



Karl F. Cook

September 21, 1961 - January 18, 2026

Karl F. Cook

January 18, 2026

Karl F. Cook, 64, of 538 Canton Avenue, Monroeton, Pennsylvania, passed away surrounded by family on January 18, 2026, at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, due to complications related to his double lung transplant, which he received on Thanksgiving Day. Diagnosed in 2013 with Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency, a genetic condition that damaged his lungs, Karl faced his illness with strength and determination.

Karl was born on September 21, 1961, in Towanda, Pennsylvania, the son of Richard K. Cook and Sally Johnston Cook. He was a graduate of Towanda Area High School, Class of 1980. On June 6, 1981, he married the love of his life, Linda Shaffer, and together were blessed with two children and shared 44 wonderful years of marriage.

As a teenager, Karl worked on the dairy farm of Duane and Naomi Pepper in Franklindale, and continued to help until the dairy was sold. Through OJT during his senior year of high school, Karl met his future wife Linda when he began working at her family's business, Shaffer's Feed Service. For years Karl delivered feed to local dairy farms for the mill and in 2005, Karl, along with his wife Linda, son Brian, and daughter-in-law Angela, purchased the business. In addition, Karl also drove milk truck for R&R Lawrence on weekends.

In the community, Karl served as the first president and a coach of the Towanda Youth Wrestling Club, was a member of the Monroeton Rod & Gun

Club, and coached Towanda Little League for many years. He was happiest in the hay field on his dad's 1968 Ford 5000 tractor. He loved to go for a drive on the mountains, visit the farmland in Lancaster, see the elk in Benzette, and watch Penn State wrestling.

Every summer he looked forward to vacationing the Finger Lakes with his children and grandchildren, where he cherished family time and kayaking on the lake. He was his children's and grandchildren's biggest fan, attending their sports and activities whenever his health allowed.

Karl is survived by his loving wife, Linda Cook; his son, Brian (Angela) Cook of Monroeton, Pennsylvania; his daughter, Karla (Paul) Johnson of Wyalusing, Pennsylvania; his brother, Richard K. (Joan) Cook II of Towanda, Pennsylvania; sisters-in-law Cheryl Cook of New Albany, Pennsylvania; Diane Saxon of Lawrenceville, Georgia; Alice Kay (Terri) Weingartner of Monroeton, Pennsylvania; and Bonnie (Kevin) Keller of Felton, Pennsylvania; four grandchildren, Ariana Cook, Ellie Cook, Kara Johnson, and Cooper Johnson; along with several cousins, nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Karl was preceded in death by his father- and mother-in-law, Martin and Virginia Shaffer; his stepfather, George Dotter Sr.; his brother, Guy R. Cook; his brother-in-law, Frank Saxon; and his maternal grandparents, Guy "Billy" Johnston and Pearl (Bender) Johnston.

Abiding by Karl's wishes, there will be no services. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Those wishing to honor Karl's memory may consider a memorial contribution to the Alpha-1 Foundation, 3300 Ponce De Leon Blvd., Coral Gables, FL 33134-9971, or by visiting alpha1.org, or to Gift of Life Howie's House, 401 Callowhill St., Philadelphia, PA 19123-4018, or by visiting giftoflifehowieshouse.org, or to Bradford County 4-H, 200 Main Street, Suite 3, Towanda PA, 18848. Memories and condolences may be expressed by visiting www.bowenfuneralhomes.com.

Tribute Wall

SS

“ *Linda and family,*

I always enjoyed seeing Karl on our annual business-related meeting. Karl was so interesting in all his stories. Always (especially) looked forward to the local wrestling talk.

My prayers to the family during this time.

Love,

Steve Sumner

Steven Sumner - January 29 at 04:20 PM

TA

“ *To Linda, Brian, Angela, Karla, Paul and families,*

This is very sad news for me. I have very fond memories of Karl, especially when he was Tommy's Little League coach. Over the years, Tommy and I have enjoyed reminiscing about Karl. Karl was his favorite coach. He read the obituary to his three children and shared fond memories with them. Karl could put on a hard shell, but underneath he had a very soft heart, especially for his family. I regret I didn't reach out to him more often. My battle with terminal cancer has been tough, but it's not an excuse. Now he is gone. Rest in peace my friend. I'm glad I met you and I will cherish our times together.

Tom Abell - January 26 at 12:05 PM

MK

“ *Linda and family,
Joe and I are very sad for your great loss. Karl was a very kind person and has fought a very hard battle 💙 God will welcome him, take care of him and love him forever..
May your journey of grief at this time give you strength in days to come.
Sincerely,
Joe and Mert*

Mert keeney - January 24 at 06:55 PM

PF

“ *So sorry to hear of Karl's passing. I knew his father and grandparents on the Cook side of the family for years. In fact, they lived across the creek from us in Franklindale, Pa., when Karl's dad Richard was a young man. My prayers go with the family at this time, for comfort, and encouragement.
On behalf of the Fitch Family, Paul.*

Paul Fitch - January 22 at 01:59 PM