



Ronald Lee Hooper

February 8, 1944 - January 17, 2018

Ronald Lee Hooper

Age 73, of Essex, IL, passed away Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at his home surrounded by his wife and daughters. Born February 8, 1944. Ron graduated from Reddick High School with the class of 1962. He began his 50 year career with John Deere at Wheeler in Kankakee, then was drafted in the United States Army in 1966. After serving in the Vietnam War he married Roxanne, and together they raised their family in Essex. Ron was a lifelong farmer where he also raised and trained horses on their Sandy Lane Appaloosa Farm. He served as Superintendent of the Kankakee County Fair 4-H Horse and Pony Show for over three decades. Ron loved farming, raising and training horses, going out for breakfast, his wife, family, and grandchildren and watching the Chicago Cubs. A highlight of his life was attending game 3 of the 2016 World Series. Ron was a member of the VFW Post 9961 in Bourbonnais, St. Lawrence O'Toole Catholic Church in Essex, Appaloosa Horse Club, American Quarter Horse Association, and an Honorary Member of the KWI Saddle Club. He was awarded 1999 Exhibitor of the Year at the Grundy County Agricultural District Fair, was 2011 Grundy County Agriculture District Fair Grand Champion High Point Horse Gamer, given in memory of Sean Hooper, and received the Kankakee County 4-H Alumni Award.

Surviving are his wife, Roxanne (nee Joyce), whom he married May 4, 1968; two daughters, Tara (Braulio) Casas of Santa Monica, CA and Kari (Blake)

Walles of Wilmette, IL; seven grandchildren, Cecilia, Josephine, Catherine and Lucas Casas and Annalee, Holden, and Anders Walles; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Michelle Laird, Terrance and Gail Joyce, Maureen Joyce, and Kelly and Matt Fogarty; brother-in-law, Milo Veigelt; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death was his son, Sean Michael Hooper, parents, Harold Hooper and Mary (nee Dunn) and step-father, Everett Brousseau; sisters, Shirley Shulk and Beverly Veigelt; and brother-in-law, Robert Shulk.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Reddick on Monday, January 22, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. Rev. William O'Shea and Rev. Stanley Drewniak will officiate.

Interment with military honors will follow in North Cemetery in Essex.

The visitation will be Sunday, January 21, from 2-6 p.m.

Memorial gifts in his name may be directed to the Kankakee County 4-H Foundation.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory
401 E. Main St., Braidwood, 815-458-2336
www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com

Cemetery Details

North Cemetery

Co Hwy 41 at Co Rd N 475 W
Essex, IL 60935

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **21**. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home
401 East Main St.
Braidwood, IL 60408
(815) 458-2336
info@rwpattersonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com>

Service

JAN **22**. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
Reddick, IL

Tribute Wall

MH

“*Roxanne, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Sorry that we couldn't get to Ron's visitation. We were returning from Indianapolis Sunday. Praying for you. Love. Marianne*

Marianne Heinzl - January 22, 2018 at 02:38 PM

KK

“*Our deepest sympathy on Ron's passing. Our prayers are with you. Gone but not forgotten. RIP, Ron*

Steve and Karen Kuban

Karen kuban - January 22, 2018 at 11:16 AM

LC

“*So sorry to hear about Ron's passing. I had not seen him in years but worked with him at Wheeler's back in the early 80's. My sincere condolences to your family!*

Larry Corbin

"Cotton's youngest son"

Larry Corbin - January 22, 2018 at 11:11 AM

RV

“*Looked forward to Thanksgiving at grandma's and 4th of July at mom & dad's more than Christmas because of this guy. Before turkey hit the bottom of your belly it was who brought the basketball and did you put air in it this time. Volleyball on the 4th and if you missed a dig it was use your face next time. Had to be on opposite sides to spike on uncle and if, I mean, when we did it was "mom they're picking on me, Who? All of them ". Gonna miss ya Unk*

Ric veigelt - January 21, 2018 at 10:43 PM

MS

“ *Roxanne, Tara, and Kari, Our sincere sympathy for your loss. He was a friend.*

We would be there if we were home.

Mike and Joanne Sherwood

Mike Sherwood - January 21, 2018 at 01:09 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ronald Lee Hooper.*



January 21, 2018 at 09:29 AM



“ *Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Ronald Lee Hooper.*



January 21, 2018 at 04:19 AM

SR

“ *Stacey Robbins lit a candle in memory of Ronald Lee Hooper*



Stacey Robbins - January 20, 2018 at 11:52 AM

SR

“*"Hooper" was one of the finest men I will ever have had the privilage of knowing my entire life. One of my most cherished memories was at KWI a few years ago, I had brought my young horse there for some experience in the show pen. Much to my surprise we received our 1st blue ribbon I heard someone call my name and across the arena I saw him waving with that big smile. I am so glad he was there that day it meant so much! Sending love and prayers to you all.*

Shannon Robbins

Shannon Robbins - January 20, 2018 at 12:37 AM

PM

“*Patrick McMahan purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Ronald Lee Hooper.*



Patrick McMahan - January 19, 2018 at 10:09 PM

DF

“*Well this news is so sad. I had the privilege of growing up with Ron attending both Essex grade school and Reddick High School with him so many years ago. I played softball with him on the Essex Methodist Church MYF team and still have some great memories of his outfielding skills. I left Essex after graduating from Reddick HS in 1961 but have never forgotten Ron. I am truly proud to learn of his military experience in the army and his service in Viet Nam. Ron came from a fine family and was admired by everyone who knew him. May God bless and care for his wife and family. I can never forget anyone as fine as Ron.*

Denis Fredrick - January 19, 2018 at 09:50 PM

TD

“ Tim and I knew Ron from the KWI horse shows and Grundy County Fair. He was so much fun to compete against. His wit and happiness always made our day. We will miss him a lot. Sorry for your loss. Tim and JoAnn Drinkwater

Tim and JoAnn Drinkwater - January 19, 2018 at 07:38 PM

DW

“ What a wonderful friend your Dad and Grandpa has been to me. I shall greatly miss him. May you find strength and healing in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. D.B.W.

Donna B. Weinstein - January 19, 2018 at 04:57 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Ronald Lee Hooper.



January 19, 2018 at 03:23 PM

LS

“ So sorry we have lost Ron many fond memories.

Lin Scharnhorst - January 19, 2018 at 02:46 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Ronald Lee Hooper.



January 19, 2018 at 01:57 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Ronald Lee Hooper.



January 19, 2018 at 11:24 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Ronald Lee Hooper.



January 19, 2018 at 10:55 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Ronald Lee Hooper.



January 19, 2018 at 10:14 AM