



## Herbert Warren Collins

September 27, 1921 - February 7, 2021

Click link below to access live stream at time of service.

<https://www.oneroomstreaming.com/view/authorise.php?k=1613181288100606>

Dr. Herbert Warren Collins, age 99, of Elizabethton, TN passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, February 7, 2021. He was born in Kingsport, TN to Pryor and Bettie Collins.

He graduated from Dobyns-Bennett High School in 1940. He enlisted in the Army Air Force in 1942. During World War II, he served 14 months with the Air Force weather service in a Canadian Arctic outpost. While there he was gifted with a dog from Harry Gibbons which began his dog team. He was also stationed on the Portuguese islands of the Azores before he was honorably discharged in November of 1945.

After his military career, he attended the University of Tennessee in Memphis where he met Hilda May. He received a Medical Degree in 1950. Herb and Hilda were married in June of 1951. He briefly served as a doctor for a coal mining community in London, KY. In 1955 he moved to Orlando, Florida and he began his private family practice. He enjoyed caring for his patients for over 30 years.

After he retired, he returned to East Tennessee and especially enjoyed getting into mischief with his two brothers. He continued to actively participate in many medical societies. He liked raising horses and ponies, collecting buggies, propagating plants and building wagons and barns with his family. He was also an inventor holding patents for his creations. He enjoyed going to auctions and stockyards. His lifelong passion for learning and his endearing ability to find teachable moments with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren remains his greatest achievement.

In addition to his parents preceding him in death were his sister, Mary Edell Hawley and his two brothers: Jack Collins and Robert "Bob" Collins.

He is survived by his wife, Hilda May Collins of Elizabethton, TN; their seven children and spouses: Deborah Gardner (Jim), Twinkle Urbanski (Gary), Kim Collins (Pam), Monica

Lalane (Bob), Teresa Pearce (Randy), Melanie; Herb Collins (Vanessa); their 21 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren. In addition, he touched the lives of many nieces and nephews throughout his life.

He will be remembered with love.

Funeral services are being held at  
Tetrick Funeral Home  
211 N. Riverside Drive  
Elizabethton, TN 37643  
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 2:00 pm

Internment at  
Happy Valley Memorial Park  
2708 Elizabethton Hwy  
Johnson City, TN 37601

In lieu of flowers please consider the following:

Orlando Health Foundation  
American Cancer Society  
Isaiah117 House

Our staff is committed to taking care of our guests and families that we serve. Please understand we will be following the State's COVID guidelines. We also ask all guests and family members attending visitations and services to please bring and wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Online condolences may be shared with the family on our website,  
[www.tetrickfuneralhome.com](http://www.tetrickfuneralhome.com) Tetrick Funeral Home, Elizabethton is honored to serve the Collins family. Office 423-542-2232, service information line, 423-543-4917.

# Cemetery

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## Happy Valley Memorial Park

2708 Elizabethton Hwy.  
Johnson City, TN, 37601

# Events

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**FEB 16** **Celebration of Life** 02:00PM

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Tetrick Funeral Home  
211 North Riverside Drive, Elizabethton, TN, US,  
37643

**FEB 16** **Committal Service & Interment** 03:15PM

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Happy Valley Memorial Park  
2708 Elizabethton Hwy, Johnson City, TN, US, 37601-  
7107

# Comments

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“ I never had the pleasure to meet Mr. Collins, but I've enjoyed the fruits of his kindness working with his granddaughter.

John T White Owls,  
Prayers are with you and your entire family  
Mr. Ernest Thomas

**Ernest Thomas** - February 24 at 02:48 PM

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“ My condolences to the family. I knew Dr. Collins at Orlando Health. He was always kind and a wonderful doctor. As a new nurse, I was treated with respect and he was a good teacher. His patients loved him. It was even a treat to share with him that I went to Boone with his daughter Twinkle. I came to find out that his office on Lucerne Terrace was in my childhood home!

**Diane Hubbard Lanford** - February 21 at 08:15 AM

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## “ "TUESDAY'S CHILD"

There are so many stories that I would like to share about our dad but I personally want to share this one.

Mom and Dad's first child was born 18 months before me in London, Kentucky, where Dad was a young, handsome doctor in a small coal mining town. He has shared so many stories with us about how he would drive his horse and buggy up into the mountains to help sick people and to deliver babies. Yes, he was a true country doctor, and my sister and I were "Coal Miners' Doctor's Daughters".

My sister was born on a Monday. "Monday's child is fair of face," and what a beauty she was. Now, I was born on a Tuesday and, oh, how I wished that I would have been born on a Monday so that I would be pretty. All through my childhood I always wished for that to be true.

When I was born...

The young doctor, my dad, lived in the city and the doctor that was to deliver me lived in the country. Apparently I was a quick labor, and the doctor was not able to get to the hospital in time, so my dad had to deliver me. By the way, he chose my middle name, Star, after a famous horse. Perfect!

As I was looking at Dad's birthdate, I discovered he too was born on a Tuesday, just like me. I am now so proud to share this special day of the week with you, and coincidentally you were laid to rest on a Tuesday. You truly were a Tuesday's child.

## "TUESDAY'S CHILD IS FULL OF GRACE"

As I reflect and cherish all of the times that I got to spend with you over my lifetime, I would like to say...

You were with me in the BEGINNING of my life and I was honored to be with you at the

END of your life.

I will love and remember you all the DAYS of my life and will forever be GRATEFUL for TUESDAYS!

Love,  
Twinkle

Twinkle - February 20 at 12:28 PM

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“ Our condolences to all the family and friends of Dr. Collins... the joy he brought to you is quite evident in the slide shows. Although we met him briefly, he treated us as one of the family. Love the Swearingens.

Bruce and Alia Swearingen - February 19 at 07:21 PM

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“ I’m so sorry to hear about your dad. It seemed he lived a great and full life. I have so many great memories with him, Hilda and you seven kids, way to many to share, I think I was over your house as much as I was at home growing up. All the trips to Taft and Arcadia!!! You dad was a great man and always treated me like family. I know he will be greatly missed!



**June Karst Stienstra** - February 19 at 05:40 PM

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“ My family lived in Florida. I was much younger than my siblings, but I still was a patient of Dr. Collins. My only regret is that by the time I was his patient he had stopped making house calls with his pony and cart. I used to get so jealous when my siblings used to tell those stories. I had to arrive at his office in a boring car!! I was usually always sick when I had to see him but Dr Collins and his staff always made me feel better.

My father was his patient for many, many years and after Dr. Collins retired my father compared every Dr afterwards to Dr Collins. It was never in the other doctor's favor. My father had a very high standard and his respect wasn't easily obtained but Dr Collins had obtained it through his thoroughness and sense of responsibility to his patients. As I am writing this, I have become aware that he set a high precedent for other doctors for me as well. I have often heard myself say, "WELL, he isn't Dr Collins".

My family has missed him for many years with the best of memories and respect. My prayers is that Dr Collins' family will be comforted with the best of memories as well. What a gracious gift from God. May God comfort you and be with all of his family, friends and patients.

**Debbie Stockham Aderholt** - February 19 at 05:02 PM

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“ Dr Collins was a wonderful doctor and a caring man who treated my family and me for many years in Orlando. He took his time with each patient and explained everything in an easy-to-understand manner. He was greatly missed when he moved from central Florida. With heartfelt condolences, SL

**Susan Lucas** - February 19 at 04:37 PM

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“ My childhood having you as my grandpa meant there was never a dull moment. There was always work to do, kids running wild, and a field full of horses. You taught me the very best first life lesson, “you’re getting back on that horse”. I see now all these years later you prepared each and everyone of us to be strong, and to be brave enough to fight the hard points in life. Your life was not an easy one but one filled with adventure and absolutely, Strength. Thank you today and everyday for when life has thrown me some curves balls and I maybe didn’t know what to do, I certainly knew giving up was no option. I stood up and got back on the horse.

Boy oh boy I’ve got stories to tell but I will share one for a laugh. One summer I got lucky enough to be at Stoney creek farm and grandpa was building a new barn. Along with that huge job meant he had a construction lift on property and being the 10 year old I was that was an exciting looking piece of equipment. As we played in the pasture with the goats grandpa walked by and said, “do not get on this lift it goes up way high and is dangerous” well what do you know me and another cousin climbed up and began pushing all the buttons. Luckily grandpa was no where in sight so we thought we were clever.... the joke was on us because at the end of that high up in the sky ride ... the lift would not come down. We looked at each other and we knew we had to jump... and it had to be fast. No one wanted to be caught by grandpa after he told you not to do something. I still think to myself he must have been hiding somewhere laughing watching the whole event transpire. And that was the majority of my childhood fleeing the scene of a cousin plan gone wrong. But he let us be free he gave us adventure and allowed us to dream.

I am so thankful for the loving family you created for me. You inspired me and amazed me with your incredible mind. I pray I can give my kids just a quarter of the adventures you gave us, and if I do I will know they have lived a great life. Rest Easy until we meet again.

**Katie Collins-Gonzalez** - February 19 at 01:41 PM

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“ Dr. Collins was our family doctor in the 60s and early 70s. My family was from Kingsport, TN so there was a kindred spirit with Dr. Collins. In 1969, I was 11 years old and had a diving accident which broke my neck. Dr. Collins pulled together a team of doctors and saved my life. I got a few stuffed animals while I was in the hospital and I named one of them Dr. Collins With the medical care provided by Dr. Collins and his team and my family’s love and support, I am now 62 and have been a spinal cord injured quadriplegic for almost 52 years. I graduated from University of Central Florida and had a 36 year career as a civilian with the Navy. I will always remember Dr. Collins as a wonderful man and fantastic family doctor. My sincere sympathy to Dr. Collins’ family. Mary Munroe Orlando, FL.

**Mary Munroe** - February 19 at 01:13 PM

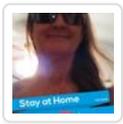
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Mary Munroe of Orlando, FL

Mary Munroe - February 19 at 11:48 AM

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“ Sorry to hear of his passing, but as a little girl my mother would take me to see him at his office in Orlando and I had a crush on him for many years and will always remember him and miss him. He was a great doctor.

Jeanie Campbell - February 19 at 10:04 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album Slideshows



Julie - February 18 at 07:06 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Slideshows



Julie - February 18 at 07:04 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Slideshows



Julie - February 18 at 07:01 PM

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“ Im so sorry I could not be there to celebrate Doc's life with you today. I learned so much about him getting to watch the funeral online. But in the short time I got to be with him and get to know him, one small memory plays out in my mind so much and makes me smile. One night we were watching a movie (a western of course) and in the movie a horse stuck his tongue out at the cowboy, and Doc laughed, and smiled at me. Then Doc proceeded to stick his tongue out which I returned the favor, and I got another smile from him. but to hear him laugh and see his smile, made realize it's the small things in life that we should cherish. I'll always remember this last year and a half of my life because of you and your wonderful family thank you. Rest easy Doc you deserve it.



Shana Brower - February 16 at 02:31 PM

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“ Paul And Klara Urbanski lit a candle in memory of Herbert Warren Collins



Paul and Klara Urbanski - February 16 at 10:09 AM

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“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Herbert Warren Collins.



February 15 at 08:47 PM

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“ Dear Collins Family,

I grieve with you for the loss of Uncle Herb. I observed some of those teaching moments such as "Don't spend your money on horse food. Buy fertilizer for the pasture." He had a way of seeing deep into causes and consequences and his gift and joy were in sharing that. I had the feeling he revealed only a fraction of his ideas. Yearly visits from "Debbie and Twinkle" were a high point of my summers when I was growing up. When I was ten, I was "traded" for Kim for a few weeks. On the long drive to Florida Uncle Herb would call out, "Is everybody happy?" to which the answer was a course of "Yeah, yeah" If anyone said "no", he would chant, "Well what can I do to make you happy?"

Uncle Herb liked making people happy. When I was three or four, I watched him unload a black pony, Bimbo Jr. from a trailer. Did he know how much my father wanted for his children to have a pony? Did he know that Dad had a change jar in hopes of fulfilling that dream, but the jar was stolen? Years later, I watched him unload my beautiful Windy. He and Aunt Hilda gave us a gorgeous Sheltie, Buddy. Uncle Herb could not sit still for long. When we'd visit him at the farm, he was usually in the garden or up on the barn roof. Once, when lived at Ashelawn, Herb spent his entire time building a bridge across the creek and irrigating the garden. He loved to try out new things.

Uncle Herb had a special relationship with Grandma May/ She spent several winters in Florida which she seemed to really enjoy. When he retired from his practice in Florida, he worked at a clinic in Tennessee. He stayed at Uncle Joe's on G Street during this time and Grandma really looked forward to feeding him and visiting with him.

When my dad was diagnosed with cancer, Uncle Herb and Aunt Hilda came every two weeks to give him a shot. He wanted to help and maybe it did because Dad lived much longer and much better than expected. Even though Dad had woken up from surgery with brain damage, Uncle Herb talked to him and walked with him in the garden. That was the greatest gift! Years later, he and Aunt Hilda brought shots to Mom and visited with her too.

I will always love Uncle Herb and will never forget him. I hope that happy memories will bring you peace. Be very proud!

Klyda Boone - February 15 at 01:10 AM

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“ Uncle Herb is truly a legend in his own time, even ahead of his time! He was always such a free, independent thinker, an idea man. He had lots of really cool, advanced ideas. We used to laugh and say that he “thought outside the box”. But honestly, sometimes I felt like his box wasn’t even in the same room! Concrete houses, mud and straw walls, Misting piping systems with grow lights for plants, and my favorite, the air conditioned pig farm in Ecuador with cold water piping running through the floor!

He would cock his head to the side and smile that infectious boyish smile and I could feel the enthusiasm spreading all over the room. And I would think, who knows, might work!

In the early days, it was Uncle Herb that convinced our parents to move to Florida and what a change that made in all our lives. He gave us a place to stay while our house was being built, back in 1958—can you imagine 8 kids under 12 scrambling around, playing in the rain, trying to feed, clean and get us all ready for school? Yikes! After we moved to Cocoa, Uncle Herb and Aunt Hilda’s continued to be the highlight and treats of our lives. We would go over there on weekends and play with our cousins in the lake and later, in the pool. There was always baked ham and Cokes!

Uncle Herb taught us all how to ride horses and I learned real quick about the laws of gravity! Long way down from the saddle to the ground! Uncle Herb shared his theories on water, health, nutrition—and I learned about the “gag reflex” from trying some of his “health” concoctions!

He had a very strong work ethic and set high standards for himself—and everyone else. He could work us into the ground, even though he was decades older. He encouraged me to go to college and have a career, certain that I would be successful, when most of my friends were not interested in higher education. He and Aunt Hilda offered me my first job, as well as a place to stay.

He “doctored” us all through the years and he instilled a lot of confidence in all of us, with that “Never give up!” attitude. I always admired how his sense of curiosity and how he repeatedly chose curiosity over fear. We all loved to hear his stories, especially about his time in Alaska during the winter when he was in the military! No wonder he chose warm Florida to live after that. But later in my life, when I broke my pelvis, it was his stories of having the same injury, in Alaska, that gave me courage and hope to recover.

So many other things to say “Thank You” for, to both Uncle Herb and Aunt Hilda. They were definitely an inspiration to me and to all of our family. We are all truly grateful and appreciative for their love, support and encouragement throughout the decades of our lives. We will miss you, Uncle Herb! You were a great Uncle!

Elaine Merritt and all the Merritt Family



“ Beyond any doubt, the most brilliant and the kindest man I ever knew. If you need a role model for living your life with gratitude and love for others you need look no further than Dr Herb Collins. Susan and I extend our most sincere condolences and appreciation for his life in service to others .

**Jim & Susan Boone** - February 14 at 10:59 AM

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“ Uncle Herb is truly a legend in his own time, even ahead of his time! He was always such a free, independent thinker, an idea man. He had lots of really cool, advanced ideas. We used to laugh and say that he “thought outside the box”. But honestly, sometimes I felt like his box wasn’t even in the same room! Concrete houses, mud and straw walls, Misting piping systems with grow lights for plants, and my favorite, the air conditioned pig farm in Ecuador with cold water piping running through the floor!

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Elaine Merritt and all the Merritt Family





“ The Collins have been my landlords for years. But most of my contact has been with Mr. Collins. He had a great sense of humor and always had some words of wisdom for me whether it be about moles in the yard, birds, roof design, or tomatoes. There didn't seem to be anything about which he didn't have a unique interesting perspective. I enjoyed every interaction with him. I will miss our talks. - Ted Leger

**Ted Leger** - February 16 at 12:33 PM