



George Coope

June 29, 2007

Mr. George Edmund Coope, 83, of 3 Myrtle Street, Adams, died on Friday June 29, 2007, at the North Adams Regional Hospital, shortly after being admitted.

He was born in Adams on February 2, 1924, son of the late William and Helen (Frese) Coope. He attended schools in Adams, and graduated from the former Adams High School with the class of 1942.

At the time of his death Mr. Coope was employed as Sexton and Caretaker for the Parish of Notre Dame and St. Thomas Aquinas, Adams. Mr. Coope had also worked as a printer for the former Arnold Print Works, Adams, from 1946 until the mill closed in 1984.

He was a Veteran of World War II having served with the United States Army in the Asiatic Pacific Theater from 1943 until his honorable discharge as Master Sergeant in 1946.

He was a communicant of the Parish of Notre Dame & St. Thomas Aquinas, Adams, where he worked and volunteered from 1972 until the time of his death. He was in the first group of Eucharistic Ministers for St. Thomas Aquinas Church, and was also a lector. He was an active member of the Parish of Notre Dame & St. Thomas Aquinas Finance Committee, Buildings and Grounds Committee and Parish Council. He was also active in the Turning Leaf Golf Classic for the Roman Catholic Community of Adams. He was a longtime committee member of the Annual Catholic Stewardship Appeal, and was awarded the Bishops Circle of Stewards of the Diocese of

Springfield in 2002.

He was a member of the Polanka grounds steering committee, Adams, and was a driving force behind the restoration of the grounds. He was a life member and Past Commander of the Adams Post 160 American Legion, and was a member of the Memorial Day Flag Committee, and Grand Marshall of the Memorial Day Parade in Adams for many years. He had also participated in many burials of countless Veterans in local cemeteries.

He was an Educator in American Civics and Government for the Adams Cheshire Regional School District for many years. He was a member of the Machine, Printers, and Engravers Association of the United States. He was a supporter of the Adams P.A.L., and the Louison House. He had also held many Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners for the Elderly in Adams. He loved Polka music and was a great promoter of Happy Louie and his Orchestra. He enjoyed fishing and hunting, and was a member of the Adams Hound and Hunt Club, and the Western Massachusetts Track Club. One of his favorite things to do was relax with an ice cold Pabst.

His wife the former Mary E. Burke, whom he married July 31, 1948, died on April 5, 1962.

He is survived by:

3 Daughters - Linda M. Lagess and her husband Bruce, Shirley A. Deneault and her companion Frank Piekos, and Jean M. Fortier and her husband Mark, all of Cheshire.

7 Grandchildren - Brian Lagess and his wife Tammy of North Andover, Keith Lagess of Adams, Evan Lagess of Cheshire, Maryann Fortier of Adams, Kyle Fortier of Cheshire, Stacey Fortier of Cheshire, and Kurt Deneault of Exton, PA.

1 Great Grandson - Hayden Armstrong of Adams.

Calling hours will be held on Monday July 2, from 4:00PM to 8:00PM in Notre Dame des Sept Douleurs Church, McKinley Square, Adams. A Solemn Procession will be held at 8:00PM from Notre Dame des Sept Douleurs Church to St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Adams. A Concelebrated Liturgy of

Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday July 3, at 11:00AM in St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Adams.

Burial will follow in Bellevue Cemetery, Adams.

Memorial donations may be made to the Parish of Notre Dame & St. Thomas, the Adams Ambulance Service, or the Adams Post 160 American Legion through the PACIOREK FUNERAL HOME, 13 Hoosac St. Adams, which is in charge of arrangements.



“ To the Family and Friends of George,

It is with great sadness that I learned of George's passing yesterday from my mom. My mom was away at a family wedding or I would have learned of his passing in time to make it back to Adams for the service.

George has special meaning to me because of his relationship to Wenzel's farm and to my dad. George was there to say a few poignant words and to hand my mom a flag at my dad's funeral a few years ago, and George was there on the farm in the 30's and 40's and worked side by side with my dad in the fields. When my mom told me about Georges passing, she said, "Aunt Marie (Grande) is the only one left." What she meant was that Aunt Marie is the last living link to the history of that farm, now that George and Danny Krzreminski are gone. With George's passing, a little more of that history has been lost.

George is also special because he symbolizes what community is all about. He lived his entire life in Adams and enjoyed many lifelong friends, and was dedicated to the town, its veterans, and to the church. I moved away from town many years ago to pursue a career, and I lost so much of what that kind of community is all about. What a great thing for George, his family, and his town.

I would like to send my deepest sympathies to the family.

Regards,

Michael A. Hanke

July 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ George was like by everyone. He will be greatly missed. We were just talking to him at the Polanka on Sunday, so when I opened the paper it was quite a shock to us. Our prayers are with his family. God Bless George.

July 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ I was so surprised and saddened to hear of George's passing. As a second grade teacher at C.T. Plunkett for many years, I was always appreciative and honored to have Mr. Coope talk with my class every Memorial Day and Veteran's Day, rain or shine. He would always proudly greet my class and couldn't wait to share his knowledge and love of our country with the students. He always looked so handsome in his military uniform and I was always amazed that he still could wear it over these so many years. He truly lived every moment to the fullest and Adams has suffered a great loss. His family should be very proud of all of his accomplishments and service to his community. He was truly one of the best of the "Last Good Generations." Pleae accept my condolences. Diane Elias

July 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ Unfortunately ,I will not be able to attend the calling hours or services to honor George due to vacation plans.So to the Family and Community I promise this, everytime I attend a function at Forest Park C C, I will toast to Him with a Pabst Blue Ribbon and say "what a beautiful day".My condolences to the Family.

July 01, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ To George Coope's Family,

How honored I was to have known your Father, your Grandfather and our friend George E. Coope! To me he was the mayor of Adams and without a doubt was the kindest and most sincere person I have ever met in this life. A man who would do ANYTHING for you and a man who was thrilled just to get up in the morning, smell the fresh cut grass, feel the sunshine and enjoy the day. I first met him at the Polanka grounds over 20 years ago as he danced to polka music. When I asked my Mom that day, "Who is that guy?" She looked at me and said, "Oh....that's our friend George Coope!" I will miss our friend George Coope so very, very much each Wednesday when I head up to Adams to visit Fr. Dan. There will never, ever, ever be another person like him. I miss him already. May God hold him in the palm of His hand! George...pray for me!

-Fr. C.J. Waitekus

June 30, 2007 at 12:00 AM