



Sunny Jo Cooper

December 18, 1930 - July 31, 2025

Sunny Jo Cooper passed away peacefully on July 31, 2025, surrounded by loved ones. She was predeceased by her husband William Eugene Cooper.

Born on December 18, 1930, in Paris, Arkansas, Sunny was the daughter of Ward A. Kirkpatrick and Doris Kirkpatrick. At 10 years old she had lost both of her parents and moved to Morrilton to live with her maternal grandparents.

She was a graduate of Morrilton High School and went on to earn a business degree at Morrilton Community College. During her career, Sunny worked at Arkansas State Teachers College, Coca Cola, Kimberly Clark, and part time at the State of Arkansas Employment Security Division.

Throughout her life, Sunny remained deeply connected to her hometown. She was a member of Morrilton First Baptist Church, where she devoted countless hours to volunteering and serving the community.

On December 21, 1947, Sunny married the love of her life, William Eugene Cooper. Together for 63 years, they built a life rooted in faith and family. She was a devoted mother and a constant source of strength and warmth to her children Joe Kirkpatrick Cooper and Jeanna Kay Telfer.

Sunny had a deep love for the outdoors—especially traveling, camping, and

fishing. Her “no bones, no buckshot” cooking philosophy became family legend, a testament to both her practicality and humor. She was also a gifted cook, known for her unforgettable pecan pie, an endless variety of homemade sweets, and a turkey dressing that was nothing short of legendary within the family. Their home in Morrilton served as the gathering place for her family, providing a loving and happy place for all. Her food brought people together, but it was her presence that made every gathering feel special.

Sunny will be remembered by her son Joe and his wife Margaret, and their three children: Joe (Courtney), Neil (Crystal), and Shannon (Ed). She will also be remembered by her daughter Jeanna and her husband Tony, and their six children: Jay (Kelly), Scott (Carla), Kim (passed away in 2010), Timothy (passed away 1984), Erin (Trey), and Alexandra (Cley).

Sunny leaves behind nine grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren, continuing her legacy of love and devotion to family.

Visitation will be 1:00-2:00 p.m. Saturday, September 20, 2025, at Harris Funeral Home with a graveside service following at 2:30 p.m. at Elmwood Cemetery in Morrilton. Arrangements are by Harris Funeral Home of Morrilton. The family suggests any donation be made to the Alzheimer’s Association in memory of Sunny Jo.

https://donorservices.alz.org/page/FUNZRKELQMQ?utm_source=google&utm_medium=paidsearch&utm_campaign=giving_google_SL&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=1707986387&gbraid=0AAAAAD8nX1q8r7dQMzSf9jA-Y-gQsRZ
Jg

Cemetery Details

Elmwood Cemetery

1830 Highway 113
Morrilton, AR 72110

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 20. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Harris Funeral Homes - Morrilton
1325 Oak St
Morrilton, AR 72110
(501) 354-4575

Graveside Service

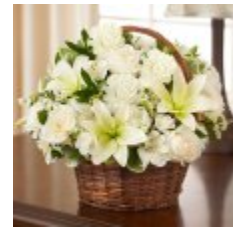
SEP 20. 2:30 PM (CT)

Elmwood Cemetery
1830 Highway 113
Morrilton, AR 72110

Tribute Wall



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All White was purchased for the family of Sunny Jo Cooper.



August 17, 2025 at 11:52 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sunny Jo Cooper.

August 17, 2025 at 11:52 AM



“ I was Mrs. Sunnys caretaker for a while we met when Leilani was 5 months. Sunny Jo and I helped each other, she needed a caretaker and I needed Sunny Jo. She was funny, serious, loving, gave good advice, and helped me take care of my baby during a rough patch. We fussed like sisters, I would catch her smiling after we bickered sometimes. She told Jeanna I loved my phone but I love her more. I thank God for blessing me with the chance to cross paths with her! Love always her best wheelchair pusher - Krystle



Krystle LaPread Harris - August 12, 2025 at 09:48 AM



“ *When my late husband's sisters, Sally Callihan and Dorothy Bird were living, we all spent a lot of time with Sunny and Gene. She was aptly named--a ray of sunshine wherever she was.*

Carolyn Vance - August 08, 2025 at 02:10 PM

DS

“ *Loved Sunny dearly. My husband and I had the pleasure of being camping and fishing buddies and travelling together. I think everyone who ever knew Sunny loved her. She was a true friend and good Christian. May you rest in peace , Sunny my friend.*

Dorothy Stobaugh - August 08, 2025 at 10:46 AM