



Gary Ray Collins Sr.

April 16, 1955 - February 17, 2022

Gary Ray Collins, Sr., 66, of Hebron passed away peacefully on Thursday, February 17, 2022 at Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on April 16, 1955, in Salisbury, a son of the late George Merrill Collins, Sr. and Lillian Pearl (Shockley) Collins.

Many people may remember Gary for his boisterous laugh but to close friends and family they saw a heart of gold and a man who loved helping people. He also loved getting to know new people because for him, a stranger was just a friend he hadn't met yet. He graduated from Mardela High School in 74 and took a job as a meat cutter at Smith's IGA in Hebron where he would soon after marry his wife Phyllis. They would go on to drive school buses for Wicomico County Md. for the next 40 years together until he retired and spent as much time with his grandchildren as he could. He will be remembered as a wonderful husband, a loving father and grandfather.

He is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Phyllis L. Collins; children, Amy Collins, Ashley Smith, and Gary Ray Collins, Jr.; grandchildren, Kevin Ayers, Jr., Dylan Smith, Luke Smith, and Mila Smith; siblings, Zeke Collins, Sr., Cathy Helgeson (Neil), Cinda Allison (Gary), and Hiram Collins; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, George M. Collins, Jr., Betty J. Collins, Robert Collins, Mister Collins, Brenda Smart, Jerry Collins, and Alexander Collins.

A visitation for family and friends will be held at Short Funeral Home in Delmar on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm and on Thursday, February 24, 2022 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm. The funeral service will begin at 2:00 pm on Thursday. Interment will be held in Hebron Cemetery.

Arrangements are in the care of Short Funeral Home in Delmar. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.shortfh.com.

Cemetery Details

Hebron Cemetery

Hebron, MD

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **23**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Short Funeral Home
13 E Grove Street
Delmar, DE 19940
(302) 846-2525

Visitation

FEB **24**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Short Funeral Home
13 East Grove St.
Delmar, DE 19940

Funeral Service

FEB **24**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Short Funeral Home
13 East Grove St.
Delmar, DE 19940

Tribute Wall



“ *Short Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Gary Ray Collins Sr.*



Short Funeral Home - February 23, 2022 at 07:05 PM

GH

“ *Gina H lit a candle in memory of Gary Ray Collins Sr.*



Gina H - April 12, 2022 at 01:19 AM

EL

“ *I am so sorry to hear about Gary! What a wonderful guy and neighbor. Always smiling and willing to help you at a moments notice!!! Will miss seeing him on his red riding mower. Rest In Peace my friend!*

Elva Layfield - February 24, 2022 at 02:41 PM

DM

“ Gary was my classmate, graduating from Mardela High in 1974. He was always very pleasant, kind-hearted & had an unforgettable laugh. He always had a smile on his face. RIP My Classmate & Friend, Delphine E. Morris

Delphine E. Morris - February 24, 2022 at 09:53 AM

DM

“ Delphine E. Morris lit a candle in memory of Gary Ray Collins Sr.



Delphine E. Morris - February 24, 2022 at 09:41 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gary Ray Collins Sr..



February 24, 2022 at 07:16 AM

JO

“ Dear Collins Family, I was very sad to hear of the passing of Gary. Affectionately known as Mr. Gary, he transported all 4 of my children during their elementary, middle school and high school years. To say he was the best school bus driver ever would be an understatement! The gentle giant with the booming voice and never one to put up with nonsense on the bus. Sending my heartfelt sympathy to the entire family.

Joann Griffin

Joann - February 24, 2022 at 12:11 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary Ray Collins Sr..



February 23, 2022 at 03:49 PM



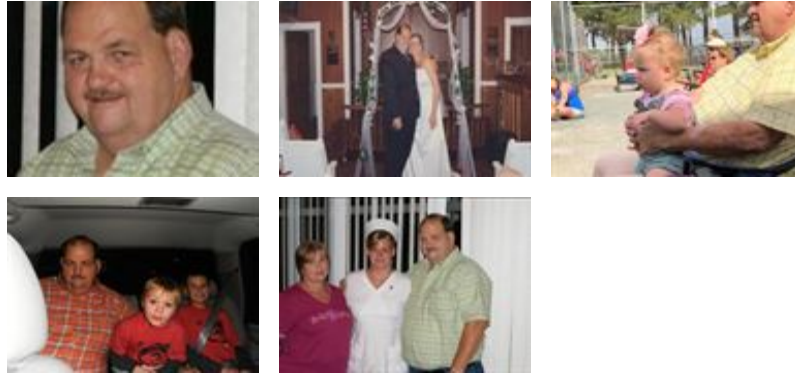
“ 37 files added to the album Life Tributes



Short Funeral Home - February 23, 2022 at 01:41 PM



“ 40 files added to the album LifeTributes



Short Funeral Home - February 23, 2022 at 11:32 AM

BH

“ Gary was great guy, hard worker and a true friend. May he rest in peace.

Burton Hatton - February 23, 2022 at 07:58 AM

TC

“ Phyllis and family, We are so sorry for your loss. Gary was such a good man and he will truly be missed. He always had a smile and some crazy comments that always made me laugh. Rest in Peace Gary.

With sympathy,
Terri Collins (Buddy) and Family

Terri Collins - February 23, 2022 at 06:51 AM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Gary Ray Collins Sr..*



February 23, 2022 at 06:48 AM



“ *Phyllis, kids and entire Collins Family,
We don't know what to say....we're stunned! I just pulled this up and saw Gary's picture. Death is without a doubt an enemy! Please know that he will be missed, kidded and joked many times in Smith's IGA. He was always with a smile on his face. You are all in our thoughts and prayers!
Sincerely,
Scott and Pat Lee*

Scott & Pat Lee - February 23, 2022 at 02:55 AM



“ *My deepest condolences to "Miss Phyllis," and "Mr Gary's" entire family. I first met Gary at the IGA in Hebron over 30 years. He was always a kind person, and had a nice word to say, and a smile on his face. He was the bus driver for two of my children, and they both adored Mr. Gary. Gary was the kind of person this world needs more of these days.
Rest in Paradise friend.*

Ruth Phillips - February 23, 2022 at 01:56 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Gary Ray Collins Sr..*



February 22, 2022 at 08:49 PM



“ *Gary was our bus driver for all my children with the oldest graduating from Mardela 1994 and the last 2008. Gary was always smiling and kind to each of them. As a mom, I was so comfortable and grateful and felt my children were always safe and protected. Gary came to my home with food trays when my mother passed away. I'll always have a special place in my heart for Gary! The Lewis Family*

Carol Lewis - February 22, 2022 at 07:14 PM



“ *Pam Crockett lit a candle in memory of Gary Ray Collins Sr.*



pam crockett - February 22, 2022 at 05:19 PM