

Jon A. Cooke, CPA, civic leader in Westfield

Oct. 10, 1941—Aug. 25, 2011

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Jon A. Cooke, a retired certified public accountant and prominent civic leader in Westfield, Chautauqua County, died Monday in Ann Arbor, Mich., of kidney cancer. He was 69.

Born and raised in Alden, he was a 1963 graduate of Washington & Lee University, Lexington, Va. While a resident of Grand Island, Mr. Cooke first worked for M&T Bank before founding his own stock brokerage firm, Manley & Cooke. After that firm dissolved in 1972, he became a broker for Shearson Hayden Stone in Niagara Falls.

Mr. Cooke earned his MBA in accounting from Canisius College in 1982. In 1985, after working as an auditor for Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. for several years, he became manager of a branch of the accounting firm of Gould & Swanson in Westfield. In 1991, he started his own accounting practice and became a leader in the business community until his retirement in November 2010.

He served on the boards of the Westfield YMCA, Westfield Memorial Hospital, Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation, the Westfield Republican Committee and the Westfield Development Corp. Mr. Cooke also was a member of Shorewood Country Club, the Jamestown Rotary Club of Westfield-Mayville and the Grand Island Beer Drinkers and Poker Players Association.

He was a natural musician who played piano and organ by ear. He also played the drums, guitar and French horn.

He is survived by two daughters, Aprille McKay and Kirsten Currie; two brothers, Jeff and Jim; a sister, Julie; and former wives, Melody Randall and Bonnie Cooke.

A memorial service will be Sept. 17 in Westfield.