



Laurence R. Cooper

OCT 25, 1938 - NOV 17, 2025



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With profound sorrow, we announce the passing of Laurence Richard Cooper, a former resident of Fruitport, MI, who succumbed to a prolonged illness on Monday, November 17, 2025.

The youngest son of Dotha and Wyatt Cooper, Larry was born in Chicago, IL, in 1938. After graduating from New Trier High School in Evanston, IL, he obtained his barber's license and subsequently enlisted in the United States Navy in 1962 during the Vietnam War. During his four-and-a-half-year assignment aboard the Navy Auxiliary Destroyer Ship USS Skagit (AKA-105), he served in the Supply Department, where he held the positions of ship's barber and photographer, attaining the rank of third class petty officer.

While in the Navy, Larry married his first wife, Robin Beauchamp, and they had two children, Douglas and Alison. After his discharge, he resumed his career as a barber before transitioning to the maintenance profession. His initial position was working at the Baha'i House of Worship in Wilmette, IL, where he married his second wife, Bonnie Ward, and they also had two children, Laurence Jr. and Christopher.

After relocating to Fruitport, MI, Larry held various positions with the Packing Corporation of America in Grand Rapids and The Frauenthal Center in Muskegon. Subsequently, he transitioned to working for Michigan Library Services until his retirement. He then married his third wife, Barbara Walker. After retirement, he worked part-time with Heritage Homes and Culver's.

Larry, an avid sailor, found solace in the tranquility of Lake Michigan. He was also a fervent supporter of the Chicago Cubs, Green Bay Packers, and Michigan Wolverines. A lifelong adherent of the Baha'i Faith, he diligently followed the teachings of his faith.

Larry is survived by his four children: Douglas (Kari Erlewine) of Loveland, CO, Alison of Tulsa, OK, Laurence Jr. (Michelle) of Greenville, MI, and Christopher (Megan) of Kentwood, MI. He also has seven grandchildren: Keilei (William) Giabbai, Katherine (Stokes Volatile) Cooper, Kyle



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Longacre, Shelby Cooper, Kory Longacre, Presley Cooper, and Nora Cooper. Additionally, he is honored by ten great grandchildren. Larry was preceded in death by his parents and his older brother, Clarke.

The family would like to thank the entire staff at Commonwealth Senior Living – East Paris for their support during Larry's residency the last two-and-a-half years.

A GRAVESIDE SERVICE will be held for Laurence at 11:00 AM on Friday, November 21, 2025, at Nunica Cemetery, 12189 Cleveland St, Nunica, MI 49448. Following the burial a MEMORIAL LUNCHEON will take place from 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM in the Family Center of The VanZantwick Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 620 Washington Ave, Grand Haven, MI, 49417. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association (<https://alzfdn.org>). Please sign the family's online guestbook and share memories at <https://sytsemafh.com>.

"Fair Winds and Following Seas, Dad – We have the watch, you stand relieved"



Events

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Graveside Service

Friday, November 21, 2025

11:00 AM ET

Nunica Cemetery
Nunica MI

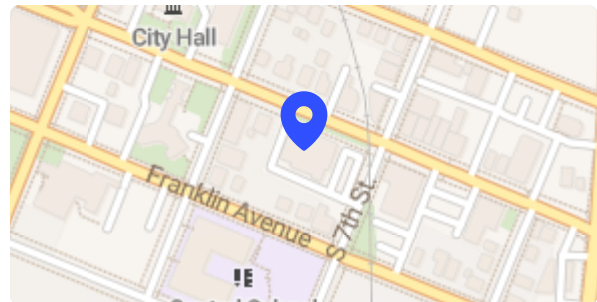


Memorial Luncheon

Friday, November 21, 2025

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM ET

The VanZantwick Chapel - Family Center
620 Washington Ave., Grand Haven MI 49417



Cemetery Details

Nunica Cemetery
Nunica MI





Tribute Wall

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Kristi Erlewine posted:

We were saddened to hear of Larry's passing. Remembering his visit to our house brought back memories of the enjoyable meal we shared. Larry spoke about his family and recalled many of his past adventures. We are grateful for the opportunity to know Larry and send our condolences during this difficult time. Kristi, Don & Max

November 19 at 12:01 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Laurence by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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