



## Vicki Shaw Cook

March 1, 1949 - December 18, 2020

The Honorable Vicki Shaw Cook, beloved wife, devoted mother and grandmother, and faithful public servant, succumbed to illness on the morning of December 18, 2020. Born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to Thomas Wilton “T.W.” Shaw and Verda Emogene Shaw, Vicki will be lovingly remembered and missed by her husband of 51 years, Ken; two children and their spouses Drew and Callie, Kate and Tom; her granddaughter Maggie; siblings Anthony Shaw and Sydney Tregembo; many nieces and nephews; friends and her beloved courthouse extended family.

As a curious, intelligent young woman, Vicki excelled in most everything she committed herself to from cheerleading and scholastic activities in High School. Vicki attended the Oklahoma State University, where she made several life-long friends that she remained in touch with for the rest of her life. A fluent and enthusiastic student of French, she studied abroad at McGill University in Montreal. Most significant, during her time at OSU she met her husband and soulmate Dr. Kenneth Cook. They were married on June 21, 1969 in Albuquerque. That marriage lasted 51 years—the rest of her life. Best friends, they never stopped taking an interest in one-another and enjoyed each-other’s company until the end.

Vicki and Ken moved to Hot Springs, Arkansas in 1973 when Ken got a job with the newly founded Garland County Community College. They came to love both the people of the town and the surrounding Ouachita landscape. Their two children, Andrew Shaw Cook and Kate Cook, were born soon after.

After teaching kindergarten and English as a Second Language for a few years, Vicki decided she could help children even more with a law degree. When Drew and Kate were 5 and 3 years old respectively she began law school at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, commuting at night. While she was in class and forever after, Ken assumed responsibility cooking and cleaning and picking up the kids from after school activities. This spirit of teamwork and shared responsibility was an essential element of their successful marriage. They loved one-another very much, and each wanted the best for the other.

Throughout her life, Vicki wanted to help the unfortunate, the unseen, and the downtrodden however she could, and her values fueled her professional interests. As an attorney in private practice, she was recognized for her willingness to provide pro bono representation to people in need. She served as a juvenile public defender, helping young people who could not afford legal services.

A trailblazer, Vicki was first appointed and then elected multiple terms to the position of judge for the Eighteenth Circuit East in Garland County. She was the first woman judge in county history. On the bench, she presided over family and juvenile law cases, where she was able to help countless children and families in need. Vicki spent the rest of her professional life in this position, presiding from 1992 to 2015.

Vicki was a confirmed Episcopalian and was a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church for over forty years. She was active in church life, and it was through St. Luke's that Vicki became involved in the Hot Springs Music Festival, ultimately serving on the board. In retirement, Vicki served several organizations, including Planned Parenthood, The Ouachita Children's Center, and the Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Garland County.

Vicki welcomed Kate's and Drew's spouses—Tom Donohue and Callie Smith, respectively—with open arms and took enormous pleasure in doting on Kate's and Tom's daughter, Maggie. Vicki loved being a grandmother, just as she loved being a mother. She cared deeply for people and found joy in the joy of

others. She enjoyed travel, entertaining, art, music and most of all the company of her many friends.

Given the current pandemic conditions, the family will wait until next year to hold an appropriate celebration of her life. Instead of flowers, gifts, or other remembrances, the family asks that mourners donate to CASA, the SPSF of Garland Country, or St. Luke's ministry to the poor.

# Tribute Wall

LL

“ As a contract therapist for DCFS, I testified in her court countless times. There is no one that I have respected more than Judge Cook. Rest in peace Your Honor.

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**Lee Lowder** - May 15, 2022 at 04:22 PM

SA

“ I moved to Albuquerque in 1954 when I was five years old and lived a few houses down from Vicki. We were the same age and frequently played together, along with others in the neighborhood. Her brother Tony always threatened to cut off my braids whenever I was at their house. I moved away from the neighborhood a couple of years later but Vicki and I stayed friendly through the rest of grade school and junior high, when my family moved out of state. I attended Highland High School's 25th reunion to see some old friends and had a very pleasant visit with Vicki. Through her early years, Vicki was so personable, had a ready friendly smile, was a popular cheerleader, and was a born leader. I am not surprised to read what an amazing, fulfilling life she led. God bless her and her family.

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**Sherry Anderson** - January 04, 2021 at 07:09 PM

AF

“ My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. I am so grateful that Vicki was able to attend our 50th HHS reunion. I had a very nice visit with her then.

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**Adriana Foris** - January 04, 2021 at 12:55 PM

CF

“ Ken and Family, Like others I find writing this incredibly difficult and I do so with a heavy heart and tears in my eyes. Working with Vicki over the past 15 years has been so meaningful for me. We started the restorative justice program at juvenile court together, we worried over children through CASA and OCC. We had great plans for 2021 and I don't know how I can replace my working pal.....I just can't. Thank you for letting me capture her for many lunch dates (leaving you behind). I will miss hearing of Maggie's great adventures growing up. Vicki loved her children with a passion and you, Ken, mightily! What a meaningful life!! I look forward to a time we can share some moments together. {And maybe you'll introduce me to Sandy Freeland....she could be a relative of ours!) Thank you Family Cook for sharing this remarkable woman with so many of us. Carol Freeland, Hot Springs Village

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**Carol Freeland** - December 31, 2020 at 05:57 PM

KP

“ My dearest Vicki. I think back on so many of our escapades and one jumps out at me.

*It was Thanksgiving and we were delivering food baskets to families and one was in the projects. We searched for a long time trying to find the address with no luck. So we went to the police station, you walked in and introduced yourself and the officer said. "We know who you are judge." So we told them we could not find the address and they offered us an escort to the projects and were able to deliver the Thanksgiving baskets.*

*Remembering so many committees and local projects especially the Single Parent Program. What an honorable program it is and it is because of you that it enjoyed such success and continues to serve those seeking higher education.*

*Many church activities, your grand Christmas parties and other social gatherings all bring wonderful heartfelt memories.*

*I miss you so very much my dear friend. You have left a wonderful legacy.*

*Love, Karen Peterson*

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**Karen L Peterson** - December 29, 2020 at 01:23 PM

PP

“ I worked with Judge Cook for a number of years when I worked for the Division of Children and Family Services. She was a great judge and a great person. Many children and families of Arkansas benefited from her wisdom and dedication to the well-being of children.

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**Pat Page** - December 28, 2020 at 08:00 PM

KH

“ This is the third time that we've tried to share a memory of Judge. It's so very hard to write the words. She was a bright ray of sunshine for so many. She was color, light, and energy. We are both very, very honored to have worked for her. We will always treasure the hundreds of memories over our fifteen years in her courtroom. We can see her walking down the San Antonio Riverwalk, setting up for the annual Christmas tea, and sharing little yellow rubber ducks with our children on special occasions. Lord, that girl made us laugh. Judge, will will forever hold you in our hearts.

Kevin and Annette Hoffman - December 26, 2020 at 04:42 PM

JG

“ We was in Vicki's court room with our grandkids we got them Vicki is a great lady and Judge who cared about people she will be greatly missed prayers for her family and friends



Jimmy & Karen Gregory - December 24, 2020 at 04:51 PM

NM

“ As an adult and child Psychiatrist I often stood in Judge Vicki Cooks Court on one case or another. I made it no secret that I believe she was the best juvenile court judge I ever worked with in jobs I've held in Los Angeles, Chicago and Minneapolis. She made a huge difference in Garland county in the lives of children and families. She was beloved by her courthouse family and her other friends. I always found her to be warm and delightful. I extend heartfelt condolences to her husband and family and know the community of Hot Springs grieves as I do.



Nancy L. Hornstein, M.D. - December 24, 2020 at 01:30 PM

SS

“ *The world is a harsher place today than it was just a few days ago for a great champion of the young and downtrodden has passed. But my memories are not of Vicky the Judge, the fighter, or the champion, but of Vicki the 2nd mother for the first 14 years of my life. Vicky (and Ken for that matter) were so different from my parents. They were cool: musicians, poets, and lovers of art and nature. My memories and the lessons learned from Vicky are vast. Years of discussions on our beliefs about ghost, of what a great couple Christy Brinkley and Billy Joel make, of which acne prevention pad was better, of which shoes are "groovy", on issues like how we should treat the girls we date and how important it is to treat others with dignity, have expanded not only my knowledge but my character. I have missed Vicky for years and will continue to do so.*

*I am so sorry for you Drew, Kate, and Ken. It's hard to lose the ones we love the most. I will light a candle for Vicki and will keep you all in my prayers.*

*Shane*

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**Shane Staton** - December 23, 2020 at 07:30 PM

VS

“ *Dear Cook Family,  
I am so sorry for the loss of your lovely Vicki - soul mate, mother, dotting grandmother. It is a loss for the whole community. Kate, I was going to request a reprinting of the tribute you wrote a few years ago - but after reading the great obituary - I felt that I had seen your handiwork. Love to you all.*

*Virginia Staton*

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**virginia staton** - December 23, 2020 at 06:51 PM

JG

“ I got to know Judge Cook through the Arkansas Judicial Council and because we both heard Juvenile Division cases. I was always impressed with her compassion for the children and families who appeared in her Court. She was also very innovative in establishing programs and procedures which were child focused and kid friendly. She definitely had a positive impact upon so many people’s lives and the development of Juvenile Division of Circuit Court in Arkansas. May God bless and comfort her entire family during this difficult time.

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**Judge David Goodson** - December 23, 2020 at 09:27 AM

TM

“ Sending love and condolences to Dr. Cook and family and all who love Judge Vicki Cook. Have always admired you all and am so sad to hear this news. Take care.

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**Tippi McCullough** - December 22, 2020 at 06:16 PM

JB

“ What a loss for the Arkansas legal community. Judge Cook was compassionate and wise. May she rest in peace. Condolences to the family.

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**Jessie W Burchfield** - December 21, 2020 at 04:29 PM

JB

“ The loss of Judge Vicki Cook is a huge loss for Hot Springs. I cannot say enough nice things about her. So many children and people were helped that crossed her path. She changed my life and my son’s life. I owe her everything. God rest her Soul and May her family find Peace in knowing we will see her once again. God Bless.

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**jeff burfeind** - December 21, 2020 at 02:25 PM

SF

“ Dear Ken, As a resident of Hot Springs from 1971 thru May of 1981, I knew and was amazed by Vicki. Thru Ouachita Children's Center volunteer work I taught court-appointed parents she sent. In the volunteer work at the Jr. High, I used her rules and suggestions for breaking up fights between classes. Her rules were taken to the Tulsa area by me and continued to used in another Youth Services program as well. What a blessing she was to your community and to me personally. Thanks Ken for sharing and supporting her brilliance with all of us who knew her work and loved her. May God continue to bless and comfort you and your family as you grieve and ultimately receive God's peace that passes all understanding.

Sandy Freeland - December 21, 2020 at 02:02 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Vicki Shaw Cook.



December 21, 2020 at 01:25 PM

SN

“ Susan & Ken Nix



Susan & Ken Nix - December 21, 2020 at 12:52 PM

DE

“ Ken, Drew, and Kate, I was so sorry to learn of Vicki's passing. Even though many years have gone by, I remember your sweet Vicki and your family fondly. Vicki, Ron, George, and I working together at Bill Green's law offices will forever be a turning point in my life. Your family welcomed me and my daughter Jamie into your lives and home, even taking me with you to Oklahome for a family Thanksgiving. Vicki and I shared many laughs as well as serious advice both personally and legally. She shared her love and caring spirit with everyone. An angel to many, now an angel forever.

*Debbie Lovelace Eichinger*

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**Debbie Eichinger** - December 21, 2020 at 10:50 AM

MN

“ *Melanie Powell Njah lit a candle in memory of Vicki Shaw Cook*



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**Melanie Powell Njah** - December 21, 2020 at 10:14 AM

JF

“ To Vicki's family. I got to know Vicki when we both started night law school in Little Rock. Now, you have to be special to work a full time job during the day, raise a family and then go to school at night, every night. Some would say "special" is not the correct word, but "crazy" would be more accurate. I think "dedicated" is more appropriate, and making the nightly drive from Hot Springs, every night for almost four years made Vicki very dedicated. I loved being in her classes along with her fellow Hot Springs natives, Ron Naramore and Michael Crawford. They could all be so entertaining!! I was enriched being in Vicki's presence. She rubbed off on you. She was passionate and could argue with her law professors and fellow classmates with the best of them. She was, of course, usually right. She will be missed by many.

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**Jim Franks** - December 21, 2020 at 10:12 AM

JC

“ To Dr. Cook, Drew & Kate,

*Deirdre, Levell, I and Curtis are so sadden by the passing of Judge Cook. Words cannot express the sorrow we feel. Judge Cook was an advocate for the kids and certainly a friend to the Hot Springs School District. For a while we lived in the same neighborhood where your kids got to know my kids. Please know that our prayers and thoughts will be with you and your family. Love, The Littleton and Craft's Family*

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**Joyce Craft** - December 21, 2020 at 09:41 AM

JW

“ It is difficult to find the words to describe my feelings of losing this lovely lady. To say she had a great influence on my life is an understatement! I worked with her through my work at DCFS. She married my husband and I twice! Lol She was the one who adopted our oldest son to us! How could we ever thank her for all of these special memories!! I truly hope that there will be able to be some kind of memorial at some point as I would be honored to be able to come pay my respects!! Peace be with you all during this time!!

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**Julie Williams** - December 21, 2020 at 08:16 AM

CJ

“ Carol Johnson lit a candle in memory of Vicki Shaw Cook



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**Carol Johnson** - December 21, 2020 at 08:11 AM

JT

“ She was amazing women rip my friend

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**Jennifer terry** - December 21, 2020 at 02:18 AM

GW

“ Judge Cook gave me first probation officer job. She was the nicest boss ever. My condolences to the family. From Greg Walker

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**Greg Speedy Walker** - December 21, 2020 at 12:51 AM

KB

“ It was heartbreaking to hear of Vicki’s death. I first met her when we worked in the same office building in the mid 1980’s. She was an amazing person who cared about everyone and was quick to help wherever there was a need. I saw her and Ken a few months ago when I took my father to the doctor and we talked hard and fast to catch up. Garland County is a better place because of the work of Vicki and I am a better person for having known her. Ken, Drew, and Kate, you are in my thoughts and prayers. May peace surround you.  
Kerry Bratton

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**Kerry Bratton** - December 21, 2020 at 12:02 AM

LW

“ The news of Judge Cook’s passing saddens my heart. She will never be forgotten and will forever be appreciated.

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**LaDonna Watkins** - December 20, 2020 at 11:24 PM

CW

“ Kate, Drew, and Dr. Cook, I was stunned to hear the news of your mom/Vicki’s passing this past week. Praying for comfort for all of you. Cyndi (Daniel) Weatherford and family

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**Cyndi (Daniel) Weatherford** - December 20, 2020 at 09:30 PM

MC

“ She will be missed i had time when I had to go in front of her she was a great Judge to the family keep your heads up n keep God first all the time

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**Miss Lomer Conway** - December 20, 2020 at 08:54 PM

DT

“ She was so uniquely respectful of the young people she served - when in court she generally addressed them first. For so many youth she was one of the few major authority figures that ever showed them true respect .She presided in court as a fair and wise advocate for thousands of young people. To fellow colleagues she was genuinely kind and ready to assist. The honorable Judge Vicki Cook will forever be one of the most respected and loving leaders in our community,will miss you !!

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**Donna Taylor** - December 20, 2020 at 08:50 PM

TA

“ Prayers for professor cook and family. Vicki was a great person. I might not have understood her reasons for doing the things she did but she did it with the best interest of of all involved. She will be missed

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**Tammie** - December 20, 2020 at 08:37 PM

JS

“ Vicki Cook was missed when she retired from the bench and I pray for peace for her family. She truly helped my family in our time of need 23 years ago while we were grieving and I never forgot. RIP Mrs. Cook

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**Joyce Shelor** - December 20, 2020 at 07:34 PM

NB

“ You played such a huge role in my life. Thank you for loving me, and giving me a chance to have a future. You would be proud. May you Rest In Peace. You were a true angel here on earth.

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**Natasha Bennett** - December 20, 2020 at 05:30 PM

LH

*I am so touched by all these comments and am so sorry for the loss of this great lady! My heart goes out to family and friends. I knew Vicki as a teen in Albuquerque. She was fun, personable, gifted and talented. Supporting and cheering for the school was her passion. Along with eventually being a great wife and mom, I can see even later in life that making the world a better place for family and children was her calling! A junior high school story..... Mr. Dale, French teacher, so enjoyed and loved Vicki working on her French pronunciations orally and giving it her all! I also watched Vicki skateboarding in those early days when the boards were really wood and roller skates! Vicki.....may you rest in eternal peace and please keep cheering for all of us!!*

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**Liz "Cecelia" McPherson Howard** - January 08, 2021 at 08:08 PM