



## Charles LeClair Collins

November 24, 1940 - June 2, 2020

Charles LeClair Collins, son of George and Emma (Brown) Collins, was born November 24, 1940 in Pulaski County, Missouri. He went home to be with the Lord Tuesday evening, June 2, 2020 in his home after a hard-fought battle with congestive heart failure at the age of 79.

Charlie grew up in Waynesville, Missouri. He began working from a young age shining shoes at Ft. Leonard Wood and bagging groceries at Dodd's Market. He graduated from Waynesville High School. He loved growing up in the 50's, hot rodding and having fun.

At nineteen, he was working at the Greyhound Bus Station when he met Violet Anderson who was traveling to and from Springfield, where she lived and worked. They married soon after and started their family right away, having their son Terry first, then their daughter Shelly, four years later. They had a millionaire's family, but it was often a struggle to make ends meet.

Charlie began working at the Waynesville Post Office in 1967, while he continued working at the bus station. He worked both jobs for 10 years. He retired from the Post Office after 30 years of service. He was regarded as a fun character and loved by the community. He was a long-time member of the Waynesville Masonic Lodge #375 AF & AM and wore his ring proudly.

Charlie's life with his family was full of simple joys; time on the river or lake, taking care of their home, family gatherings, and road trips that made life complete. He loved riding horses and had many special pets, especially his Dachshunds.

After retirement he and Violet moved to Springfield, Missouri. He enjoyed life in the bigger city. They enjoyed RVing and fishing in Branson. This was the time of their lives. Charlie was heartbroken when he lost Violet in 2011 to Alzheimer's after more than 50 very special years of marriage. He was a loving and courageous husband who cared for her in their home until the end.

Charlie unexpectedly found love again with Kay Thompson, who had been a visitor with Hospice, a retired R.N. who brought light back into his life. They spent seven wonderful years of marriage together. They enjoyed each other's company by laughing, loving one another, simply spending their time together. Kay provided a loving and peaceful setting for Charlie to depart this life.

Charlie will be sadly missed by all those that knew and loved him. He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife: Kay of Springfield, MO; his son: Terry Collins (Carol) of Waynesville, MO; his daughter: Charlene "Shelly" Cherner (Gary) of Cumming, GA; Kay's girls: Erin Elizabeth of Bluffton, OH, Melanie of Round Rock, TX and Chrissta of Round Rock, TX; four grandchildren: Kyle Collins (Allison) of Tuscon, AZ, Trevor Collins (Sarah) of Lee's Summit, MO, Philip Cherner of Cumming, GA and Audrey Cherner of Cumming, GA; two great grandchildren: Kayden and Lyric Collins; two sisters: Jean Alto-Irwin of Clermont, FL and Joyce Tonroy of Columbia, SC; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Charles was preceded in death by his father, George L. Collins (1970), his mother, Emma Collins (2001), two brothers: Virgil Collins (1984) and Ronald Collins (2009), and one sister, Georgia McIntosh (1991).

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, June 7, 2020 in the Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert. Private burial will be in the Waynesville Memorial Park Cemetery of Waynesville. There will also be a live stream of the funeral service available at the start of service time through our Facebook page, Memorial Chapels & Crematory.

Visitation will be held from 12:00 p.m. until time of service at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, June 7, 2020 in the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Charles L. Collins to the Waynesville R-VI Alumni Association and may be left at Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert.

# Cemetery Details

## Waynesville Memorial Park

Waynesville, MO 65583

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 7. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville/St. Robert  
202 Historic 66 W.  
Waynesville, MO 65583  
(573) 774-6111  
memorialchapels@embarqmail.com

## Service

JUN 7. 1:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville/St. Robert  
202 Historic 66 W.  
Waynesville, MO 65583  
(573) 774-6111  
memorialchapels@embarqmail.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Charles LeClair Collins*



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**Memorial Chapels and Crematory** - June 08, 2020 at 02:50 PM



“ *Charles LeClair Collins*

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January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *I loved Charlie and Violet. What a great couple! We are losing some giants in our community.  
I send my love to my friends.  
Luge Hardman*

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**LugeHardman** - June 07, 2020 at 01:24 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*

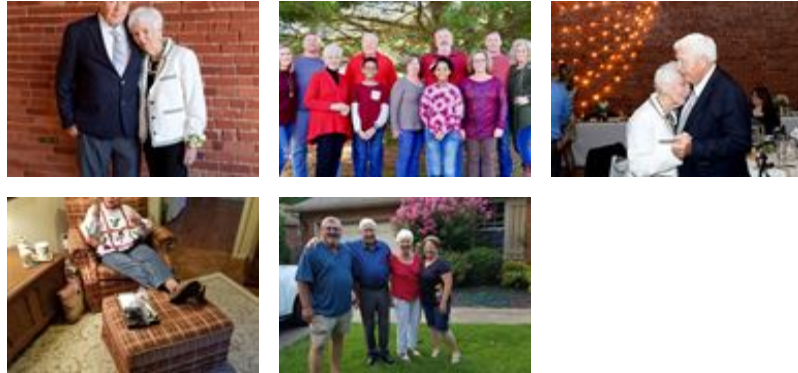


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**Harry Morgan** - June 06, 2020 at 05:47 PM



“ 81 files added to the album Life Tributes



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - June 06, 2020 at 12:31 PM

BA

*All of you are in my thoughts and prayers - how I long to Be there to share in person My loss and grief. . The comfort we have in knowing he is in Heaven gives me peace. Love to all from Jean Alto-Irwin.*

Barbara Jean Alto-Irwin - June 07, 2020 at 01:32 PM

JM

“ Jennifer Joyce McIntosh lit a candle in memory of Charles LeClair Collins



Jennifer Joyce McIntosh - June 05, 2020 at 07:31 PM

RO

“ Many years ago Linda and I moved to Waynesville and moved into a small house on Dwyer St. Soon after moving in we met Charlie and Violet who became great neighbors. Charlie was always available to help us and others in the neighborhood and we enjoyed their company. Great people: great neighbors.

Roger And Linda Olney - June 05, 2020 at 05:58 PM

RO

“ Roger And Linda Olney lit a candle in memory of Charles LeClair Collins



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**Roger And Linda Olney** - June 05, 2020 at 05:54 PM

DR

“ Isaiah 40:31 - *But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*



*Terry, Carol and Family*

*Please know your family is in my thoughts and prayers. I was sad to hear of your Father passing Terry. I am certain he will continue to watch over you all.*

*Deb (Williamson) Roberts Waynesville, Mo.*

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**Debbie J Roberts** - June 05, 2020 at 05:07 PM

MA

“ Marilyn Anderson lit a candle in memory of Charles LeClair Collins



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**Marilyn Anderson** - June 05, 2020 at 05:01 PM

HB

“ *Harold&Brigitte Burleson lit a candle in memory of Charles LeClair Collins*



Harold&Brigitte Burleson - June 05, 2020 at 11:43 AM

PG

“ *Pulaski County Camp Gideons lit a candle in memory of Charles LeClair Collins*



Pulaski County Camp Gideons - June 05, 2020 at 11:40 AM

MS

“ *To the family of Charlie Collins, so sorry to hear the sad news of Charlie's passing. My condolences and prayers are sent to the family. May the Good Lord wrap his arms around all the family and give you comfort during these difficult times. Charlie was a good man, worked hard, and had a good sense of humor. Love to all.*



Marge Scott - June 05, 2020 at 10:53 AM

LC

“ *Linda Cole-schonbok sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles LeClair Collins*



linda cole-schonbok - June 05, 2020 at 07:08 AM

MJ

“ Sending deepest condolences to all of Charlie's family. He will certainly be missed. Wish I could be there for the service, but family circumstances and obligations just won't permit my attendance. Holding you all in my prayers. Michael James and Mama Faye James

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**Michael James** - June 05, 2020 at 01:08 AM

SM

“ Sending Love and my Prayers to my cousins Shelly Cherner and Terry Collins, and families. In Memory of my Uncle Charles Collins, have and cherish many childhood memories. Sarah K. McIntosh

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**Sarah K McIntosh** - June 04, 2020 at 11:10 PM

SC

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Shelly Cherner** - June 04, 2020 at 10:00 PM

MS

*I remember this gathering as it was just yesterday. I enjoying visiting with the crowd of people that showed up to wish them a "Happy 50th Anniversary". The refreshmints were awesome. Farewell dear friends.*

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**Marge Scott** - June 05, 2020 at 10:42 AM

SW

“ *Suzanne Wauthier lit a candle in memory of Charles LeClair Collins*



Suzanne Wauthier - June 04, 2020 at 08:17 PM

DA

“ *Debbe Adkins lit a candle in memory of Charles LeClair Collins*



Debbe Adkins - June 04, 2020 at 08:08 PM

BM

“ *Beth Morgan lit a candle in memory of Charles LeClair Collins*



Beth Morgan - June 04, 2020 at 07:26 PM

CL

“ *Charlene Long-Nalley sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles LeClair Collins*




Charlene Long-Nalley - June 04, 2020 at 07:21 PM

DA

*Charlie was a great person. Him and my dad worked at post office together. Prayers for family.*

**Debbe Adkins** - June 04, 2020 at 08:10 PM

JM

“ *Praying for peace and comfort during this time..I don't have alot memories w Uncle Charles..I remember him coming over to Grandma's house when we would visit when I was little..but I did enjoy a nice phone conversation w him a couple of years ago..My Love and Prayers to all..Love Your Niece, Jennifer Joyce McIntosh* 

**Jennifer Joyce McIntosh** - June 04, 2020 at 07:06 PM

SW

“ *Sandy Watson lit a candle in memory of Charles LeClair Collins*



**Sandy Watson** - June 04, 2020 at 06:27 PM

PC

“ *Pamela Cox sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles LeClair Collins*



**Pamela Cox** - June 04, 2020 at 06:26 PM

MR

“ *Marvin & Laura Richardson lit a candle in memory of Charles LeClair Collins*



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**Marvin & Laura Richardson** - June 04, 2020 at 05:54 PM

MB

*Terry and Shelly, i am so very sorry! I enjoyed going to the post office for Charlie always had a smile and fun comments! I had many good visits with Violet at Walmarts. Lots if good memories! Millie Howlett Brotherton*

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**Millie Howlett Brotherton** - June 06, 2020 at 12:38 AM

CB

“ *Charlie was my brother in-law and we loved him very much. His first wife, Violet, was my sister and preceded him in death. He was incredible taking care of her until her last day. He was blessed to be remarried to Kay, an awesome woman. She made his last few years wonderful.*

*Charlie will always be remembered for his jovial nature and delighted in picking on people.*

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**Clark/Joyce Blankenship** - June 04, 2020 at 05:45 PM