



## Gerard Cooley

September 24, 1956 - December 12, 2016

Oral Gerard Cooley 60, of Cape Coral, FL died unexpectedly on Monday, December 12, 2016 at his residence. A lifelong resident of Southwest Florida, Gerard was born September 24, 1956 in Fort Myers a son of the late Clayton G. Cooley, Sr. and his mother, Elsie L. Cooley who survives.

Gerard grew up in Bonita Springs and graduated from Cypress Lake High School Class of 1974.

He worked for many years at various jobs around Bonita Springs including the Everglades Wonder Gardens as a tour guide, the Naples-Ft. Myers Kennel Club as a dog walker and Naples Tomato Growers. He also played Santa at the Edison Mall for many years.

In 1980, he found his true passion when he joined the Fort Myers Police Department and served the City for 27 years as a police officer retiring in 2007. He also taught classes at Edison Community College and the Police Academy. After his retirement from the Fort Myers Police Department he joined the Charlotte County Sheriff's Department and worked in their Cold Case Unit.

He is survived by his mother, Elsie L. Cooley of Ft. Myers, FL; two daughters, Crystal L. Cooley of Bonita Springs, FL and Manty Yvonne Cooley of Port Charlotte, FL; two grandchildren, Mason Alexander Cooley of Bonita Springs,

FL and Emma Marie Decker of Port Charlotte, FL; his brother, Clayton G. Cooley, Jr. and his wife, Sheri of Servile, TN and his sister, Valerie Cardone and her husband, Tom of Ft. Myers, FL.

The family will receive friends Friday, December 16, 2016 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home 28300 So. Tamiami Tr. Bonita Springs. Funeral services will be held at 7:00 PM.

The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, donations in Gerard's name be made to Toys for Tots C/O Salvation Army 10291 McGregor Blvd., Ft. Myers, FL 33919.

Online condolences may be offered by visiting [www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com](http://www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com).

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 16. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home  
28300 Tamiami Trail So.  
Bonita Springs, FL 34134  
(239) 992-4982  
bonitafhbill@comcast.net

## Celebration of Life

DEC 16. 7:00 PM (ET)

Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home  
28300 Tamiami Trail So.  
Bonita Springs, FL 34134  
(239) 992-4982  
bonitafhbill@comcast.net

# Tribute Wall



“ Gerard Cooley

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ I love and miss you so much!!!! You've missed a lot. I'm married now to a man you'd absolutely love me being with. I wish you were here, he'd love nothing more than to go hunting and fishing with you just like you'd like. Our family has grown daddy. You'd be absolutely tickled pink by it. I wish I had more pictures of you young. I wish I had more pictures of you at all. We love you. I still think of you ever single day, somehow even more now. (: I hope you're resting peacefully and can see my happy little family. ❤️ I hope you and granny are together laughing and singing. Please tell her we never stopped loving her either... We just weren't allowed around anymore.... Give her the biggest hugs from us.



Yvonne Cooley - August 12, 2022 at 10:57 AM

YC

“ People told me it'd get better over time . I guess they're not exactly wrong . But they weren't right either . I don't break down randomly anymore , but I still think of you all the time . I wish I could spend more time with you . Share movies or tv shows . I still haven't made those chicken n dumplings . I planned to make them WITH you on the day I found you have left . . Even if you could only watch . I love you so much . And no one will ever be able to show me even half the love you did . You were an amazing father . I just wish we could talk . I miss you and I guess this is the closest to talking to you again I can get . I'll always be your little monkey . I'll forever be so angry with myself for not coming home sooner . I'll forever love you with all my heart . Btw you'd love my boyfriend . He's a hardcore republican just like you , and actually a lot like you in many ways . The ways he's not he's like mommy . Hahaha . I'm sorry I don't think trump is winning this year . I know, I feel the same way . Mommy is doing well . . Maggie is . . . It seems like she's . . . A democrat . Hahahaha . It's ok though she's still precious and wants the world to be ok . She means well . I love you daddy . Maybe I'll see you again soon . . . I think Billie will be with you again shortly, it's about that time . I still need you . . . I'll never stop needing you . . . I wish I didn't have such a hard time expressing my feelings . I know you knew but , I need you to know how much I really REALLY loved and cherished you . You're forever in my heart and in my mind .



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Yvonne Cooley - November 07, 2020 at 08:30 AM

LG

“ Linda Gaither-Youts lit a candle in memory of Gerard Cooley



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Linda Gaither-Youts - May 28, 2019 at 03:11 PM

LG

“ *Officer Gerard Cooley Was One Of The Best Man I Have Ever Met! He Became A Very Good Friend To My Sister And Then A Very Beloved Friend To Our Entire Family. He Would Come But Out Showroom At Least Once Every 2 Weeks Just To Check In. He Always Had A Smile On His Face That Could Light Up The Whole Room, With Such A Sense Of Humor & Such A BIG Heart. He Loved His Family & Community So Deeply.*



*I'm A Little Shocked Now As I Just Found Out He Passed Away. Our Whole Family Always Wondered What Happened To Him After He Got Married Because He The Last Time We Seen Him In Person He Introduced Us To His New Wife. Then Occasionally We Would See Him On The New On So Crime Scene. And Then Nothing After That. We Missed Him Very Much As He Was Such A Delight To Be Around. He Was One Of The BEST Officers Fort Myers Police Department Had Without A Doubt!*

*I Hope He Knew How Deeply Loved He Was! He Loved His Daughters VERY VERY MUCH As He Would Always Share Stories About Them And His Face Would Just Glow Talking About How Proud He Was Of Them.*

*My Prayers Go Out To Mr. Cool Cooley Family! :) May He Rest In Peace & Always Be Remembered For His Beautiful Soul & All He Did For His Community. You Are Deeply Missed Old Friend I Wish We Would Of Had One Last Chance To Say Good Bye & That The Years That We Didn't Get To Share With You Were Filled With More Love Than Your Heart Could Take!*

*UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN REST IN PEACE BELOVED FRIEND!*

*Linda Gaither-Youts, Heather Krause, & The Youts Family <3*

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Linda Gaither-Youts - May 28, 2019 at 03:10 PM

LG

“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Linda Gaither-Youts** - May 28, 2019 at 01:41 PM

YC

“ *I miss you and think about you everyday. My heart is so broken and I will never be the same without you in my life. I wish so badly I had you to talk to. I wish you could see I left that jerk. I wish you could meet the man that treats me so well and is so sweet to me. I wish I could have surprised you with that Tennessee trip. I was just the smallest bit too late. I can't say enough how I miss you. And how I'd give up any and everything to just have you come home.... I miss our talks. Our dinners. Our quiet times just watching TV... I love you. I miss you... You'll never see this.... I know you're my angel now...*



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**Yvonne Cooley** - August 23, 2018 at 09:28 PM

DS

“ This is my friend of over 20 years..Detective Oral Gerard Cooley..known to me as Cooley. He kept crossing my mind over the last 2 years but alas my calls went unanswered and today I learned of his passing Dec. 12 2016.

He was instrumental in my meeting and my marriage to my (now deceased 1/3/2015) husband Jay. Cooley drove me to Alligator Alley to meet Jay for the first time. He loved Jay right off the bat! As a seasoned Detective & Profiler, he was my rock who helped me over the hurdles of my yester-years - I would ask his thoughts of 'potential' boyfriends occasionally and, like my mother, he did not like many! But Jay? He really liked Jay. Cooley loved Southern style cooking and introduced me to GRITS (i still don't like 'em!) He came to stay with us in NY while on vacation one time and I made the best damn ribs I have ever made in my life and have never been able to duplicate!! Cooley was witty, charming, caring and a loyal friend. I am blessed to have known him.

I have never met a man with a bigger heart, dogged determination and kindness beyond measure. You will always be in my heart, Cooley...RIP my friend, until we meet again on the other side. PS Please give a hug to Jay for me. Love Deirdre (Dee) Silverstein

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**Dee Silverstein** - March 04, 2017 at 07:06 PM

YC

Thank you so much, this means a lot. I hope you are doin.

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**Yvonne Cooley** - August 23, 2018 at 09:21 PM

YC

Thank you so much. This means a lot. I miss him every single day, and I still can't get over him being gone. I hope you're doing well.

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**Yvonne Cooley** - August 23, 2018 at 09:23 PM



“ 3 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home** - December 16, 2016 at 09:20 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Val Cardone** - December 16, 2016 at 06:38 AM



“ 73 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home** - December 15, 2016 at 08:55 PM



“ 10 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home** - December 15, 2016 at 05:59 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Gerard Cooley.



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December 15, 2016 at 01:50 PM