



## James Philip Cook

February 8, 1934 - April 26, 2025

James “Phil” Cook, 91, of Sarasota, FL, passed away peacefully on April 26, 2025. He was born to Robert and Eva (Craven) Cook, Stillwater, Oklahoma. He went to the University of Oklahoma earning a degree in mechanical engineering (1956). He then went on to serve his country in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (1956-1958).

Phil moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana where he raised his family and built a distinguished career in the fire protection industry. From 1980 until his retirement in 2000, he held several leadership roles at Shambaugh and Son, including serving as President. Additionally, as a dedicated member of the National Fire Sprinkler Association, he served on the board of directors from 2000 to 2003.

In retirement, Phil loved beach walks, movies, painting, and most of all, spending time with his family.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 33 years, Susan (Cooling ) Cook and his children: Molly Wehrly (Paul) of Mooresville, NC; Robert Cook of Palm Harbor, FL; and Ryan Cook (Courtney) of Mooresville, NC. He is also survived by his stepchildren: Elizabeth Babcock of Washington, DC; Jennifer Whibbs (Vinnie) of Encinitas, CA; and Brian Babcock (Gina) Lakewood Ranch, FL. He was a proud grandfather to 12 grandchildren: Jacob (Claire), Hayden (Madie), Ethan

(Erin), Meredith, William, Ben, Lucas, Noah, Maggie, Vinnie, Caroline, and Alex.

He was preceded in death by his daughter Kimberley, his parents, and his stepson Andrew Babcock.

A private family service will be held at Sarasota National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to [https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html?sc\\_icid=header-btn-donate-now](https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html?sc_icid=header-btn-donate-now) or <https://tidewellfoundation.org/giving-opportunities/tidewell-angel/>