



## Cole Cooper Bergen

January 9, 1989 - July 30, 2016

Cole J. Cooper Bergen, 27, passed away Saturday, July 30, 2016, in Sabetha, KS due to injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Rosary will be 7:00 p.m., Thursday, August 4, 2016, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sutton, NE. Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:00 a.m., Friday, August 5, 2016, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sutton with Father Robert Barnhill officiating. Interment will follow at the Saronville United Methodist Cemetery near Saronville, NE. Visitation will be Thursday from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., with the family present from 2 p.m. -4 p.m., at Sutton Memorial Chapel in Sutton, NE.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the family to be designated for a scholarship in Cole's name.

Cole J. Cooper Bergen was born January 9, 1989, at Hastings, NE to Jack and Sherri (Hultman) Bergen.

He graduated from Southern Valley High School, Oxford, NE in 2007, SCC Milford, September 2009 with a degree in building construction, and UNL, May 2014 with a degree in Ag Education.

Cole joined the Navy just out of high school and was a construction mechanic

2nd class (CM2 SCW). He served his country during Operation Enduring Freedom/New Dawn as a machine gunner for his convoy commander vehicle. He received the Navy Marine Corps achievement medal for actions in combat while in Afghanistan with NMCB 15. He served as safety supervisor for convoy security element and was a member of NMCB 22, 15, 17 and ACB1.

From a young age, Cole enjoyed wood construction projects and put his talents to use as a part of the LAW Construction Crew. He began his teaching career this past year at Sabetha Public Schools, Sabetha, KS. He had a strong love for the kids and embraced the community that welcomed him as one of their own.

He was a member of the Orleans Lions Club and was active in 4-H growing up.

He is survived by his mother, Sherri Bergen of Orleans, NE; brother, Clint Bergen and wife Michelle of Lincoln, NE; brother, Chance Bergen and wife Lesley of Beatrice, NE; sisters, Cheyenne Bergen of Omaha, NE; Cierra Bergen of Hampton, NE; nephews and nieces, Atticus; Persephone; Thaddeus; Ophelia; Cash and Chapel; grandmothers, Joan Hultman of Sutton, NE; and Jean Lubeck of Alma, NE; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, special friend and mentor, Steve Winscot; and his furred companions George and Mabel.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jack Bergen; grandparents, Lyle Hultman; Virginia and Ike Bergen; and Ralph Lubeck.

He was an amazing son, brother to many, and beloved uncle. He had a servant's heart and was very loyal. He served our country, served the young students he taught at Sabetha, and most importantly he always served his family and friends. His smile and laugh were infectious and he impacted

everyone he met. His motto was measure twice and cut once unless it's trim. You were lucky if you had Cole on your side. There would be no one who would love greater, fight harder, or be more passionate than Cole. He truly was one of a kind.

Cole was a quiet servant and an old soul.

# Tribute Wall

SA

“ *Karla and family..I am so sorry to hear that your Mom passed away..she will be missed by many. May the Lord wrap His loving comforting arms around you all. Sincere condolences (hugs)*

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**Sue Akset** - August 22, 2020 at 12:39 PM

MS

“ *Cole,  
I'm winding up another punch for you, you best be damned if you think I won't give you it in Heaven. Rest easy my friend and build up the Armory in Heaven.*

*With Respect*

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**Michael Stubbs** - August 09, 2016 at 07:39 PM

LE

“ *I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your son! I can't imagine a grief greater than losing a child! You are in my heart.*

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**Lori Strasheim Eckhardt** - August 07, 2016 at 06:18 PM

ST

“ *Sherry Joan & all Iwas saddened to read of Cole' death. I can not put myself in your place. Your peace & comfort comes from our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ's love & grace. Cole is safe in the arms of Jesus & is at peace. You have a great store of memories--call on them often as they are a great comfort. God's blessings to each of you & your family. You are all in my prayers. Sandy*

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**Sandy Rauscher Thill** - August 06, 2016 at 05:28 AM

LS

“ Sheri, Joan and family. I'm sorry sorry for you loss. It is a very hard road to travel when you lose a child. It is the most devastating experience possible. Most people don't understand... and I would never want them to..The love of family and friends will help you. Cole is safe and with God. Better days will come..... I think god DOES give us more than we can handle because he wants us to lean on him when we are in need. It's hard to do sometimes because we have a part of our children still in us. We just want them back and it is a constant heart ache. I keep thinking: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight~ Proverbs 3.... god bless. you are in my thoughts. Laurie.

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**Laurie Sheridan** - August 05, 2016 at 07:38 AM

KT

“ I first met Cole in Mississippi during pre-deployment training where he made quite an impression on our family, not only with his million dollar smile, but his personality, also. That was the beginning of a very special friendship between Cole and my daughter, Madison. During deployment I would be facetimeing my husband, and she would be facetimeing Cole. It was funny to listen to their stories to see if they matched, and also to get Coles perspective compared to Chiefs perspective. We sent him care packages full of Kit Kats, and he would toss the toys we sent to the little Afghan kids. He was very special to everyone who knew him and will truly be missed. We are thankful for his service to our country, for protecting the guys in CSE, and for being a wonderful person with a huge heart. You all will remain in our thoughts and prayers and Cole will remain in our hearts forever.

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**Kari Torchia** - August 04, 2016 at 06:51 PM

RT

“ I was completely devastated to hear the news about Cole, I haven't broke down and cried that hard in a long time. This has been a very tough week! To Cole my brother in-arms, anyone who truly knew you, loved you, and I'm so glad that I had the chance to serve our country together. You will be missed but never forgotten and we will see you again one day. To Coles family; my prayers are with you through this difficult time. I'm extremely sorry for your loss. When Cole joined the Navy you all became part of our Navy family and if there's anything we can do for you just say the word and we will be there.

Retired Chief John Torchia - August 04, 2016 at 03:53 PM

LB

“ It is heart breaking to hear this news. Cole is the type of person and Seabee that you are always excited to serve with and a tremendous addition to any team. His actions directly ensured the safe return of his CSE brothers. My deepest condolences.

LT John Bellamy - August 04, 2016 at 12:14 PM

BM

“ I cannot imagine the grief you all are feeling, Cole was an outstanding young man who was liked by all in our unit. Prayers are being sent for Cole the family, may he rest in peace.

BUC(SCW/FMF) Brian Mixan - August 04, 2016 at 09:53 AM

SH

“ My deepest sympathy to Cole and his family and friends. He was an amazing young man to be around. His smile was infectious. He will be missed by many. Again, my prayers go out to each and everyone of you.

Stacey Harrifeld - August 04, 2016 at 07:41 AM

ST

“ Sheri, My heart was deeply saddened by the loss of your son. He was a young leader that many of the other Junior troops looked up to. He had a light hearted, Jovial attitude that kept things from getting to serious when things got stressful. He will be missed among his Seabee Brothers.

SW1 Jerry Tomasek - August 04, 2016 at 07:31 AM

IN

“ My prayers go out to family and friends of Cole. He was such a great person who always had a smile on his face and easily welcomed you with open arms. May he rest in piece with our lord.

Isaac Naughtin - August 04, 2016 at 07:11 AM

BM

“ Cole was an outstanding young man, wise beyond his years, he represented what is great with America, his loss is an absolute shame. God Bless his family and friends, may he rest in peace, and know that he will not be forgotten.

BUC(SCW/FMF) Brian Mixan - August 04, 2016 at 06:10 AM

LP

“ Mrs. Bergen, We are so very sorry for your loss! Cole was a teacher's at our daughter's school and she looked up to him very much. He was a wonderful young man and he will be truly missed in Sabetha.

Linda Polson - August 04, 2016 at 06:08 AM

ED

“ Very sorry for your loss will be praying for your family.

EN2 Christopher Dettmer - August 04, 2016 at 05:23 AM

EA

“ It is with deep sadness that I write this message to you and your family I made your son a couple of times at my sons house he was a great man should be proud of him and he's accomplishments I think for the friendship he had with my son my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family

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**Estela m aldana** - August 04, 2016 at 02:57 AM

JU

“ Fair winds and following seas.

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**Jason Lax CE1 USN(RET)** - August 03, 2016 at 07:17 PM

EB

“ I am sure I speak for all the Sailors of NR OSU DET 1362, and any Sailor Cole ever met when I express our sorrow at this sad moment....Cole will truly be missed, by one and all.

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**ETCS (EXW) John D. Baum** - August 03, 2016 at 06:03 PM

LF

“ My compassion is with you as you start this next chapter in your life. It's one that no parent wants to start and so I say with heavy heart my thoughts are with you as this mourning begins.

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**Linda Ferguson** - August 03, 2016 at 06:02 PM

MM

“ Unfortunately I only knew Cole briefly but it was powerful. He was a wonderful friend who helped me the grieving process of my father back in May. He was the kind of guy who would literally give the shirt off of his back. I am incredibly saddened by his passing and my thoughts and prayers have been going out for his family and friends. Sheri, I cannot begin to imagine your pain and sense of loss but please know that to those lucky enough to cross paths with him, he has left a lasting impression on our hearts. He is and will always be greatly missed!

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**Meghan McQuillen** - August 03, 2016 at 05:34 PM

JP

“ I am very sorry for your loss. You are being prayed for.

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**Jerald Eldon Palmquist** - August 03, 2016 at 03:45 PM

CG

“ I only know of you through Krisi Traffas but just want to say how sorry I am to hear of your loss. I know this is the hardest thing you will have to go through in your entire life.

God bless your family

c.g.

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**Connie Gordon** - August 03, 2016 at 03:17 PM

HB

“ I was speechless when I saw this news. I went to school with Cole at Southern Valley. We were in Alg and geometry together as we shared so many laughs and helped each other with homework. He smile always brightened the room and could always make you laugh and help you when you're down. He was an amazing friend to have. I pray for all his family and friends that you all find peace. Remember and cherish all the moments you had. He will be missed.

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**Heather Bachman** - August 03, 2016 at 03:07 PM

BL

“ Sheri, although I don't know you and your family; I met Cole this past March on a military Annual Training exercise. Cole and I immediately became very close friends within the 2 weeks we spent every day together. You had an awesome son, and he will always hold a special place in my heart. My thoughts and prayers are with y'all during this difficult time.

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**Brittney Lee** - August 03, 2016 at 01:46 PM

MF

“ Sheri, My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Cherish the memories!!!

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**Michael Finley** - August 03, 2016 at 11:54 AM