



## Mrs. Marilyn Harwood Cook

December 22, 1940 - April 14, 2025

Marilyn Harwood Cook, 84, passed away peacefully on April 14, 2025, at Transitions Hospice House in Raleigh, NC, with her loving family by her side.

Born December 22, 1940, in Memphis, TN, Marilyn was the daughter of Beulah Bailey Harwood and Guy Mack Harwood. She is survived by her children, Cherie Dentiste (Chris) of Wilmington, NC, and Louis Cook (Tsengel) of Wake Forest, NC; her grandchildren, Vasilios Dentiste (Taylor) of Watertown, MA; Louis Alexander Dentiste of Nantucket, MA; Louis III, Isaac, and Dagina Marilyn Cook of Wake Forest, NC; her sister, Bailey Cooper of Milan, TN and two nieces and two nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Guy Mack Harwood, Jr., and several beloved nieces and nephews.

Marilyn graduated as co-salutatorian of Milan High School, where she was Miss Milan High and the head cheerleader. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree in psychology and mathematics from Vanderbilt University and later a master's degree in education from Winthrop University. She began her career teaching high school math in Florida, then moved to Myrtle Beach then to Hartsville, SC where her children were born and raised.

A dedicated educator, Marilyn taught math for 37 years at Hartsville Junior and Senior High Schools, St John's High School, and Coker College. She

both challenged and entertained her students. Sponsoring the cheerleading squads for many years and enthusiastically supporting the football and basketball teams was a passion. She ran the Miss Red Fox program for years, raising money for the athletic program.

Marilyn was a long-time member of Kelleytown Baptist Church, where she found many supportive friends there. A lifelong basketball fan, Marilyn was an avid supporter of Hartsville High School teams and cherished two unforgettable trips—one to Portland, Oregon, to watch Michael Jordan play with the 1992 Olympic Dream Team, and another to Detroit for the 2009 NCAA Final Four. Her favorite players were Michael Jordan, Allen Iverson and Steph Curry.

Marilyn had a positive outlook and fun sense of humor. Her laughter was infectious. Even as Alzheimer's disease advanced, her smile and laugh were thankfully there. She loved her flowers and birds but not the squirrels and took beautiful photographs. Card-playing was serious business as her bridge club buddies can attest.

Marilyn's love of travel began in childhood with trips to Hawaii and California and continued throughout her life. She traveled to Italy and France with her children and grandchildren and held a special place in her heart for Nantucket, where she attended the film and daffodil festivals and made lasting memories with her family. More than anything, Marilyn was a devoted and selfless mother and grandmother. She was an early example of a strong, independent woman, working hard to support herself and her children after divorce. She was a force with a tender heart. After retiring, she moved to California to help care for her first two grandchildren, working long days with babies and dogs. She spent many summer days chauffeuring to various camps as they grew up. She later welcomed her son's family into her home in Hartsville and became a steady presence in her grandchildren's lives. She loved and

accepted her son-in-law and daughter-in-law as her own and was able to live with both families throughout her life.

She was also a caring and loyal friend—always ready to lend a hand, give a ride, or offer a listening ear. She had a way of always seeing the best in others and offering acceptance without judgment.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the staff at Cadence Memory Care and Rosie's Care Home in Wake Forest, and Transitions Lifecare Hospice House for the compassionate care they provided Marilyn during her illness.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, a cause Marilyn supported for many years.

A visitation will be held at 9:00 AM, followed by burial at 10:00 AM on Saturday, April 19, 2025, at Bodkin Funeral Home and Oakwood Cemetery in Milan, TN. Marilyn will be laid to rest beside her beloved parents, just as she wished.

The family is being assisted by Bodkin Funeral Home, 2000 S 1st St, Milan, TN 38358.

[www.bodkinfh.com](http://www.bodkinfh.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Oakwood Cemetery

4106 S. 1st Street  
Milan, TN 38358

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 19. 9:00 AM (CT)

Bodkin Funeral Home  
2000 S 1st St.  
Milan, TN 38358

## Graveside

APR 19. 10:00 AM (CT)

Oakwood Cemetery  
4106 S. 1st Street  
Milan, TN 38358

# Tribute Wall

NB

“ Nancy Blakeley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Marilyn Harwood Cook



Nancy Blakeley - May 10, 2025 at 09:52 AM

NB

What a great teacher and dear lady! I taught English with Marilyn and 'tried' playing bridge with her group! She was caring , serious about her teaching , and at the same time fun!

Nancy Blakeley - May 10, 2025 at 10:00 AM

DC

“ Darleen Cribb lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Marilyn Harwood Cook



Darleen Cribb - May 05, 2025 at 11:45 AM

KB

“ Kathy & Tyford Beasley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Marilyn Harwood Cook



Kathy & Tyford Beasley - April 29, 2025 at 03:31 PM

LH

“ I am just seeing this as I forget to check obits and had not heard of Marilyn passing away. I just loved Marilyn. She loved telling stories of my friends when we were in High School and she taught us. I know ya'll will miss her. She was just a lovely person.

Linda McDonald Hyman - April 28, 2025 at 11:55 AM

LM

“ I worked with Marilyn in the Admissions office of Coker. I'm so sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time.

Lesa Mulligan

Lesa Mulligan - April 22, 2025 at 08:49 PM

BA

“ I was lucky to know Mrs. Cook & “Miss” Marilyn as a student & later as an adult. She was an energetic and glass half-full individual who loved life & laughter! Beautiful inside & out! Love & prayers to all.

Beth Kelley Abernathy - April 22, 2025 at 08:19 AM

JB

“ Jeannie Brown lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Marilyn Harwood Cook



Jeannie Brown - April 21, 2025 at 03:10 PM

BB

“ I was blessed to spend my 10th grade year in her Algebra II class. She was an amazing teacher and an even better person.

Bryan Braddock - April 20, 2025 at 08:49 PM

TW

“ *A great lady who touched so many lives.*



Travis and Marilyn Walters - April 20, 2025 at 07:29 AM

LG

“ *Lou Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Marilyn Harwood Cook*



Lou Gardner - April 19, 2025 at 11:44 AM

LG

*Louis and Cherie, My sympathy and love go out to you! I loved Marilyn and cherished our friendship!*

Lou Gardner - April 19, 2025 at 11:46 AM

PW

“ *Phyllis Mims Watson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Marilyn Harwood Cook*



Phyllis Mims Watson - April 19, 2025 at 10:57 AM

PW

“ I have many fond memories of Marilyn as she and my mom, Emma Mims, were great friends and competitive bridge players. Mom had many bridge club events at our home on Richardson Circle and Marilyn was always there for each one. She always greeted me with a big smile, hug and conversed about her 2 children and my 2 sons, Beau and Blake. I know how much you will miss her and her laughter, but what a blessing to have her as a mom and grandmother! Prayers and much love to all of the family!❤️

Phyllis Mims Watson - April 19, 2025 at 10:56 AM

KJ

“ Kathi G. Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Marilyn Harwood Cook



Kathi G. Johnson - April 19, 2025 at 09:19 AM

CP

“ Chandler Peel lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Marilyn Harwood Cook



Chandler Peel - April 18, 2025 at 08:57 PM

LL

“ Dear family  
I had Ms Cook for algebra. She was tough but fair

I would have never made it thru that class without a lot of help from her She was good to me and I have never forgotten her and never will

She was also over the Miss Red Fox Club the year I won Miss Red Fox so we spent a lot of time together

(Class of 1980). You were blessed with a wonderful lady for a mother Thank you for sharing her with

So many others that needed her

Sending you and your family love, hugs and prayers today and the days to come



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Lawrence & Cindy Lowe - April 18, 2025 at 07:23 PM

CW

“ Cherie and Louis....I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your Mother. Thoughts and Prayers to each of You and Your Families. I had Ms.Cook at High School ( HHS Class of '79)... Algebra II....I wasn't good in Math at all...so needless to say... I didn't do good in her class, but no fault of hers! I think I needed 1/2 credit to graduate...so I had to take Algebra II again! I was able to have your Mom again. She said.... Oh...You liked my class so much you came back!!! I said... I sure did! She was a Great Teacher and quite funny! I enjoyed having her as a Teacher.

May God give each of You... Peace, Comfort, Strength and Understanding in the Days and Months to come. May God wrap His Loving Arms around You and Louis and All Your Families.

Matthew 5:4

Love and Prayers.

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Connie ( Sells ) Wallace - April 18, 2025 at 05:07 PM

J1

“ MRS. COOK WAS MY FAVORITE TEACHER. GREAT LADY !!!

JOEY SALEEBY...ST. JOHN'S HIGH...c/o 1973 - April 18, 2025 at 02:20 PM

PC

“ Paul Cannarella lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Marilyn Harwood Cook



Paul Cannarella - April 18, 2025 at 07:50 AM

JH

“ Jean N Howard lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Marilyn Harwood Cook



Jean N Howard - April 18, 2025 at 07:35 AM

LE

“ Larry Easterling lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Marilyn Harwood Cook



Larry Easterling - April 18, 2025 at 06:36 AM

DT

“ *Debbie Talbert lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Marilyn Harwood Cook*



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**Debbie Talbert** - April 18, 2025 at 06:25 AM

RW

“ *Cherie and Louis: I was deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Marilyn. She was a truly exceptional teacher, and I will always remember her dedication to my education. She was my “teacher mama.” I’ll also never forget she was the chaperone at my high school graduation beach week at my family beach house, along with Wardie Coward. I know that COOK made a difference in the lives of so many students, and I am grateful for the time I had with her, my “teacher mama.” I never understood math, and as y’all will remember, I spent 4 years of high school in y’all’s Yaupon Drive kitchen. I never would have graduated high school without your mama. My heart goes out you two during this difficult time. I am thinking of you and your whole family, and sending you my deepest sympathy. With heartfelt condolences,*

*Rev. Andy and Amy Williams*

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**Rev. Andy Williams** - April 18, 2025 at 12:18 AM

SA

“ *She was a fantastic math teacher and great cheerleading coach. She also was a wonderful friend to my family and parents Yvonne and Smith Barber. I loved her and will miss her 😊*

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**sandy barber auten** - April 17, 2025 at 11:23 PM

JC

“ *Julia Crawford lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Marilyn Harwood Cook*



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**Julia Crawford** - April 17, 2025 at 09:42 PM

CM

“ *She was a sweet lady with a great sense of humor she was our chaperone when we went over seas with the school hhs in the 1980's we had a great time will never forget the memories prayers for her family*



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**Crystal Talbert Minnehan** - April 17, 2025 at 06:49 PM

AS

*Marilyn was an excellent teacher and friend. My prayers are with her family!!*

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**Anne Sprayberry** - April 17, 2025 at 07:17 PM

SC

“ *Susan B Clemmond lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Marilyn Harwood Cook*



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**Susan B Clemmond** - April 17, 2025 at 05:33 PM

VB

*So sorry for your loss.  
VBoyd*

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**V Boyd** - May 03, 2025 at 10:37 PM