



Charles Oliver Cope

May 27, 1936 - November 21, 2014

Mr. Charles O. Cope, age 78 of Conyers, died Friday, November 21, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Cope; sons and daughters-in-law, Charles Andrew (Drew) and Pam Cope, all of Conyers, Richard Ashley and Delane Cope, Lilburn; sister, Martha Smith, N. Charleston, SC; grandson, Brandon Cope. Charles was a member of First Baptist Church of Conyers, where he served as an active deacon and teacher of the PAL Sunday School Class for 15 years. He was in the first graduating class of Wade Hampton High School and received his BA from Newberry College and a Master's Degree in English from the University of Georgia. Mr. Cope taught at Rockdale High School for 35 years and was the yearbook sponsor for 28 years. Funeral Services will be held Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Conyers with Dr. John Wyatt officiating; entombment will follow at Green Meadow Memorial Gardens Mausoleum. Family will receive friends Monday, November 24, 2014 from 4 until 8 p.m. at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to MOVE Campaign at First Baptist Church of Conyers, 2100 Highway 138 NE, Conyers, GA 30013 or Rockdale Retired Educators Association Scholarship Fund, c/o Bitzi Potts, 1680 Walker Road SW, Conyers, GA 30094. Condolences may be submitted on-line at www.scotward.com. Scot Ward Funeral Services, 699 American Legion Road, Conyers, GA 30012, 770-483-7216.

Cemetery Details

Green Meadow Memorial Gardens

677 American Legion Road
Conyers, GA 30012
(770) 483-4457
<https://www.scotward.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **24**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Scot Ward Funeral Services at Green Meadow Memorial Gardens
699 American Legion Road
Conyers, GA 30012

Service

NOV **25**. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Conyers
2100 Highway 138 NE
Conyers, GA 30013

Tribute Wall

CH

“ I'm deeply sorry for your loss. I hope the words found in the bible at Isaiah 25:8 brings comfort. God promises to "swallow up death forever". No more will we have to suffer heartache for God says he will "wipe away the tears from all faces". Such a joyous time it will be; reunited with our dead loved ones!

cheyenne - February 05, 2015 at 11:09 AM

B.

“ Bertha . purchased a sympathy card for the family of Charles Oliver Cope.



Bertha . - December 27, 2014 at 12:37 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Charles Oliver Cope.



November 25, 2014 at 09:08 AM

PW

“ He was my deacon for a while when I was on staff at First Baptist Conyers. He was always a servant and had a great attitude. Mr. Cope was one of the many people that made First Conyers a great church and a pleasure to serve. My prayers are for his family. So sorry.

Phil Wages - November 24, 2014 at 07:45 PM

DR

Prayers going up for the family. Asking God to comfort you all at this time if grief. Rickey and Donna Ray .

Donna Ray - November 24, 2014 at 08:40 PM

KG

“ The Copes were wonderful neighbors for many years. My sympathy goes to Elizabeth and family. You're in my thoughts and prayers.
Karen E. Granade

Karen Granade - November 24, 2014 at 07:07 PM

EF

“ I need to correct my typo. I meant to say "Can't think of high school without thinking of Mr. and Mrs. Cope.
Elaine Farmer

Elaine Farmer - November 24, 2014 at 11:47 AM

JF

“ We were so saddened to hear of Mr. Cope's passing. Can't think of high school with thinking of Mr. and Mrs. Cope. May the Lord comfort and encourage your hearts.
Joe and Elaine Farmer

Joe and Elaine Farmer - November 24, 2014 at 11:08 AM

LK

“ I was shocked and saddened to learn of Mr. Cope's sudden passing. I fondly remember my senior year in three of his classes at RCHS. He was a gifted teacher with a sweet spirit, and he opened my eyes to the beauty and richness of English literature. I can still see him in the classroom, with a roll of toilet paper on the corner of his desk, giving us a look of patient exasperation when we hadn't done all the required reading. Our World Lit. class was a small one, and he'd pull up a desk and fold himself into it, lean forward and subtly get in our faces with "Carmen" and "Tartuffe." I went on to major in English, and now teach many of the texts I first read under his guidance. Thank you, Charles Cope, for being a light.

With appreciation,
Lee (Boggus) Knippenberg
Class of 1977

Lee Knippenberg - November 24, 2014 at 08:19 AM



“ Tropical Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Charles Oliver Cope.



November 23, 2014 at 08:19 PM

MD

“ I was so deeply saddened by the news of Mr. Cope's death. I have fond memories of his senior English class at RCHS, and I was well prepared for college English as well. I remember seeing him during Christmas break at FBC Conyers after my first semester of college, and telling him that I had made an A in my English 101 class, needless to say, he was very proud of me. He had quite a sense of humor and kept us all entertained in class. I will be praying for you all during such a difficult time of the year to lose someone you love. However, I know you take comfort in knowing that he is with his Lord and Savior! May God bless you all, and may you feel the peace and comfort that only He can provide.

With Love,
Mandy Madray Dupree
Class of 1980

Mandy Dupree - November 23, 2014 at 07:51 PM

NV

“*Mr. Cope was a wonderful teacher who helped many students better appreciate English literature, and for many of us--myself included--opened up a larger world of reading, including authors such as Cervantes, Dostoyevsky, Goethe, and many others. He was also an inspiring mentor to those of us fortunate enough to work with him on the yearbook, or--annual staff, as it was called in the olden days. Over forty-five years later, my experiences at RCHS under Mr. Cope's tutelage remain some of the most meaningful of my life. I am very thankful I saw and was able to talk with him and Mrs. Cope again just this past summer. They were friends with my parents at Conyers Baptist, and it was heart-warming how much the Copes remembered about their time together in the Sunday School class my father taught. I also delighted in hearing about their children and grandson, and remembering how we annual staff students were so charmed by toddler Drew Cope (he always said his name with the first and last as one word), when he occasionally visited his daddy at meetings. I know Mr. Cope will be dearly missed by his wife and family, as well as numerous others, and I hope all will find comfort in the cherished memories of this loved one who touched so many lives, and in the tender mercies of God our Father.*

Nancy Miller Varner - November 23, 2014 at 07:20 PM

SE

“ I am sorry to hear of the loss of Mr. Cope. I was in the Class of 1970. We all had great respect for him. A fantastic teacher and honest (and totally witty) human being he was. I had the opportunity to thank him for being such a great teacher in my composition course. I told him that when I was in my college freshman course of composition, I was able to relax and just write. I thanked him for making college so much easier for me. Everyone else was in a sweat producing their papers because they had not been taught by the BEST - Charles Cope. They had not attended Rockdale County High School!

With love,
Sher Kelly Ellis

Sher Ellis - November 23, 2014 at 05:03 PM

DP

“ I count myself blessed to have been a student of Mr. Cope in 1980. I was one of those lost students, my identity always tied to sports, but injury took that part of my life away. Trying to find your way in high school with "no identity" can make you a hand full. Mr. Cope recognized my other potential as a student, and was willing to "put up with" some of my shinagains to make sure I stayed on track with my education. He included me on the annual staff which gave me a renewed sense of purpose. Because he knew something I didn't, there is life after high school. Because of his example and commitment to me, I found my way and had a successful and very enjoyable college experience.



I am so sorry for your loss, but hope the many kind words being shared about his life will provide you with some comfort knowing how many lives were touched by his liife. My faith gives me comfort that when we leave this earthly existence we a greeted by the welcoming arms of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

David S. Pettepher
RCHS Class of 1980

David Pettepher - November 23, 2014 at 04:45 PM

 Damon
Harper

“ Mr. Cope was the only high school teacher that took the time to contact my mother when he saw me squander my potential by not paying attention in his class. At the time I didn't consider it, but looking back I saw he was a teacher that really cared for his students. The world is a little less bright with him gone. Thank you, Mr. Cope for caring. Rest in peace.

Damon Harper - November 23, 2014 at 02:18 PM

BS

“ Elizabeth, I am so sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my prayers.

Brenda Specketer

brenda specketer - November 23, 2014 at 12:53 PM

AT

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Mr. Cope was one of those teachers that you never forget and he left me with a sense of knowing what true teachers were really like and he truly cared for his students. Your family will be in my prayers.

Audri Tarpley - November 23, 2014 at 12:46 PM

PD

“ Its hard to add more to what Cheryl and Fern already said about Mr Cope, but I just want to acknowledge the inspiration that he provided to the Class of 74: All of us actually... Always... looked forward...to going to his classes. The inspiration he provided went well beyond English and Literature. A shocking thing to say for a bunch of teen agers. Phil Sayre

Phil Sayre, now in D.C. - November 23, 2014 at 08:36 AM

DF

“ I remember Mr. Cope when he first came to Rockdale. He was a soft spoken, well-liked teacher. Many years later I still think of him as a person to look up to. My thoughts and prayers are with his family at this difficult time.

Daniel Farmer

Danel Farmer - November 23, 2014 at 08:30 AM

JF

“ I had the good fortune of having Charles for three classes my senior year at Rockdale and then the honor of working with him at Rockdale for many years and getting to know him as a colleague. He was a wonderful teacher and a caring person. His humor and good nature made it a pleasure to be around him. I also enjoyed the fellowship we shared at RREA. He will be sorely missed.

Joanna Wolf Farmer

Joanna Wolf Farmer - November 23, 2014 at 08:25 AM

SR

“ I, like many others, had Mr. Cope in high school. Had Mrs. Cope for shorthand. A wonderful family. He will be so very missed! Will keep all of the family in our thoughts and prayers over the next several weeks and months. I pray for God's comfort for all of you.

Sheila and Larry Ricks - November 23, 2014 at 07:27 AM

JS

“ Loved Mr. Cope, he was a great teacher...RIP, please know I am keeping the family in my prayers.

Jeanne Sutton - November 23, 2014 at 06:54 AM

AP

“ Mr. Cope was an awesome teacher and will be missed by all who knew him. I pray that the Lord will comfort you in such a sad time.

Angel Pritchard - November 22, 2014 at 08:17 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Charles Oliver Cope.*



November 22, 2014 at 07:33 PM



“ *Charles Cope should be the picture in Webster's Dictionary for the term "Southern Gentleman." I met him in the late 80's when I began teaching with his wonderful wife, Elizabeth. I loved his friendliness and caring nature regarding all he met. The Lord has received a special person and teacher. God Bless you Charles.*

Ellen McCullough - November 22, 2014 at 07:18 PM



“ *Elizabeth and family,
We were so shocked and saddened by the passing of Charles.
Please know that we are praying for all of you. Elizabeth, please let
Kay and I know what we can do for you at this most difficult time.
We love you.
Walter & Ann Pope*

Ann Pope - November 22, 2014 at 07:04 PM



“ *He meant so much to Rockdale students. While I didn't have a class with him, I was on the yearbook staff, having spent plenty of time in the staff room with him even before that. Twenty-eight years putting up with crazy yearbook students! Now that's commitment that is not found in these times. I will remember him most for his humor and dry wit! He will be missed!*

Lisa McDonald Kelly, Moncks Corner, SC - November 22, 2014 at 05:23 PM



“ Without a doubt, Mr. Cope was one of my favorite teachers at RCHS. He was an awesome instructor. I know that he will be sorely missed. To his family and friends, I send my deepest condolences and pray you will be comforted by many fond memories of your time with him. May you be at peace knowing that he is with the Lord.

Cherie Allen - November 22, 2014 at 04:47 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Mr. Cope's death. He was a great inspiration to me in High School. He always challenged his students to go beyond what they thought they could do. My sympathy to the family.
Marilyn Wolf Fortson

Marilyn Wolf Fortson - November 22, 2014 at 04:03 PM



“ I hope no one minds if I speak collectively for all of us. His family, his students, his friends and his community were very lucky to have had him with us.
Jenann McDonald Garner and Ray Garner

Jenann Garner - November 22, 2014 at 03:35 PM



“ Mr. Cope was a great teacher and loved by his students. My sympathies are with your family.
Phyllis Field Pate

phyllis pate - November 22, 2014 at 03:31 PM

RM

“ *Mr. Cope was one of the greatest teachers that my husband and I have ever had. He had a genuine love for the students and for teaching. In my Senior year I had Mr Cope for 4 classes of the day/ including Annual Staff. He had a way of pushing us to want to learn and be better people. Recently, we saw him at a yard sale looking for books! He never lost his enthusiasm for literature! He seemed as energetic as he was 40 years prior! We will so miss this precious man... And we will be forever grateful for the impact he had on our lives and this community! Many prayers to the family.*
Cheryl Driver McDonald

Robert and Cheryl McDonald - November 22, 2014 at 02:40 PM

MM

“ *Our sincerest condolences, Elizabeth. Praying the Lord will bring you peace and comfort during this difficult time.*
Melisa & Mike Morrison

Melisa Morrison - November 22, 2014 at 02:33 PM

JB

Elizabeth, so sorry to hear of Charles' death. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May God give you the strength to get through this difficult time.

JoAnne Blake

JoAnne Blake - November 22, 2014 at 04:30 PM

FW

Mr. Cope was one of my favorite teachers. He expected much of his students and made us want to live up to his expectations. He will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to have known him.
Ferne White

Ferne White - November 22, 2014 at 05:45 PM

CH

Mr. Cope will be fondly remembered by countless students who sat before him. He instilled a love for English language and lore in any who would listen; and listen I did.

Cecile Tatman Harwood

Cecile Harwood - November 22, 2014 at 08:45 PM



I was not fortunate enough to have Mr. Cope as a teacher but he was a great co-conspirator when we were planning a surprise baby shower for Mrs. Cope. He was as excited as us girls were. Praying for comfort for Mrs. Cope & family.

*Susan Marks Jordan
Class of '70*

Susan Jordan - November 22, 2014 at 11:02 PM

AJ

Mr. Cope was the best/most inspiring teacher I have ever had. He prepared us all so well for further education and instilled in me a true love for literature. He was also extremely patient with many generations of high-schoolers. He had such an impact on so many people and will be sorely missed. Thank you for all of your guidance, Mr. Cope. Amy Rogers Jordan, Class of 1982

Amy Jordan - November 23, 2014 at 09:46 AM

PM

Elizabeth and family! Sorry I will be unable to be at Charles,s funeral. We are out of town ,but know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Charles was always such an inspiration to all who knew him. He will be truly missed. Blessings to you Elizabeth.

Pat &Phil McConnell

Pat McConnell - November 23, 2014 at 11:06 AM

GC

I was not fortunate enough to have been a student of Mr. Cope but worked with his wife, Elizabeth, at Edwards Middle School. I got to know him later through the RREA. He was always, always doing for others. Elizabeth, I am so very sorry to hear of your loss. I wish I lived in Georgia right now so I could drop by o see you. My deepest sympathies to you and your family.

Ginger Clark

Ginger Clark - November 23, 2014 at 02:25 PM


Nancy
Shelnutt

Mr. Cope was an enthusiastic motivator who always saw the best in his students while challenging them to excel to the highest mountain top. It was a privilege to follow in my father's footsteps taking Mr. Cope's Senior English class at RCHS. While he was a tough teacher, he prepared me for college English and instilled a love for both English and World Literature which continues today. He changed lives and gave students a future. Thank you Mr. Cope! To the family, please accept our deepest sympathies in your loss. Thank you for sharing him with us for so many years.

Nancy Shelnutt - November 24, 2014 at 03:25 PM

DB

I graduated from RCHS in 1966. I had Mr. Cope for English and Spanish. I appreciate now what an excellent teacher he was considering what he had to work with.

Dr. Wendell S. Broadwell - November 24, 2014 at 08:06 PM