



Douglas Cook Obituary

Douglas S. Cook

Aug. 10, 1954 - Nov. 21, 2023

VERONA - Douglas S. Cook, beloved father, partner, brother, uncle, and friend, passed away unexpectedly on November 21, 2023 at UW Health East Madison Hospital after a short illness.

Doug was born in Algona, IA, on August 10, 1954 to George and Bernice Cook, the second-youngest of five siblings. During his childhood, his family moved several times, eventually making their home in Madison, WI. He graduated from Madison LaFollette High School in 1972, and made a career at Madison Newspapers for nearly 30 years.

He was married twice and had four children who meant the world to him: Jennifer, Robert, Tristan, and Kyle. After his second marriage, Doug met Cynthia (Cindy) O'Neill, who became his partner until his passing.

In later life, he and Cindy came to cherish Verona, WI as their adopted home. Doug could often be seen throughout downtown Verona on his mobility scooter, visiting Miller's Market and swimming at the Verona Area High School Natatorium.

He had many hobbies, including woodworking, boating, fishing, and fixing up his house. Doug would cruise on his boat for many hours in lakes and rivers around Wisconsin. Even when it became difficult for him to put the boat in the water himself, he didn't hesitate to ask strangers, and they enjoyed helping him. He also loved to make enormous batches of chocolate chip cookies that he would store in the freezer to share or enjoy later.

Doug was born with Tetralogy of Fallot, a heart defect that required open-heart surgery in 1960, and again in 2002. Due to his being one of the first patients at the University of Iowa Hospital to have open-heart surgery with a heart-lung bypass, he became a poster child for the American Heart Association in Iowa as a child.

He refused to let his health issues define him and became one of the longest-lived patients with Tetralogy of Fallot to have undergone open-heart surgery. He often attributed his long survival to his determination to live a full life and the support of those he loved.

He is survived by Cindy O'Neill, his partner of 30 years; his sons: Tristan (Anna) Cook, and Kyle (Jayanthi) Cook; daughter, Jennifer Cook; grandson, Aadhavan Cook; and granddaughter to be born in April 2024; his siblings: Bonnie (Bob) Davis, Lana Hammes, Deborah Cook, and Lori (David) More; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, George and Bernice Cook; and his son, Robert Cook.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Foster Funeral Home of Madison, WI.

A celebration of life will be held on August 10, 2024. Additional details will be available at a later date. Please contact cmoneill09@yahoo.com if you would like to receive updates.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to [Habitat for Humanity](#).

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