



Vernon Lee (Fat Cat) Cope

June 6, 1949 - May 24, 2025

Vernon Lee (Fat Cat) Cope, age 75, of London, Kentucky passed away on Saturday, May 24, 2025.

He leaves behind his loving wife, Shirley Wathen Cope; nine children, Vernon Cope Jr. & wife Kim of Bright, IN; Kimberly Cope of Ohio; Samuel Cope & wife Melissa of Ohio, Jamie Johnson of London, KY, Michael Wayne Cope of London, KY, Ashley Cope & Keisha of London, KY, Chris Griffith & wife Tessa of Tennessee, Shirley Marie Neal of Silver Grove, Kentucky; Vernon Emler of London, KY; eighteen grandchildren; twenty-three great grandchildren; two fur grandchildren that he loved dearly; plus a host of other family and friends to cherish his memory.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Warren Gee & Helen Buttry Cope; two siblings, Jackie Sue Brown Cope, Peggy Bottoms; and by his great granddaughter, Macii Rose Gahan.

Vernon was a devoted family man and skilled craftsman. A self-employed carpenter by trade, Vernon poured his heart and hands into building homes, leaving behind a legacy of sturdy walls and warm memories for all who had the joy of living in them.

He had a deep love for the open road and spent many joyful hours riding his motorcycle, finding freedom and peace in the wind. When he wasn't working or riding, you could find him enjoying his favorite westerns—especially those starring his favorite actor, "The Duke" himself, John Wayne.

Vernon cherished his family and extended family above all. He was a steady and loving presence not only to those related by blood but also to many others who came to see him as a father figure and mentor. Throughout his life, countless children grew to love and admire him for his kindness, wisdom, and quiet strength. His ready smile brought comfort and laughter to every gathering.

He was a man of integrity, hard work, and heart—a true original. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

The family would like to give special thanks to a loving friend, Teresa Bingham, that helped them throughout their journey.

A funeral service for Vernon Lee (Fat Cat) Cope will be held on Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in the chapel of House-Rawlings Funeral Home with Jake Cope officiating. Interment will follow at the Elijah Campbell Cemetery in Manchester, Kentucky. The family will receive friends on Wednesday, May 28, 2025 beginning at 6:00 p.m. also at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests donations be made to the funeral home to help with funeral expenses. Donations may be made in person, by mail, by phone or through the following link:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=SC9W3VKVJYS82

The family has entrusted House-Rawlings Funeral Home with the arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 28. 6:00 PM (ET)

House-Rawlings Funeral Home
510 East 4th Street
London, KY 40741
(606) 864-2158
info@houserawlings.com
<https://houserawlings.com>

Funeral Service

MAY 29. 1:00 PM (ET)

House-Rawlings Funeral Home
510 East 4th Street
London, KY 40741
(606) 864-2158
info@houserawlings.com
<https://houserawlings.com>

Tribute Wall



“ 95 files added to the album LifeTributes



House-Rawlings Funeral Home - May 27, 2025 at 01:24 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Vernon Lee (Fat Cat) Cope.



May 27, 2025 at 12:30 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Vernon Lee (Fat Cat) Cope.

May 26, 2025 at 10:53 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Vernon Lee (Fat Cat) Cope.



May 26, 2025 at 10:53 AM

BA

“ *Venom was a dad to me. Especially when I needed one. But always the most biggest smile warmest hugs and most love ever. That man was all heart. I've missed you for years. Now I know I'll see you again. I'll forever be grateful for getting to know Vernon and accepted into their family as their own, their lil red headed step child. Love you Shirley. Prayers are with your whole family.*

Bethany Alt - May 26, 2025 at 10:17 AM

TR

“ *Well, your journey has come to an end for you, my friend. The times we have sit an talked an laugh. your life here on this earth people will not forget. For you will be forever thought of often, I do think of you often, last night I talk to Jamie an asked how you were doing, you made everyone feel at ease when they were around you. You never left anyone out of the visit at your house you made them feel at home. People liked that about you, your heart was a good man's heart a man who care about others an thought of them an help all that you could, The friends liked you a lot, I liked you a lot an love to talk to you, an eat at you table with Shirley doing the cooking, we spent lots of Thanksgiving's together an other dinners, Veron you will be missed by all who knew you, R,I,P. MY FRIEND, Your Friend Treena,*

TREENA - May 25, 2025 at 12:33 AM

TR

“ *TREENA lit a candle in memory of Vernon Lee (Fat Cat) Cope*



TREENA - May 25, 2025 at 12:12 AM

ET

I remember him when I was young he hung around my dad a lot William cope he was a good person tried to talk to him on Facebook he probably don't remember me I was young though sorry for family and prayers for all

Edna Troxtell - May 27, 2025 at 07:09 PM