

February, 27, 2008

Houston County Courier

JOHN RICHARD COOK M.D.

Dr. John Richard Cook M.D., age 93, passed away peacefully at his home in Temple, Texas on December 4, 2007.

Dr. Cook was born in Chase County, Kansas on December 19, 1914 to J. Wilkins and Elinor Martin Cook. Dr. Cook grew up in Stockton and Long Beach, California and graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in Long Beach. He attended college at U.S.C., majoring in Business and Accounting.

Dr. Cook was married to Almalie Becker while in California. She died in childbirth when his daughter Sharon was born. Dr. Cook later married Mary Dmytrick. Dr. Cook came to Texas with his brother Carl to open a family business, Cook Heat Treating, in Houston. While in Texas, he became interested in ranching and raised Angus cattle on his ranch near Normangee. Dr. Cook had always dreamed of being a Medical Doctor, so he enrolled in the University of Houston to do his Pre-Med and was accepted at U.T.M.B. in Galveston to complete his education. After his internship in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he entered Private Practice in Trinity, Texas at Trinity Memorial Hospital and Trinity Clinic, with his partner Dr. Sam Barnes. Dr. Cook loved small town life and served two terms as Mayor. Dr. Cook was involved in the Trinity River Authority during the building of Lake Livingston. Dr. Cook was a member of the Tri-County Medical Association, Theta Kappa Psi Medical Fraternity, the Lions Club and the Texas Angus Association. Dr. Cook was a Christian and a member of the Methodist Church, but enjoyed attending all Bible based churches.

After his retirement from Medicine in 1984, Dr. Cook moved to Pagosa Springs, Colorado and married the love of his life, Jane Fuller LaRue. They shared the hobbies he loved; fishing, golfing and hunting, cross-country skiing, traveling and entertaining their many friends. Health issues later caused them to move back to Texas.

Survivors include his wife Jane, of Temple; daughter Sharon Dunlap, of Trinity; sons David LaRue and wife Debbie, of Dhahran, Saudia Arabia, Gary LaRue and wife Laurel, of Lovelady, Tommy LaRue and wife Jennie, of Galveston and Steven LaRue and wife Lori, of Glenn Heights; grandchildren Michelle Roberts and husband Stacy, Jill Lindley, Brad LaRue and wife Jennifer, Lacy Slinkard, Trey Slinkard, Laura LaRue, Lindsey LaRue, Cameron LaRue, Trevor LaRue and Gabriella LaRue; great-grandchildren Billy Andrews and wife Kim, Josh Thornton and wife Christy, Glenn Stark, Emily Roberts, Nicole Roberts and Dillon LaRue; great-great grandchildren Rilyn Andrews and Jordyn Andrews; brothers and sisters in law Clarite and Roland Neer, Robert and Cecilia Fuller, Charles and Marcelyn Fuller, Shannon and Donna Fuller; and many loving nieces and nephews and a host of loyal friends.

Preceded in death by his parents; three brothers Ed, Carl and Clifford Cook; former wives Almalie B. Cook and Mary D. Cook; grandson Shannon LaRue; and sister-in-law Beth Fuller Weekley.

Following cremation, a Memorial Service will be held at the Lovelady First Baptist