



# Robert William Cook

AUG 3, 1944 - JUL 26, 2022



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## **Robert William Cook**

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**R**obert William Cook of Bryantown, Maryland passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 26, 2022. He was born in New York City on August 3, 1944 to William and Elizabeth (Murray) Cook. He was 77 years old.

Robert accomplished many things throughout his life. He was a 40-year career Intelligence Officer for the Central Intelligence Agency. Prior to his government service he was an actor at the American Shakespeare Theater in Stratford, Connecticut.

His love of literature, history, anthropology, philosophy, American filmmaking, popular culture, and, above all, his unceasing quest for truth and justice was his guiding star. His restless intellect inspired him to accomplish so many things, first and foremost the curation of a one-of-a-kind private library containing volumes on topics as diverse as the Lincoln assassination to the sinking of the Titanic, the history of the Romanov Russian Imperial family to the study and classification of dinosaurs, and to the history of the Civil War and a thousand other things in-between. He generously volunteered his time to historical and cultural societies such as the Surratt Society and the Folger Shakespeare Library, and always welcomed curious visitors to his home at The Bryantown Tavern, the historic site where John Wilkes Booth conspired to assassinate President Lincoln. His greatest love, however, was for his dedicated wife of 55 years, Dr. Suzanne Cook, who he met, courted, and married while they were both undergraduates at the University of Connecticut.

He is survived by Suzanne; his son Matthew Cook and his wife Amy Szabo; grandchildren Raven and Gray; and great grandchildren Kaleigh, Kai, and Clayton; as well as by his sisters Patricia and Deborah. The family has entrusted Fort Myers Memorial Gardens with the care of Robert's final arrangements. At the family's request all services are private. In lieu of flowers, the family asks well-wishers to make a donation in his name to the Surratt Society:

Surratt Society  
9201 Edgeworth Drive #3853



## Obituary

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Capitol Heights, MD 20790

Robert Cook's encyclopedic knowledge and deep and abiding curiosity for the world was unique, rare, and wonderful beyond words. Neither it, nor he, can ever be replaced, but his impact on the lives, hearts, and minds of everyone who was lucky enough to have met him endures.

"He was a man, take him for all in all,  
I shall not look upon his like again."  
~ Hamlet, Act 1, Scene 2



## Tribute Wall

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**Cjcar63** posted:

I never knew Mr. Cook. However, like him I happen to be a student of history. Recently I purchased a book, *Accessories After the Fact*, by Sylvia Meagher. On the inside, front cover the words... Robert W. Cook - 1969 are inscribed. I also found a type-written letter dated June of 1975 from the publisher to Mr. Cook regarding a request for additional copies. This piqued my interest. Could I put a face to the name? And here we are. Books have a special place in my life as they did in Richard's. His legacy shall serve to add a personal touch to this volume among my modest collection. Deepest Regards, Craig J. Carvalho

April 10 at 6:02 PM



**Mary Miller** posted:

I am so sorry to learn about Bob's passing. I knew him for a short few years in the late 1980's. He and I were on a committee for the Richard III Society. We exchanged letters and phone calls as we worked on committee business. The few in-person meetings at Richard III Society functions were always enjoyable. Somehow our conversations always drifted from Richard III to his interests in the Lincoln assassination, Shakespeare, and other topics. He always had books to recommend and he gave me suggestions for following the Lincoln-Booth trail when I came to the East Coast. I had hoped to share some info about Richard III with him when I came across the notice of his passing. I am sure that he is missed by his family and many friends. May his memory be a blessing. Mary Poundstone Miller

August 20 at 2:07 PM



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**Dave Taylor** posted:

Bob was a wonderful man and I appreciated being able to get to know him through our shared interest in the Lincoln assassination. I fondly remember our talks at the annual Surratt Society Conference and the visits I made to Bryantown Tavern. Bob was always generous with this knowledge and always made me feel welcome. He will be missed. Dave Taylor

August 9 at 7:05 PM



**Richard Sloan** August 21 at 6:35 AM

Bob and I shared a great interest in the Lincoln assassination and Disney animation — an odd combination, to be sure. Bob must have had a photographic memory, which he put to use in studying so many subjects, as witness by his overflowing library of books on so many topics, all of which he could easily recall for friends if called upon. Bob was quick to share new information with friends. I accepted two invitations to stay at his house. He loved showing me many of his collectibles on my visits. His generosity knew no bounds. He was one of a kind and he has surely left his mark on his many friends. He will be sorely missed, and can never be forgotten.



## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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