



David George Collins

February 25, 1942 - December 17, 2017

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the peaceful passing of David G. Collins on Sunday, December 17, 2017 at Oakview Medical Care Facility in Ludington following a fall at home in August. David was born on February, 25, 1942 in Muskegon, the son of Charles and Elaine (Lexen) Collins and lived all his life in Ludington. He graduated from Ludington High School with the class of 1960 and married his high school sweetheart Sandra Russell in 1963. He, his dad, and a great uncle built them a home on Decker Road that served the well for the 54 years of their marriage, a lifetime together that got its start at an accidental meeting at the Franklin school ice skating rink in 1959.

Over the years David worked at the Carrom Company, West Shore Builders, Sargent Sand, and finally ended his working days at Great Lakes Casting, retiring in 2000 after 30 years of service and achieving "Ironmaster" status. A retirement job at Epworth made him many new summer friends. Cutting and selling campfire wood was both a job and a pleasure.

In his early years, David spent many hours bow hunting, fishing, and duck hunting on the rivers with his good friends, much of that time in the Nordhouse Dunes area. New pleasures were found later riding horses in those same dunes, which he knew like the back of his hand. "Just over the next hill" is a quote only riding companions will appreciate.

After retirement, he and Sandy hit the road doing craft shows. David was fond of saying that he cut, sanded, painted, varnished, and assembled while she only did the detail. He took immense pride in all of this. David enjoyed all his time spent with his grand and great grandchildren and was always present at recitals, hockey, baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, and soccer games.

David will be greatly missed by his wife Sandy, their two daughters Jill Gregorski and husband John of Elk Rapids, and Robin Lott and husband Keith of Vestaburg. Grandchildren Megan, Molly, twins Mary and Monika Gregorski; Sierra (Brad) Mead and their children Brayden, Savannah, and Breylon; Casey, Riley, twins Katelyn and Madalyn Rittenhouse. David will also be remembered by his sisters Judy (Dick) Husted of Ludington, and Janet (Kurt) Mathews of Scottville, several nieces and nephews, and their favorite neighbors Royce and Colleen Rittenhouse of Ludington. David was preceded in death by his parents, an infant brother, aunts, uncles, and nephew Ricky Husted.

At David's request, cremation has taken place and no services will be held at this time. Those who wish to remember David with a memorial donation are asked to consider the Elk Rapids Girls Varsity Basketball, c/o Elk Rapids High School, 308 Meguzee Point Road, Elk Rapids, MI 49629. He will be keeping a close eye on them the next five years.

We extend a special thank you to Oakview Medical Care Facility for their kind and wonderful care of both David and Sandy the past few months.

Tribute Wall

JU

“ *Sandy and family, we are so sorry to hear of Dave's passing. Dave was a good friend and we will truly miss seeing him on our visits to Ludington. I remember way back when the two of you were married - such good memories.*

Our thoughts and prayers are with both your families.

Julie

Julie - December 25, 2017 at 10:33 PM

DS

“ *Sandy, it is with great sadness to hear of Dave's passing. As someone who knew him from the time we were four years old living a block apart on Emily street, I remember the fond memories of the time we hung out together until I mover from Ludington. I especially remember the many, many times we hiked out toward the state park and the sand dunes and the woods in between and the games we would dream up there. I remember the friendships with the other kids around out block and the parties we had. I want you to know that even though I have not been back much to Michigan, I feel that David was always my friend. My sister Helen always kept me informed of him and my few visits to see him when I was back there will always be remembered. Your friend always, David R. Staup*

David R. Staup - December 22, 2017 at 03:31 PM

KD

“ So sorry to hear of David's passing. Remember him well as I graduated in the same class in high school. He was at several of our class reunions, I think, along with you Sandy. Having a class or two with him in school, I remember Dave as very fun loving. I pray that the Lord will be with you and your family Sandy, during this difficult time and that the Lord will wrap His loving arms around you all. So difficult to loose a loved one.

Karen (Hulth) Doornbos

Karen (hulth) Doornbos - December 21, 2017 at 08:47 PM

JF

“ I was shocked to hear about the passing of David. I've had the privilege of knowing David and Sandy some 60 plus years and always considered them family. My heart goes out to Sandy and and family on their loss. My fondest memory of David was when he took my brother Bill and myself fishing with him on opening day of bass season Memorial Day weekend 1962 to Bronson and Hooker Lake near Honor, Michigan. What a great time we had!! Rest in peace dear friend. Jim Fay

Jim Fay - December 20, 2017 at 06:12 PM


Robin
Lott

Thank you Jim, having you coach me through basketball in elementary along with my dad are memories I hold forever

Robin Lott - December 20, 2017 at 09:22 PM

MK

“ The first time I met David and Sandy Collins is when I was fortunate enough to have their granddaughter Sierra in my sixth grade class at South Hamlin School. They supported every fund raiser we had for both Sierra and grandson Casey's sixth grade trips. David and Sandy were truly the "Dynamic Duo", David's can do attitude helped my class earning endeavors so very many times.. The Halloween Carnivals and the wonderful treats for bake sales that Sandy made. David and Sandy would deliver those treats with smiles and wits of wisdom. I still have the lovely treasures they made and gave to me. I am looking at my Santa and my beautifully painted Christmas bowl filled with Christmas goodies as I write this note. My goodness, Sandy and David even handled my daughter's wedding invitations. Wow, they could do most anything. Most importantly I want to say I was truly the lucking one, to come to know such a wonderful caring couple.. They were truly an institution in the eyes of many of my peers at South Hamlin. Sandy, words can not express how truly sorry I am for your loss of David. You two were a couple I greatly appreciated and admired. Thank you for allowing me into your lives for a short while..Sandy I truly want you to know that I enjoyed Sierra, Brad, Casey, and Riley as students. You and David are amazing grandparents. Sandy may God be with you, and your family. With sincerest admiration, Mary Margaret Klemm

Mary M. Klemm - December 19, 2017 at 08:51 PM

SI

Thank you so very much for the beautiful words 💙

Sierra - December 20, 2017 at 11:48 PM

 Dawn Williams

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you Sandy.
Love. Jim and Dawn Williams

Dawn Williams - December 19, 2017 at 06:14 PM

SL

“ Sandy and family, We are so sorry for your loss and so blessed to have known Dave. Way back to Debbie's high school softball, he has always been a friendly conversation and a warm heart. I know you all will miss him greatly but have wonderful memories to cherish and share when your hearts are ready. Our prayers are with you. God bless you all.

Sue and Rob Lancour - December 19, 2017 at 09:48 AM

LP

“ I remember the craft fairs he was at and the crafts he made. I have a pair of skis that he had made. I'm so glad I got to see him at the ball games this summer. He will be truly missed. Hugs to my cousins.

Linda Piper - December 19, 2017 at 08:09 AM

DC

“ I am so sorry to see that Dave has passed away. To all of his family, I express my sympathy and my thoughts and prayers are with you. Sandy - the loss of a spouse is so very difficult, I pray for strength and comfort for you. Be very thankful that you have many special memories to hold in your heart forever. Donna (Johnson) Cinko

Donna Cinko - December 18, 2017 at 11:31 PM

BJ

“ I am so sad to hear of Dave's passing. Judy, Janet and Sandy I pray that God will will provide peace and comfort during this time. I remember the times we had together at church and youth group. Hang on to precious memories during this time. God Bless!
Love in Christ
Barb (Hayes)

Barbara Johnson - December 18, 2017 at 09:03 PM