All are invited to a Memorial Funeral Mass at St. Pius X Church, Monday, Feb. 5, 2024. at 11:00 am.

To leave a message for the family please visit www.McveighFuneralHome.com

Expressions of sympathy to St Jude Childrens Hosp. or Columbia Greene Humane Society, would be appreciated.

Previous Events

Service

FEB 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Pius X Church
23 Crumitie Rd
Loudonville, NY 12211
(518) 462-1336

Tribute Wall



“ *McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Paul F. Cooney*



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - February 01, 2024 at 11:55 AM

VI

“ *What a wonderful man. My family and I are blessed to have known you. We will miss you.*

Vivian - February 20, 2024 at 02:10 PM

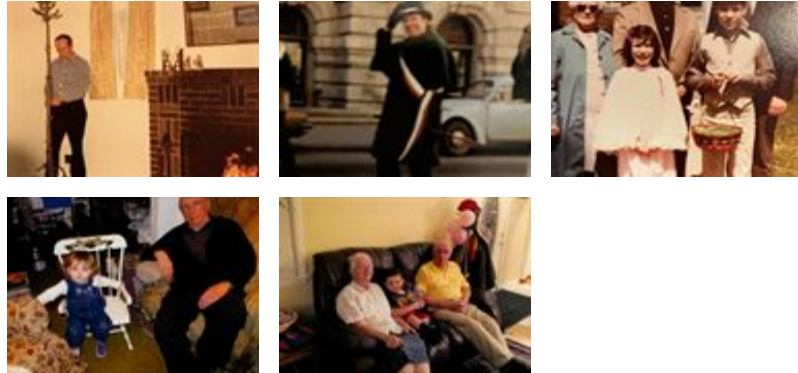
CH

“ *Phyllis, Patrick and Kathleen. Our Deepest sympathy and Condolences. Paul was a great person to us and he will be missed. May God Bless and Keep him.*

Cindy and Bill Houting - February 04, 2024 at 02:28 PM



“ 199 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - February 01, 2024 at 11:56 AM

EM

“ *Paul is the Best man I knew. I will miss him everyday. He was also the best godfather a girl could have*

Ellen McNally - January 31, 2024 at 11:36 AM

BD

“ *Paul was one of my best friends and mentor.*



Bill Davis - January 30, 2024 at 09:24 PM

KT

“ It seems like my most vivid memories of Paul (and Phyllis) centered around being at our farm where we all would pitch in and pick tomatoes and beans during the summer. Paul was always willing and smiling as he lent a hand. I recall Paul being kind enough to ask my 12 or 13 year old self to dance at Ford's Tavern because being the youngest of the family meant I sat alone while the "big kids" danced. He took pity on me! Paul and Phyllis were a part of our family and a part of my adolescent memories. He was a smart, funny, and patient man who contributed to my life and many others. He deserves his spot in Heaven! Katey Reilly Thomsen

Kate Thomsen - January 28, 2024 at 07:46 PM

JC

“ Was sorry to learn of Paul's passing. Phyllis, Patrick, and Kathleen, please accept Kathy's and my condolences. Paul was a wonderful man.

Joe and Kathy Condon - January 28, 2024 at 11:02 AM

MS

“ Please allow me to express condolences on behalf of my own family, any my mother, Monica Sharpe. It was impossible to have an insubstantial or uninteresting conversation with Paul--his lively mind and quick wit will be missed.

Michael H Stimac - January 28, 2024 at 09:19 AM

MM

“ Although Paul's obituary clearly outlines his life and accomplishments, his greatest trait was that he was a gentlemen, The friendship and counsel he offered me over the years will never be forgotten. Paul was a man with a smile on his face and love for his family in his heart. Rest in Peace my good friend, I will miss you.

Mike Mackay - January 28, 2024 at 08:45 AM

DH

Paul and I worked together at DOT many years ago and were both active with the Highway Engineers Assoc. We stayed in touch and many years later he was instrumental in getting me an interview with the Education Department that led to my appointment as Executive Secretary to the Engineering Board, a position which he had held previously. Paul and Phyllis were both wonderful people. He was a professional in every sense of the word, and a gentleman's gentleman, always. Rest in peace, my friend.

Doug Hasbrouck - January 28, 2024 at 09:57 PM

PQ

We're very sorry to hear of Paul's passing. We especially remember his kindness when Mary & I visited Albany in 2009 and he drove us to visit Phudd Bottom. Our thoughts are with Phyllis, Patrick & Kathleen and all the family at this sad time. Paul had a long and fulfilling life. He drove the family around Ireland - it must have been as long ago as 1988, he was always cheerful despite the awful weather. RIP, Pat & Mary Quigley, Dublin, Ireland

patrick quigley - February 04, 2024 at 10:32 AM

SH

The Cooney family is in my thoughts today.

Sheri Habbinger - January 22, 2025 at 10:49 AM