



Dr. Dean T. Mook

August 3, 1935 - June 19, 2020

Dr. Dean T. Mook died peacefully with family at his bedside, June 19, 2020.

Dean was the N. Waldo Harrison Professor Emeritus of Engineering Science and Mechanics at Virginia Tech, where he enjoyed a long, illustrious, and rewarding career.

Dean is survived by his wife of 66 years, Sally; his children and their spouses, Katherine (Phil), Joe (Jayne), Art (Jo), and Nate; his grandchildren and their spouses, Jesse, Lauren (Steve), and Oliver; his great-grandchildren Henry and David; his sister Barbara (Don) and family; beloved extended family members; and numerous cherished friends, former students, and colleagues.

No service is planned. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a charitable donation in support of any cause that holds a special place in your heart.

Tribute Wall

SH

“ Dear Mrs. Mook, you and Dr. Mook visited us in Radord at our house in the Fall 2009 for dinner. Dr. Mook was my graduate advisor at Virginia Tech and was a wonderful mentor when I came back to VT as a faculty. He and my husband shared the love of flying airplanes.

Our last email communication was last April. I am so saddened about Dr. Mook passing and not contacting you earlier. I always cherish his amazing teaching and mentoring abilities.

Keith \$ Simin Hall

Simin Hall - January 18, 2021 at 12:19 PM

RL

“ As the others I was greatly saddened to hear this news. It's also perfect that in this sadness, we can recall and relate such wonderful remembrances of this family. My heart goes out to them; Sally (will always be Mrs. Mook to me), Kathy, Art, Nathan, and last but certainly not least, Joe(y)—one of my lifelong friends. His and my sense of humor, for whatever reason, happened to mesh exactly. One could only surmise that the roots of that characteristic must have come from the parents, and if you ever saw the Mooks together or individually, you absolutely knew it was the case. Much laughter and many great memories...I'll not forget.

Russ Lytton - July 06, 2020 at 12:59 PM

RH

“ So sorry for your loss. I met Dean and Sally many years ago through the sailing club at Claytor Lake. Then through dog sports. So many fun times. Dean will be missed. Send love and hugs to Sally.

-Rosie Higdon

Rosie Higdon - June 25, 2020 at 08:09 PM

“ As one of Sally’s siblings, I met Dean many years ago when he was an athletic high school football hunk who showed up as a new student at Thomas Jefferson High School in Richmond, Va., and started dating my sister Sally (Thompson), the artistic, cheerleading, Homecoming Queen. Their compatibility of values, talents and smarts, plus chemistry, led to a marriage that lasted 66 years and produced four amazing children: Kath, Joe, Art and Nate.

For the past 50 or 60 years, our extended families shared holidays, and for the past 30 or 40 years, we shared a beach or lake vacation together each summer, joined in early years by our parents and in more recent years by grandchildren and even a great-grandchild. Dean always showed extreme kindness to the elderly among us (as well as the young). This became even more obvious when he went to live for a period of time with his mother-in-law (our mother), Alice Thompson, in Arlington, Va., while working as a fulltime consultant on assignment to the Air Force Office of Scientific Research. He was diligent in looking out for her and in doing what he could to promote her happiness and wellbeing. I think their comradeship was a highlight of our mother’s later years. He was also the perfect host when we visited at his and Sally’s home. He welcomed us with hugs and with margaritas or with homemade bread, peanuts, chocolate, or oatmeal with raisins (or prunes). At our summer vacations, or other gatherings, he loved to converse, and to educate and entertain. With his outstanding memory, he could enthrall us with facts, ideas and humor. I can see the sly grin on his face as he shared a new witticism or the gleam of enthusiasm in his eye as he told of something he had just read about or seen on tv that was exciting. To him, I think there weren’t any new or interesting ideas that weren’t exciting!

So....what can we say. We are all feeling the loss of someone who was so important to us in so many ways. Among his many attributes, here are a few words that come to my mind: dedicated, helpful, kind, passionate, fun-loving, positive. He was a good man. He will not be forgotten.



Ruth and Howard Walton - June 25, 2020 at 06:23 PM

JH

“ We are saddened by our collective loss. Dr. Mook was part of an elite group of professors who not only led us, but who together with their wives, nurtured us and built a strong community. Dean and Sally were like second parents to me growing up. We had numerous pancake breakfasts at the Mook home and Dean always made popcorn for watching college football games. I remember his positive nature and that smile (when he wasn't keeping Joe and I in line for doing something we shouldn't). Dean liked to sail and took Joe and I once an exciting adventure on the James River after a hurricane. The waves were so high we couldn't see above them when down in the trough, but Dean knew the boat and enough fluid dynamics to steer us safely through it!

Dean leaves behind a beautiful family and lasting legacy that you can all be proud of.

Carol and I send our deepest sympathy to the entire Mook family. We wish you healing of spirit in this difficult time.

Jim Heller - June 25, 2020 at 01:16 AM

BS

“ My memories of Dean...always willing to help anyone. Ever present smile, a twinkle in his eyes, willing and able to do physical work beyond his years, a lover and supporter of American made cars, enjoyed the company of others, and loved his wife of many years, dearest Sally!
Bob Stimson

Bob Stimson - June 24, 2020 at 08:48 PM

RH

“ Agnes and I met Dean the first day we arrived in Blacksburg 53 years ago. He was a great friend, and colleague.. A prolific scientist, teacher, researcher. Our children grew up together. I remember a hike on the Appalachian trail with the wolf cubs. Dean the scout leader and I his assistant. He planned a 5 mile hike that turned out to be 15 miles long. In the end we had carry some of the young cubs on our backs. We always had fun with him and Sally, a prolific artist. We will miss him. *Robert and Agnes Heller.*

Robert Heller - June 24, 2020 at 01:12 PM

HR

“ Dear Sally and family,
Words cannot express the sorrow I felt on hearing of Dean's death. My heart is with you in the days ahead. With love, *Helen Renqvist*

Helen Renqvist - June 24, 2020 at 12:10 PM

TH

“ One of the most optimistic intelligent enthusiastic entertaining enlightened good humored person I've known as head of a family in which I can pretty much say the exact same thing about each member. Truly a bright star in a family of the same.

Tom Heller - June 23, 2020 at 09:14 PM

GL

“ Sally,
I am deeply saddened by the news of Dean's death, and my heart aches for you and your family..
Dean was a very fine person and a wonderful friend. I will miss him.
I met Dean after he had retired from his distinguished academic career. We spent a lot of time together, much of it in his truck , as we obtained loads of mulch or gravel for our church grounds.
In those drives and in our time together, he heard much of my life story and I learned much about his childhood, his time in the Corps of Cadets, his pride in being a Hokie and a Virginia Tech professor, his love of Sally and admiration for her painting, his children.
Dean was a wonderful friend, brilliant, and articulate, but kind and self effacing. I will miss him very much.

“Dirge Without Music”

“I am not resigned to the shutting away of loving hearts in the hard ground.
So it is, and so it will be, for so it has been, time out of mind:
Into the darkness they go, the wise and the lovely. Crowned
With lilies and with laurel they go; but I am not resigned.
Lovers and thinkers, into the earth with you.
Be one with the dull, the indiscriminate dust.
A fragment of what you felt, of what you knew,
A formula, a phrase remains,—but the best is lost.
The answers quick and keen, the honest look, the laughter, the love,—
They are gone. They are gone to feed the roses. Elegant and curled
Is the blossom. Fragrant is the blossom. I know. But I do not approve.
More precious was the light in your eyes than all the roses in the world.
Down, down, down into the darkness of the grave
Gently they go, the beautiful, the tender, the kind;
Quietly they go, the intelligent, the witty, the brave.
I know. But I do not approve. And I am not resigned.”
Edna St. Vincent Millay, from *Collected Poems*

George Lally - June 23, 2020 at 06:14 PM

JM

“ Dean was a cherished ‘Quiet Man’ with a LOUD and lovable personality. We will miss him. 🙏



Jayne Mook - June 23, 2020 at 05:54 PM

RB

“ Dear Sally:

Manju and I are deeply sorry to learn of Dean's demise. May God bless you with enough strength to cope with the tragic loss, and him with peace in Heaven!

I will always remember his kindness, help and advice.

If we can be of any help, please don't hesitate to ask.

*Best regards,
Romesh & Manju*

Romesh C Batra - June 23, 2020 at 04:24 PM

SA

Kathy, I am so sorry to hear of the death of your father. I have connections to his schooling in Scotland, although I did know him personally. I am sorry for your loss
Steve Andrews

Stephen Andrews - June 25, 2020 at 07:51 AM

KH

In March, Dean and Sally joined several other couples for a good natured competition of "Not So Newlywed Game." I was amazed by his remarkable memory. It was clear to everyone that Dean was very observant of and attentive to the love of his life, Sally.

Karen Holstein - June 27, 2020 at 05:49 PM

TA

In January 1960 I took my first engineering course, Statics, from Howard Sword and Dean was the TA. I still remember his happy and enthusiastic attitude. The next quarter I took Dynamics from Gerry Healy and these courses started my love of engineering and the two of them convinced me to switch to Engineering Mechanics, a decision I have never regretted. Whenever, I returned to VT I enjoyed talking with him. A fantastic engineer, professor and person.

Terry Alfriend, EM 1962, PhD 1967

Terry Alfriend - August 07, 2020 at 10:58 PM