



Fire Apparatus Engineer Danny Cook

November 19, 1980 – December 31, 2025

Fire Apparatus Engineer Danny Cook was a devoted husband, father, son, loving papa, brother, and uncle whose life was defined by service to his family, his friends, and his community. Known for his generous heart and unwavering commitment to helping others, Danny leaves behind a legacy of compassion, dedication, and laughter.

Danny was born on November 19, 1980, in Orange County, California, where he spent his early childhood years. At the age of five, his family briefly relocated to Alabama before returning to Southern California, which would remain home for most of his childhood and adult life.

From an early age, Danny embraced an active lifestyle and developed a deep love for the outdoors, particularly mountain biking. At just 16 years old, he completed an ambitious ride from Rosarito, Mexico to Ensenada, Mexico, a testament to his determination, adventurous spirit, and love of physical challenge that would stay with him throughout his life.

Danny began his fire service career with CAL FIRE in 2006 as a seasonal firefighter in San Diego, where he served until 2008. Driven to further his skills in emergency medicine, he later moved to Indiana to pursue his paramedic license. In 2014, Danny returned to Southern California and rejoined CAL FIRE, continuing his career in the Riverside Unit as a Firefighter II/Paramedic, where he continued to serve with pride and professionalism.

Beyond the uniform, Danny's greatest pride and joy was his family. He was deeply dedicated to his wife, Joanne, and their six children: Christian (24), Jason (22), Kawika (22), Karen (19), Shane (11), and Erin (9). A truly hands-on father, Danny was involved in every aspect of his children's lives, from school events and sports to everyday play, always jumping at the chance for snuggles, laughter, and love. Family was the center of Danny's world. He was a constant provider and giver, going above and beyond to ensure those he loved were cared for and supported. This devotion was also reflected in the close and loving relationship he maintained with his parents, a true testament to his character and the values he carried throughout his life.

Danny will also be remembered for the simple joys that defined him; his love of coffee and energy drinks, his quick wit, and his ability to light up any room with his stories and humor. His warmth, dedication, and selflessness left a lasting impact on all who knew him.

Danny's life was one of purpose, service, and connection. His impact will continue to be felt by all who had the privilege of knowing and serving alongside him.