

Ashford - Dudley "Dud" Churchill Cooper, loving husband and father, passed away peacefully in his home in Ashford with his wife, Carol and daughter Rachel by his side on Saturday, February 13, 2021, at the age of 77, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. Dudley was born on February 11, 1944, in Providence, R.I., to Reverend Robert C. Cooper and Virginia Carter Cooper.

Dudley grew up and spent most of his life in Killingly, CT. His love of automobiles and auto racing directed his path as he graduated from Killingly High School and Ellis Technical School as an auto mechanic. Upon graduation, Dudley served in the United States Coast Guard on a coast guard weather ship in the north Atlantic.

Dudley and his former wife, Jean Terwilliger raised two beautiful daughter, Susan and Patricia. He worked in auto mechanics and developed a following of customers due to his skill, honesty and willingness to go the extra mile. Dudley moved to Ashford, CT in 1999 after his marriage to Carol Surridge, where he happily became "dad" to Carol's daughter Rachel. After his retirement, he worked as a school bus driver in many Northeast CT towns and East Hartford. He was loved by the students and received many awards as driver of the year.

Dudley's passion for auto racing never weakened, and he could be seen at Stafford Motor Speedway, and Thompson Speedway every weekend, and mid-week racing at numerous speedways throughout New England. Dudley had a rich tenor voice, which developed over years of singing from childhood in the choirs of the churches his father pastored. He continued to sing in church choirs, including the choir for the Billy Graham Crusade in Providence RI, The Ecumenical Choir, The VFW Choir and The Echo Chapel Quartet, in which he had the pleasure of singing with his daughter Susan. Dudley was a member of the Congregational Church of Eastford. Among his other hobbies, he enjoyed restoring antique tractors, and going to vintage and British auto shows.

Dudley leaves behind his wife, Carol; and his daughters, Susan Cooper Theroux and her husband Paul, Patricia Cooper Bradbury, and Rachel Surridge. He also leaves his brother Lincoln Cooper and sister-in-law Janice, sister Carolyn Cooper, and grandsons, Thomas Theroux, Sam and Ross Bradbury and nephews Matthew and Benjamin Cooper and their families as well as numerous friends and neighbors. Dudley was predeceased by his parents, foster sister Jeanne Mackie and nephew Sam Cooper. He will be remembered for his genuine, kind and helpful demeanor for which he was quickly absorbed into his neighborhood and community. A memorial service will be held February 27, 2021 at 1 pm at the Congregational Church of Eastford, 8 Church Rd. Eastford CT. A graveside service for Dudley will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Ashford Fire Department, 46 Westford Rd. Ashford, CT 06278 or the CCE.

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