



Jeffrey Howard Cole

February 18, 1949 - April 29, 2024

Jeffrey Howard Cole of Fairview, NC, passed away on Monday, April 29, at Mission Hospital in Asheville with his wife by his side.

Jeff was born in Champaign, IL on February 18, 1949, the first child of Richard (Dick) Glenn Cole and Ida LaRue (Maurer) Cole. He was preceded in death by his parents, his younger brother Judson Cole, and his younger sister, Jennifer (Cole) Buerkett.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Nancy Ann (Shaw) Cole, niece Karlee Buerkett (Paul Panno), nephew Trevor (Gennifer) Cole, and four ornery cats whom he adored.

Jeff graduated from Champaign Senior High School and Eastern Illinois University with a major in Marketing and a minor in Art History. During college, he worked summers at Kraft Foods in Champaign where he met his wife-to-be. Following college, he entered the banking industry where his focus was on consumer compliance. He and his wife spent over 35 years living and working in Chicago. Upon retirement, they moved to the Asheville, NC area.

Jeff enjoyed playing basketball in a senior league at the YMCA, attending concerts, serving as the Executive Director of Food for Fairview, a local food pantry, and a good glass of wine with dinner. In 2019, he and his wife purchased and renovated an older building in Fairview that now houses Re.Imagine Gallery & Studios, a fine arts and crafts venue. Jeff made friends easily and his fun-loving personality endeared him to many.

Per his wishes, a cremation has occurred, but a Celebration of Life ceremony will be announced later. Memorial contributions in Jeff's name may be made to Food for Fairview online at <https://www.foodforfairview.org/donations/> or by mail to Food for Fairview, PO Box 2077, Fairview, NC 28730.

Tribute Wall

SF

“ Dear Nan, my deepest condolences for the loss of Jeff. Our family lived next door to Ida and kids in Champaign on Bellamy Dr. We were the Sucic brood—Stef, Steve, Jeff, Jay, Scot and Jon. As you can imagine pretty crazy...back then! Jeff and I are FB buddies—so many memories! Peace and love to you. Stefani Sucic Fisher



Stefani Sucic Fisher - June 24, 2024 at 10:56 AM

KD

“ Dear Nancy,
I am so saddened and sorry to hear about the loss of Jeff. I enjoyed working with him on the Food for Fairview Board. He was always so happy and energetic about his projects and service to the pantry! He was a great help to and an important part of Food for Fairview. He will be missed. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.
Kathy Drake

Kathy Drake - May 05, 2024 at 12:12 PM

NC

Thank you for your kind comments, Kathy.

Nancy Cole - May 23, 2024 at 08:29 PM

BA

“ Man
We are so sorry and will miss Jeff dearly. He was great part of the pantry and all the volunteers and clients will miss his kindness, humor and service to the community. Please let us know about any memorial and if there is anything we can do for you.

Board and Violunteers of Food for Fairview

Bart Austin - May 03, 2024 at 04:26 PM

LB

“ Dear Nan,
We are so sorry to hear this. Jeff had a heart of gold and was a wonderful man to all that have met him. You are in our prayers.
Fondly,
Louise and Bruce

Louise Bijesse - May 01, 2024 at 08:52 PM

DP

“ I am so sorry Nan. I'm in shock as you are. You are so in my thoughts and prayers for peace and comfort. He was a sweet friend. I know how much you will miss him as well as Sissy, Theo, Willie & little man Rusty! 💕💕💕 your friend Debbie

Debbie Piercy - May 01, 2024 at 07:37 PM

PC

“ Pam And Robert Combs lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Howard Cole



Pam and Robert Combs - May 01, 2024 at 06:55 PM

PC

Nancy, Robert and I are saddened by the news of Jeff's passing. Love, hugs and prayers for you. Jeff was a great guy and you two made a dynamic duo. 🙏🙏🙏🙏❤️

Pam and Robert Combs - May 01, 2024 at 06:57 PM

TC

“ Trevor and Gennifer Cole purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Jeffrey Howard Cole.



Trevor and Gennifer Cole - May 01, 2024 at 06:06 PM

TC

“ Trevor and Gennifer Cole planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey Howard Cole.

Trevor and Gennifer Cole - May 01, 2024 at 06:06 PM

DB

“Perhaps they are not stars, but rather openings in heaven where the love of our lost ones pours through and shines down upon us to let us know they are happy.”
Eskimo Proverb

Don Bevirt - May 01, 2024 at 05:14 PM



“ 3 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Highlands Cremation and Funeral Care - May 01, 2024 at 04:00 PM