



## Mary Pat Zeman Cooper

July 27, 1955 - January 8, 2026

Mary Pat Zeman Cooper, 70, of Salisbury, NC passed away Thursday, January 8, 2025 at her residence.

Born July 27, 1955 in Mecklenburg County, NC she was the daughter of the late Joseph Francis Zeman and Mary Thelma Killian.

Mrs. Cooper was a graduate of Charlotte Catholic High School, class of 1973.

She earned an associates degree from Mercy School of Nursing and a bachelor's degree from Winston-Salem State University in 1999. She worked as a nurse with the VA Medical Center until her retirement in 2011. She coached girls basketball at Sacred Heart Catholic School from 1992-2001.

Mary was a breast cancer survivor. She enjoyed traveling to Oak Island and collecting seashells, working in the garden, and loved her Shetland sheep dog, Willow.

Mary is preceded in death by her husband, Steven Douglas Cooper and brother, Joseph Zeman.

Left to cherish her memory are daughters Carmen Agner (her husband Matt and their children Charlie and Michael); Stephanie Eagle (her husband Brandon and their children Shaughnessy and Alma); Mallory Grimes (her husband Jerry and their children Garrett and Skylar); sisters, Margaret Adams (Scott), Theresa Hege; sister in law, Tina Zeman; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends from 5-7 PM Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at Summersett Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to the Humane Society of Rowan County, PO 295, Salisbury NC 28145 and Habitat for Humanity, 1707 S. Main St., Salisbury, NC 28146.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Cooper family. Online condolences may be made at [www.summersettfuneralhome.com](http://www.summersettfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

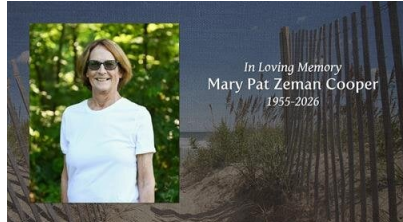
JAN 13. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Summersett Funeral Home  
1315 W. Innes St.  
Salisbury, NC 28144  
(704) 633-2111  
<https://www.summersettfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Summersett Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Pat Zeman Cooper*



Summersett Funeral Home and Cremation Center - January 15 at 02:14 PM

GV

“ *Met Mary and worked with her at VA, There was one baby girl, then two, then three, What a wonderful role model and family, Prayers and memories to these lovely daughters. Gwyn Culp*

Gwyn V - January 17 at 09:45 AM

LR

“ *Sending my deepest condolences to Mary's daughters and family. She was a loving and kind RN who cared deeply for her Veterans. Mary has an infectious smile and nursing staff enjoyed her friendship and love for others. May her beautiful legacy and precious memories live on with her family forever! Peace and comfort to you in the coming days.*

*Love and Prayers,  
Landrea Rhyne, RN*

LANDREA RHYNE - January 13 at 05:03 PM

CB

“ My heart is broken for you daughters and families. Such a painful loss. You will all be heavily in my prayers as you learn to navigate your new normal. You mom was a dear, and I know the hole left by her passing will take quite a while to fill.

*Connie wingertbaker*

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**Connie Baker** - January 13 at 04:00 PM

MJ

“ So sorry for the loss of your mom. Please know that our hearts and prayers are with you. Jeff and Marie Jacobs.

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**Marie Jacobs** - January 12 at 01:48 PM

JB

“ So sorry to hear that. Mary Pat and the Zeman family were always such a part of our lives growing up in Dilworth. Sending blessings to all of the family on the loss of beautiful Mary Pat.

*Joe Baucom*

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**Joe Baucom** - January 12 at 07:36 AM

“ *The Nurse’s Prayer*

*Grant me hands that heal,  
steady in the fiercest storm,  
gentle enough to cradle a frightened child,  
yet strong enough to hold life itself in balance.*

*Grant me eyes that see beyond the pain —  
not just the wounds or the numbers on a chart,  
but the silent battles fought beneath the surface,  
the fears no one speaks aloud,  
the hope flickering in tired, searching souls.*

*Grant me a heart that never tires,  
though it breaks a thousand times a day,  
that beats with relentless, unwavering hope  
when the night stretches longer than the dawn.*

*Give me courage to stand firm  
when doubt and despair threaten to swallow me whole,  
to be the steady voice when chaos screams,  
the calm in the eye of every storm.*

*Bless me with the grace to hold hands  
that tremble in fear,  
to offer comfort when words fail,  
to be the shelter for the broken,  
and the strength for the weary.*

*Let me be a beacon in the darkness,  
a quiet refuge in the raging tempest,  
a voice for those forgotten,  
a presence for those who feel unseen.*

*When exhaustion sinks deep into my bones,  
and the weight of a thousand sorrows presses on my soul,*

*remind me of why I came to this calling —  
not for praise or recognition,  
but to carry the broken,  
to heal the invisible wounds,  
to be love when love feels impossible.*

*May I find patience in moments of chaos,  
wisdom in the silence between heartbeats,  
and humility in the face of life's fragility.*

*When my shift finally ends,  
and I lay down my weary hands,  
may I rest in the knowledge that I was more than a nurse —  
I was a keeper of hope,  
a bearer of mercy,  
a witness to miracles,  
and a guardian of souls.*

*And if, in the quiet hours beyond this life,  
I am called to stand again,  
may I answer with the same fierce heart,  
ready to serve, to save, to love.*

*Amen.*

*Friends from Mercy School of Nursing*

*Cathy Massotti Wrege*

*Melinda Waggoner Bryant*

*Sherri Holshouser Wolfe*

*Bonnie Rusher Tinsley*

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**Bonnie Tinsley** - January 11 at 07:49 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mary Pat Zeman Cooper.*



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January 10 at 10:01 PM



“ *Love, Mad, Mo, Red, Fed and Ginger purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Mary Pat Zeman Cooper.*



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**Love, Mad, Mo, Red, Fed and Ginger** - January 10 at 05:15 PM



“ *What a Loving wonderful person. Heaven has certainly gained one of the best. I worked with Mary for a number of years at the VA. I had the most respect for Mary and truly Loved working with her. She will truly be missed!*

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**Lyn Dickerson** - January 09 at 07:45 PM

CC

“ Oh, no. This is beyond heartbreaking.  
I worked with Mary for years in MSCU at Salisbury VA.  
I miss those days...  
One sweet memory is every year around Christmas, she would bring the three girls to sell Christmas paper. I always looked forward to that as they were beautiful papers and the girls were such sweet children.  
My heart goes out to her family. 🙏  
Carol Currier.

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**carol currier** - January 09 at 05:38 PM

PZ

“ Mary Pat.....so many memories of our childhood. Playing and sleep overs at Aunt Winnie's house. Even though you were only a year older than I, I always looked up to you. Now you've gone Home..... Prayers for all the family, prayers for God's comfort and peace...

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**Paul Zeman** - January 09 at 04:55 PM

DM

“ We are going to miss you so very much Sister Mary Pat. I have wonderful memories of our travels and shenanigans. Enjoy your wings! Much love Diane Murphy.

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**Diane L Murphy** - January 09 at 02:03 PM