



## Gary D. Collins Sr.

May 8, 1946 - February 26, 2018

Gary D. Collins Sr., age 71, of North Ridgeville, passed away on Monday, February 26, 2018 following a lengthy illness.

He was born in Rock Creek, West Virginia and had been a resident of North Ridgeville for the past 24 years, moving from Cleveland

Gary worked for Alcoa for many years, retiring in 2008, and was a member of U.A.W. Local 1050.

He was a member of Christian Unity Church in Grafton and enjoyed helping people, being outdoors, making birdhouses and trimming trees.

Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Myrtle (nee Pettry); son, Gary Jr. (Debbie) of North Ridgeville; daughter, Cathy (Paul) Lucas of Broadview Hts.; grandchildren, Cassee (Andrew) Ireland, Crysta Collins (Tyler Drehs), Matthew and David Lucas; great-grandson, Aiden Drehs; brothers, Tommy (Virginia) and Jimmy of West Virginia; sister, Bonnie Janney of Tennessee; many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Juneus and Thelma (nee Eskew) Collins; brother, Larry Collins.

Private services were held at Sunset Memorial Park, North Olmsted.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Gary's name to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, 5700 Brecksville Rd., 3rd Floor, Independence, OH 44131 or <http://www.lls.org>

# Comments

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“ Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Gary D. Collins Sr..



March 03, 2018 at 03:35 PM

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“ Myrtle my heart breaks for you, may God give you & all your loved ones peace knowing Gary has no more pain. I'm so heartbroken to see you go Gary my friend. We had so many great times, you always knew how to make me laugh. I will cherish every moment I shared with you both. RIP Gary my dear friend.



Mary George-Potting - March 02, 2018 at 05:12 PM

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“ Gary will be remembered by many as a great man. He loved God, his wife and family, and his many friends bringing joy to all. He was our dear friend and we will greatly miss him. Fond memories of Gary and his anecdotes will live on forever. Our sincerest sympathies to you, Myrtle, and you loving family.  
With love,  
Gene and Deb (Cookie too!)

Gene & Deb - March 02, 2018 at 02:55 PM

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## “ The Loss of My Best Friend

A lonely cry in the middle of the night,  
I lost my best friend, I lost you tonite!  
Now you have no more pain,  
You are home with The Lord again!

Now the happy and loving memories that tear at my heart,  
Hurt so bad, they tear me apart!  
It is so very sad to see you go,  
Painfully deep emotions, Oh! I do show!

But, I know you are in a better place,  
Showing your warm and smiling face!  
Oh! I will miss you, Gary, my "Best Buddy" this I know,  
The memories we made together, I will never let go!

Love, your "Best Buddy"  
John

**John Kabak** - March 02, 2018 at 01:42 AM



“ I can't believe he is really going to be gone, I can't believe I'll never see him again.

Half of my heart has been ripped away, I don't know if I'll ever be "okay" again.

I can't be selfish and wish to keep him here, and watch him suffer day to day, even more than we have all had to see.

I feel so numb, if this is a dream someone please wake me up!

I can't believe when I drive around town, looking around, I'm filled with pain, everywhere I look I see a memory we made.

I can't believe he had to go this way, suffering and in pain, How evil and cruel it is to watch your loved one deteriorate little by little every single day.

I can't believe you really will be gone, and I'll never hear your "happy birthday" song.

I can't believe how much things have changed, how fast that little bit of hope was cruelty ripped away.

I can't believe I won't see your smiling face, ambition filled eyes, the most wonderful man I've ever known.

I can't believe how much your love has impacted me,  
until now I can finally see how truly beautiful, unique your love and friendship has been to me.

Please remember I am always thinking of you, there will not be a day I don't remember you.

How could you ever forget the incredible person that made you the person you are today?

**crysta collins** - March 05, 2018 at 04:31 PM

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“ My deepest sympathy to Myrtle and all of the family. Gary AKA Dad will be missed by his ALCOA gang. He was so much fun and made everyday interesting talking about everything from the Browns to West Virginia. I have such good memories of him, singing to us "Why you don't love me like you used to? Why do you treat me like a worn out shoe?" and always telling me 'Calm down, calm down, don't get mad, everythings love" LOL Such good times with such a good guy. May you rest in peace my friend. Tommy Sorensen & family

**The Sorensen Family** - March 01, 2018 at 08:30 PM

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“ What can I say. It just don't seem possible. Someone so full of life that made everyone laugh. The glue that held us Collins's together. Gary was always there for any of us no matter what.

I was lucky enough to get to travel with Gary and Myrtle the last few years... and one trip about 13 years ago to Pigeon Forge. On the way there, he passed a cop with my cousin Sherri right behind us. When the officer asked why he was going so fast, he said the car behind him was on his tail and he was trying to get out of their way, which was Sherri. She managed to get out of her ticket, but he didn't.

We went to Las Vegas, among other trips, just shy of 2 years ago. We did as much as we possibly could- Hoover Dam, Grand Canyon, and Los Angeles. We had the best time. Exactly 1 year, to the day, prior to Gary's death, he and Myrtle came to Savannah on vacation... we did a lot but probably the most memorable thing was taking them to the wildlife preserve. There was a big gator by the water. Gary tries to sneak down there and touch it. He gets close and the gator whips it's tail and took off into the water. It about gave everyone, except for him, a heart attack. I could go on and on about the things and places that I was lucky enough to experience with Gary and Myrtle. There were so many places that we still wanted to go. There was never a dull moment with Gary. He lived to make everyone else laugh.

I hate that I didn't make it to say Goodbye. You left this earth about 12 hours before I was scheduled to land in Cleveland.

I think we all feel lost now, I know I sure feel that way. On top of losing the best uncle anyone could ask for, I lost my best friend.

**Jimmy Collins** - March 01, 2018 at 09:11 AM

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“ Myrtle and Gary Jr. I worked at Alcoa and would see and talk to Gary a lot. Down to earth nice guy and always had a smile. I stopped to see him on a few occasions and passed by the house a few times recently but did not see anybody out so I did not stop. I did not know Gary was ill and I am very sorry for your loss. Rest In peace Gary. Joe Jacobson

Joe Jacobson - February 28, 2018 at 09:57 PM

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“ So sorry Myrtle, Gary always made me laugh. Hugs to you and your family

Teri and Willie Murphy

teri murphy - February 28, 2018 at 08:17 PM

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“ Myrtle, words don't seem like enough, but I love you and want you to know that I am here if you ever need me. Gary was my buddy...will always remember the laughs the three of us shared when we worked together in the church booth at the fair.. prayers for you and your family.

Patricia Dobbins - February 28, 2018 at 05:39 PM

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“ Love you so so so much papaw! I miss you so much, hard to believe you aren't here.



crysta collins - February 28, 2018 at 05:19 PM

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“ Myrtle and family, I pray that God will keep you all strong in this time of sadness and know that this is not the end. We will meet Gary again someday in Heaven  
May God Bless you all  
Jerry & Steph

Jerry Kinder - February 28, 2018 at 12:04 PM



“ Myrtle & Family:

My heart goes out to you and your family. There are no words to express the loss of a loved one. But keep in mind that you and him made memories that will last a life time and you have been blessed with a beautiful family full of love. Hold on too each other to see you thru. May the Lord give you peace and comfort during this difficult time of mourning every step of the way.

Anna Falcon  
NASA Glenn Research Center

**Anna Falcon** - February 28, 2018 at 11:00 AM