
A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
Andrew Francis Cooper

Sunrise
April 17, 1934

Sunset
January 20, 2022



Service
Saturday, February 5, 2022 • 9:00 a.m.

St. Catherine of Siena
118-22 Riverton Street • St. Albans, New York 11412
Deacon Luis Taylor, Officiating

Order of Service

INTRODUCTORY RITE OF FUNERAL MASS

Processional of Clergy and Family “Blessed Assurance”
Greeting Deacon Taylor
Obituary Justin Cooper
Introductory Prayer Deacon Taylor

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Ecclesiastes: 3:1-8 Myles Andrew Daughtry
Responsorial Psalm: Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation
Second Reading: Wisdom 3:1-9 Herbert “Daniel” Daughtry, III
Alleluia John 3:16 - God loved the world so much, he gave
us his only Son, that all who believe
in him might have eternal life.

The Gospel: John 14:1-6 Deacon Taylor
Homily Deacon Taylor
Hymn “Take My Hand, Precious Lord” - Abby Dobson

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION: Deacon Taylor Response: Lord hear our prayer

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST Deacon Taylor

Sanctus
The Lord’s Prayer Recited
Sign of Peace
Lamb of God
Communion Hymn “His Eyes are on the Sparrow”
Meditation Hymn “I’ll be seeing you” - Abby Dobson
Concluding Prayer Deacon Taylor
Messages of Love Gabrielle Gatewood
Danielle Gatewood
Pat Cooper
Stephen Hall, Jr.

CONCLUDING RITE

Farewell Prayer Deacon Taylor
Final Blessing
Recessional “Moody’s Mood” - Organist

Interment
Nassau Knolls
Port Washington, New York



Obituary: The Honorable Andrew Francis Cooper

Andrew Francis Bernard Cooper was born on April 17, 1934, in Paterson, New Jersey. Andrew was the oldest son born to the late Alfred Robert and Gertrude Ann Cooper. Shortly after birth, he was baptized into the Catholic faith and served as an altar boy at Our Lady of Victory Church in Paterson.

Andrew attended P.S.6 and enjoyed playing sports like football and handball growing up. He joined the all-black Cub Scout Troop 23, where he met his lifelong best friend, Stephen “Steve” Hall, Jr. The troop was a regular feature at local parades and other events. Later, he graduated from Eastside High School (featured in the movie *Lean on Me*). After High School, at the age of 16, Andrew enlisted and served as a Marine in the Korean War. In keeping with his gregarious nature, while serving in Hawaii, Andrew stood in front of his company, sang Moody’s Mood, and received a standing ovation. The song became his signature song, and after the birth of his girls he sang it to them often.

Andrew first attended Newark College of Engineering as a mathematics major with an electrical engineer minor and later earned a B.S. from Fairleigh Dickerson University. He was employed in the private sector by companies like Univac and Bell Labs, but he soon found his way into public service and held various executive positions in New York City’s mayoral administrations from John Lindsey through David Dinkins. One of his proudest accomplishments was establishing in 1971 a full-service computer center, located in Harlem on 125th Street. He managed 100 employees - many of whom got their first position in the field of data processing working at the center. Andrew retired as a Deputy Commissioner of the Housing and Preservation Department in 1992.

On December 31, 1957, while attending a Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. New Year’s Eve celebration, Steve introduced Andrew to an intelligent, beautiful, and elegant young woman named Mildred “Millie” Kimbrough. As the clock struck midnight, Andrew declared to Millie that that year - 1958 - was the year they would marry. True to his word, on December 28, 1958, Andrew and Millie were married at St. Catherine of Siena Church in St. Albans, New York.

Soon after Andrew and Millie married, they began their family. Their first

daughter was Andrea Frances Cooper. Two years later, another daughter, Colette Yvonne Cooper, was welcomed. Rounding out the trio was Danielle Renée Cooper. A few years after the birth of Colette, the family made Laurelton, New York, their permanent home. Andrew and Millie remained active in their Catholic faith and christened all three children in the church.

Andrew was a true Renaissance man and loved art and jazz. Andrew entertained jazz musicians in his home and took his girls and grandchildren to many jazz concerts. He even took his family on a cruise with the Count Basie's band. Millie and Andrew supported black artists like LeRoy Campbell. Andrew was a lifelong servant leader. He held leadership positions in community organizations such as Les Amis, 100 Black Men, and was a founder of the United Black Men of Queens. Always interested in mentoring and uplifting black youth, particularly young men, Andrew worked with the United Back Men to provide a three-part mentoring program. Later he supported the York College community by working with Millie to provide scholarships to numerous deserving students. He modeled the importance of being well informed by being a lifelong subscriber to the New York Times, reading it daily from end to end.

Andrew was a devoted grandfather. He taught his grandchildren to ride bikes, read the New York Times, make his famous corn fritters and how to be upstanding young woman and men. He took great delight in their many accomplishments and was present at fashion shows, Jack & Jill events, Grandparent Days, sporting events and graduations.

Andrew went home to join his beloved wife Mildred, mother Gertrude, sister Ann, brothers Alfred and Elmer and grandmother "Grandma" Barnes on January 20, 2022.

Andrew Cooper leaves to forever tell his story devoted daughters Andrea Cooper Gatewood, Colette Cooper, and Danielle Cooper Daughtry; admired sons-in-law, Von Gatewood and Herbert Daughtry, Jr., cherished grandchildren Danielle Kathleen Gatewood, Gabrielle Colette Gatewood, Herbert "Daniel" Daughtry, III, and Myles Andrew Daughtry; sister Patricia Cooper and her partner Donald Fillippello, nieces Sonya Cooper, Jessica Turner, Lauren Leksich with her husband Nicolas Leksich and their daughters Vera and Kyla, nephew Justin Cooper and his wife Ruthie Woldeselassie, best friend Steve Hall and cousins in New York, New Jersey, and Ridge, Maryland and a vast community of friends.





Immortality

*Do not stand at my grave and weep;
I am not there, I do not sleep,
I am a thousand winds that blow;
I am the diamond glints on the snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain;
I am gentle autumn's rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight;
I am the soft star that shines at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry.
I am not there: I did not die*

Honorary Pallbearers

*Bernard Barnes • Stephen Hall, Jr. • Anderson Barnes, Jr.
Von J. Gatewood • Herbert D. Daughtry, Jr. • Herbert D. Daughtry, III
Justin Cooper • Myles A. Daughtry*

Acknowledgements

During these trying hours the comfort of friends and family has been one of the sustaining elements. Your prayers and visits (both in person and virtually) have strengthened our hearts. You have helped us endure moments of unimaginable pain. The fragrance of flowers, the abundance of meals, and the thoughts expressed in every card have added beauty to our days and reminded us of our past joys. Because you have shared, the burden that seemed so heavy is much lighter now. We ask that while we all continue to mourn the passing of our dear father, brother, uncle, family member and friend that you will continue to lift Andrew Cooper up in prayer.

Professional Services Provided By:

Roy L. Gilmore's Funeral Home, Inc.



Angela Gilmore-Manning, President


Ph (718) 529-3030 • (718) 528-7765

Fax (718) 712-2108 • (718) 528-2575

Email: royl.gilmorefuneralhome@verizon.net

191-02 Linden Blvd. • St. Albans, NY 11412




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