



Gene W. Collins

June 9, 1936 - June 25, 2021

Gene W. Collins, passed away on June 25, 2021, at the age of 85, in Shelby Township. He was born on June 9, 1936, to Gordon and Irma (Couglin) in Mt. Clemens. Beloved husband of Judy. Loving and devoted father of Steven (fiancée Jessica) Collins, Maureen (Joe) Sturza and Michelle (Tony) DiCarlo. Loving and proud grandfather of Daniel (Fiancée Ashley) Sturza, Matthew and Alaina Sturza, and Vincent and Nicholas DiCarlo. Dear brother of Nancy (Vern) Titus, Gary (Sharon) Collins, Joan (John) Carless, and the late Robert and Glen Collins. Dear uncle to several nieces and nephews. Gene retired from the Utica Community Schools district teaching at Stevenson High School. Visitation on Wednesday, June 30, 2021, from 4-8 p.m. and Thursday, July 1, 2021, from 1-8 p.m. with a 7:00 p.m. rosary service at the Wasik Funeral Home, Inc., 49150 Schoenherr Rd. (N. of 22 Mile Rd.) Shelby Twp. Instate on Friday, July 2, 2021, at 11:30 a.m. for a 12:00 p.m. funeral mass at St. Isidore Catholic Church at 18201 23 Mile Rd. (Corner of 23 Mile Rd. and Romeo Plank) Macomb Township.

For those who can not make the funeral mass, St Isidore will be live streaming the funeral mass <https://vimeo.com/569950768/46c3222538>

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be directed to Mercy Home for Boys. 1140 W. Jackson, Chicago, IL 60607

Cemetery Details

Cremation

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 30. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township
49150 Schoenherr Rd.
Shelby Township, MI 48315
(586) 532-8600
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

Visitation

JUL 1. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township
49150 Schoenherr Rd.
Shelby Township, MI 48315
(586) 532-8600
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

Rosary

JUL 1. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township
49150 Schoenherr Rd.
Shelby Township, MI 48315
(586) 532-8600
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

Instate at Church

JUL 2. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Isidore Catholic Church
18201 23 Mile Rd
Macomb Twp, MI

Funeral Mass

JUL 2. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Isidore Catholic Church
18201 23 Mile Rd
Macomb Twp, MI

Tribute Wall

KM

“ *My deepest condolences to all family members of Mr. Collins. I was one of his swimmers and then one of his many office aides which really meant any time of day his office door was open. He was an amazing, encouraging, man who could foster your belief in yourself and in others around you. His teams of swimmers and teams of kids felt like 'family'. As a freshman, the team would sing a song for him at the top of our lungs: They call him Gipper, Gipper, Louder than Thunder, No one you see, is louder than he..... He lives in a world of water... under the sea. Thank you Mr. Collins you will indeed be missed. Kris (Johnson) Martin*

Kris (Johnson) Martin - July 07, 2021 at 09:20 AM

MG

“ *On behalf of Fr. Scott Donahue and Mercy Home for Boys & Girls, we would like to extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the family and friends of Gene Collins.*

May the angels lead him into paradise; may the martyrs come to welcome him and take him to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem.

Mercy Home for Boys & Girls - July 05, 2021 at 07:36 PM



“ *Gary and Sharon, I saw this abd it looked so much like Gary...!;God bless you both as you go through this. My prayers are with you. Karen Trombley Marsack*

Mattie Marsack - July 01, 2021 at 12:26 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gene W. Collins.* ”



July 01, 2021 at 09:28 AM

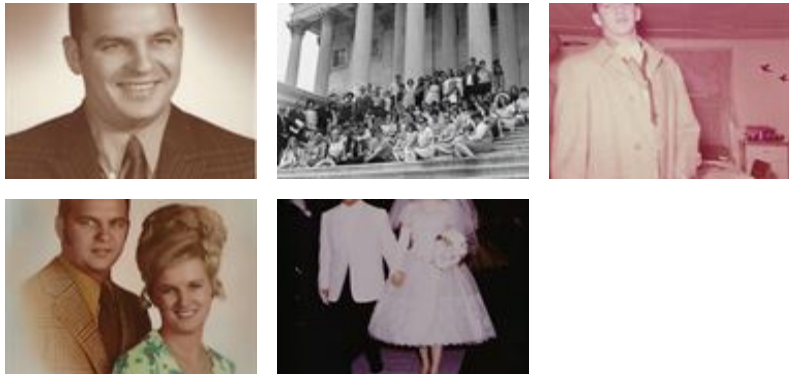


“ *My heartfelt condolences to Gene's family. He was one of the most influential people during my years at Stevenson HS. He was a great teacher, tough on the outside but with a heart of gold and you always knew where he stood. He will forever be remembered as a kind soul who truly cared for his students.* ”

Colleen Conley Haddas - June 30, 2021 at 05:22 PM



“ *117 files added to the album LifeTributes* ”



Wasik Funeral Home, Inc. - June 30, 2021 at 04:44 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Gene W. Collins.*



June 29, 2021 at 01:48 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gene W. Collins.*



June 29, 2021 at 12:31 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Gene W. Collins.*



June 29, 2021 at 12:16 PM



“ *Gene was a great friend of the family. My husband would have monthly lunches with him until he passed away a few years ago. He was very kind when my husband Fritz passed away. He would call and check on me. What a kind man and he will be greatly missed.
Love from Shirley Kessler*

Shirley Kessler - June 28, 2021 at 06:23 PM

PR

“ Like so many, I taught with Gene at Stevenson H.S. When he found out I was qualified to teach swimming, he put me in charge of the community swimming program at Utica HS. He always sent me the “best kids” to teach the young swimmers. I always looked forward to seeing Gene round up the graduates, teachers and administrators at graduation at the Palace Each year graduation came off without a hitch. Gene also took great efforts to let people know they were important to him. After several years of not seeing Gene, he showed up at my mother’s funeral visitation which meant a great deal to me. My sincere condolences to Gene’s family and friends

Paul Rand

Paul Rand - June 28, 2021 at 03:29 PM

DT

“ So sorry to hear of Gene's passing. I knew him when I was a teacher at Davis Jr. High and he assisted me many times with student activities. Gene was extremely connected with his students and community. He knew so many people and could really get things done. When I was principal at Shelby Jr High I asked him to recommend a caterer for our final day of school staff lunch. When I told the staff that Gene had arranged a prime rib dinner they were quite surprised and pleased. He did that kind of thing. My wife Brigitte worked with Gene at Stevenson and enjoyed his friendship. Sympathy and prayers to family.
Dave and Brigitte Turrel

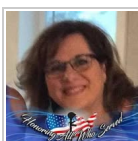
Dave Turrel - June 28, 2021 at 02:31 PM

EW

“ To Judy and family. I'm so sorry for your loss. I worked with Gene for 28 years and saw first hand how he worked with the students, helping many. I will miss our breakfasts and catching up. I saw your love for Judy and your family. You will be missed. Blessings and peace to your family.

Eileen Warzynski

Eileen Warzynski - June 28, 2021 at 01:46 PM



“ My heart is so sad. Mr. Collins was my swim coach back in the 80s. It was because of him, and his encouragement to never give up, that I got rid of my fear of swimming. He was also a mentor to me. During the school day, I would occasionally visit him just to say hello, and he was always friendly, funny and kind. He was so awesome. I will miss him so much. At the end of our conversations, he would remind me to get him some canollies. LOL. God bless you Mr. Collins. Prayers.

Marlene Diliddo - June 28, 2021 at 11:35 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gene W. Collins.



June 27, 2021 at 11:28 PM

JP

“ I was one of hundreds of kids at Stevenson high school that had Mr. Collins as my swim coach. He was tough but fair and the swim team was some of the best memories I had of the four years I was at Stevenson. His door was always open and many of us spent lots of time in his office just hanging out and talking. My sympathies to his family on his passing.

Janet Prange - June 27, 2021 at 11:24 AM

K(

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Mr. Collins was a special man. He was there for my brother and I after our parents passed away. I'll never forget how he let me take refuge in his office when I needed or how he got me involved in the Key Club to help me stay busy. My condolences to the Collins family



Karen Kralick (Sullivan) - June 27, 2021 at 09:39 AM

LC

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Mr. Collins passing. He gave me my first job at "the pool". I worked there all through high school and even after. My brother, Jeff Porter, worked for him and then my daughter worked for him. He was a wonderful man who gave me my first job in education. I retired from my last job in education eleven years ago. Thank you Mr. Collins for setting my feet on the path to a career in education. You will be missed by so many students you helped along the way. He will be greatly missed. 🙏 Lorri Porter-Curtis

Lorri Curtis - June 26, 2021 at 12:59 PM

DS

“ Me and my 2 brothers took swim classes during the summer when our family got our pool, Mr Collins was the instructor...probably early 1970s...he made us all dive head first in the deep end, I was petrified. But with his encouragement, we all dove in. When I got out of the deep end, still frightened as a 11 year old...he said, see I knew you could do it! I always thought, how did He know? He was calm and reassuring always. When I went to Stevenson, I became a helper with the swim teams...he was the best Coach! RIP💔

Deb Sanger - June 26, 2021 at 11:03 AM

VB

“ I have known Gene for 48 Years and it was when I started to work at Stevenson High School and he has been a Great Friend and we have kept in contact all of these years. We use to go out to Breakfast once a month and he really liked that. He would always ask if he could do anything to help me or my family out even with what ever he had going on in his life. We would also talk on the phone several times a month before hi Altimeters got really bad. My wife and I will miss him and he always cared and loved to talk to us both and loved to talk to us both. We both would like to wish his Spouse Judy and his family our deepest wished and our prayers for their loss. He is not suffering any more and will be missed. Vernon and Paula Blackmer

Vernon & Paula Blackmer - June 26, 2021 at 09:39 AM



“ Mr. Collins is one of the reasons I became a teacher. He was a huge part of my high school memories. He had faith in me as a teenager when I didn't have faith in myself. I can't imagine the lives he's affected in a positive way. May your soul fly to heaven, Mr. Collins.

Maria Gerardy - June 26, 2021 at 07:48 AM

M7

“ I remember him as the coach. But I also remember seeing him teach some kids to dance in the gym. Sorry for your loss condolences to the family and all who knew and loved him

Mary Murphy class of 72 - June 26, 2021 at 03:24 AM

MA

I think i had him mixed up I thought he was a coach sorry but i did know him and see him around school. May he RIP

Mary - June 26, 2021 at 10:07 AM

M1

A difficult tribute to write as Mr. Collins was loved by many. "Collins" as we affectionately refer to him, was an encourager, teacher, counselor, hard driving successful coach, husband father but most of all FRIEND far beyond high school. His wisdom, guidance and sense of humor was appreciated and cherished. As a swimmer he encouraged me to become a leader which followed into my adult life. The friendships he helped build and youth he cared about throughout his career will not forget this noble man. Our prayers are with the Collins family. We will miss you Gipper!

Mike Conley SHS 1974 - June 26, 2021 at 08:46 PM

JK

My condolences to the Collins family. I worked for Mr. Collins at the pool, for his travel company and babysitting Maureen, Steve and Michelle on occasion. He was a great coach to many!

Jane Schuman Kort

Jane Kort - June 27, 2021 at 01:16 PM

GM

Mr. Collins was the BEST! He was an individual who cared about everyone. I will never forget the 1971 trip to NYC with him and his wife as our chaperones! Both very nice and made the trip fun for all of us! My deepest sympathies to his family on their loss.

*Gail (Socha) Minauro
SHS Class of 1971*

Gail Minauro - June 29, 2021 at 07:11 AM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Gene W. Collins.*



June 25, 2021 at 07:04 PM