



James R. Collins

March 25, 1953 - October 8, 2022

James R. Collins, 69, of Evansville, passed away on Saturday, October 8, 2022 at Deaconess Hospital Midtown Campus.

Jim was born on March 25, 1953 in Evansville to the late William and Ruth (Rose) Collins. He was a 1972 graduate of North High School. As a young teenager, Jim began working odd jobs to earn enough money to buy his first car, a 1965 Mustang Fastback 2+2. He earned enough money to purchase the car before turning 16 and getting his driver's license. Jim worked as a fleet mechanic and retired from the Evansville Courier Company after over 25 years of service. He also worked as a fleet mechanic for Meisler Trucking. Jim enjoyed life and had many interests. He enjoyed camping, spending time at his river camp; he loved boating on the Ohio River, deer hunting (both gun and bow), competing in spot shoots, attending gun shows, participating in Native American dancing and even working as a disc jockey at weddings and Native American dances. Jim was also a member of the CYA at St. Agnes Church. In recent years, he didn't miss a morning eating breakfast at Denny's.

Surviving Jim are his wife of 39 years, Debbie (Helfrich) Collins; a son and his wife, Chris and Denise Collins; sister, Sharon "Buffy" (Carl) Horstman; brother, Joseph (Kathy) Collins; a grandson, Allen James Collins and step grandchildren, Drew, Jace and Rylee.

There will be a Mass of Christian Burial held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, October 13, 2022 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Vanderburgh County, Rev. Eugene Schroeder officiating. Burial will follow in the St. Joseph Church Cemetery.

Friends may visit with the family from 3:00 until 7:00 PM on Wednesday at Pierre Funeral Home, 2601 W. Franklin Street and from 10:00 AM until service time on Thursday at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 6202 W. St. Joseph Road.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Catholic Church in Vanderburgh County.

Condolences may be made online at www.pierrefuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Church Cemetery

6202 W. St. Joseph Road
Evansville, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **12.** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home
2601 West Franklin Street
Evansville, IN 47712
(812) 423-6471
info@pierrefuneralhome.com
<https://www.pierrefuneralhome.com>

Visitation

OCT **13.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church (County)
6202 W. St. Joseph Road
Evansville, IN

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT **13**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church (County)
6202 W. St. Joseph Road
Evansville, IN

Tribute Wall



“ Pierre Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James R. Collins



Pierre Funeral Home - October 11, 2022 at 12:35 PM



“ James R. Collins

January 16, 2023 at 06:53 PM



“ Buffy, I'm sorry we didn't make it to the viewing. You have our heartfelt condolences - we understand the feelings. Hugs

Annie and Brian Hudson - October 13, 2022 at 11:24 AM



“ Debbie, My condolences and prayers are with you and your family.

Eternal rest grant unto Jim, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful

departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. ~Amen~



Cathy (Weiss) Funkhouser - October 12, 2022 at 08:46 PM

BO

“ Jim was an interesting fellow! Loved working on mechanical things. Really loved the spot shoots. He took me hunting when I first came back from the Air Force. He took me up to Patoka where I bagged a deer with bow on my first time out. He helped me get my ski boat. He really loved being down at the Ohio. My last memories of him were at a party in Grandma Dee Dees front yard. He visited longer than normal...(but not too long!)

Bob - October 12, 2022 at 12:29 PM

LA

“ I met Jim when I worked briefly for Hocker Power Brake. He was a tall lanky lad who knew how to fix automobiles, trucks, etc. His wife Debbie and my wife knew each other from Bristol-Meyers-Squibb. Our thoughts, prayers and condolences go out to his family and many friends. Vaya con Dios, mi amigo! PAX TECUM, Jim!
Leonard" Larry and Carolyn R. Adams

Leonard R Adams - October 11, 2022 at 04:32 PM

JW

“ Debbie & Chris - so sorry for your loss. I will say prayers for your strength during this difficult time.

Joyce Wilzbacher - October 11, 2022 at 04:20 PM

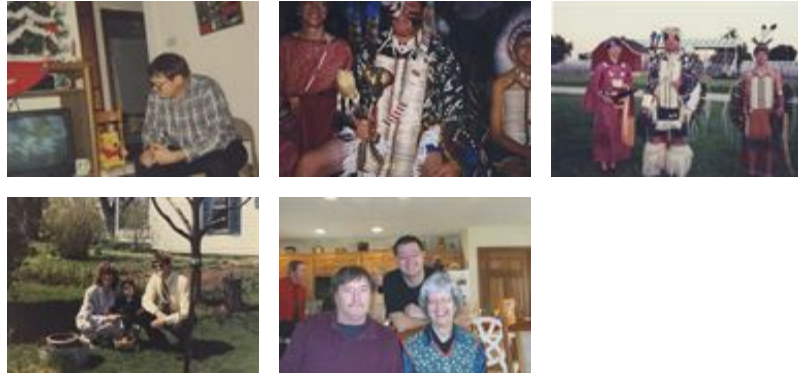
MB

“ Jim worked for us at Walts Drive Away very good guy sorry for your loss

Mike Baize - October 11, 2022 at 04:09 PM



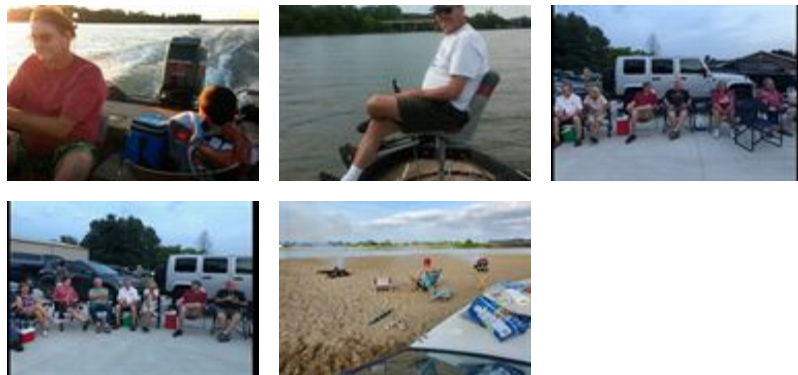
“ 108 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Pierre Funeral Home - October 11, 2022 at 02:42 PM



“ 38 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Pierre Funeral Home - October 11, 2022 at 12:32 PM



“ *I was shocked and saddened to hear of Jim's passing. He has been a fixture in my family's life since I was born and I never saw him in a bad mood. He was always joking and laughing and brought positive energy to the room. He was a dear friend to my father since they were children and will be deeply missed by myself and my family.*

Laura Sprague (French) - October 11, 2022 at 09:24 AM

CJ

“ *Debbie, Chris and family.
My condolences on the sudden passing of Jim. May God bring you
peace, strength and comfort during this sorrowful time. Thoughts
and prayers in the days ahead.*

Cindy L Jarrett - October 11, 2022 at 01:14 AM

CC

“ *Debbie, Bob and I both are very sorry to hear of Jim's passing. You
and the family are in our prayers.*

Bob and Cathy Carter

Cathy Carter - October 10, 2022 at 07:41 PM

SH

“ *I first met Jim in the Summer of 1972 we worked together at Modern
Tire, New Kro Oil GoodYear and then Hocker Brake. Over the next
50 Years we we enjoyed CYO at St Agnes many Bierstubes
evenings at Funky's and The Villiage Saloon. I will remember the
many Camping and Canoe Trips we attend.
I will miss Jim and his many Tales of shenanigans we endured in
our Youth.
RIP Buddy*

Sam Hosick - October 10, 2022 at 03:27 PM



“ 18 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pierre Funeral Home - October 10, 2022 at 03:15 PM

MH

“ Jimmy shared his mechanical wisdom as a car magician when the Chevy dealership couldn't! His classic memory of people, places and events kept his Posse in stitches. This kind Man will leave me with a different kind of sadness.

mike holl - October 10, 2022 at 02:45 PM

DD

“ Jim was a very good friend. I don't know that anything better can be said about a person. I can't share any memories because there are so many I can't sort them out. He was what my dad would call "good people". He will be missed, greatly. Goodbye, Collins. It was a pleasure knowing you. Say "Hey" to Dr. Dave and Hewig for me!

Dusty Derigo - October 10, 2022 at 02:36 PM

NH

“ Our deepest condolences to you all.

Nancy Horstman - October 10, 2022 at 12:34 PM

RM

“ *Debbie, I am so sorry for your loss! Prayers for your family! Becky and Ed Maier*

Rebecca Maier - October 10, 2022 at 12:11 PM