Kenneth "Bear" Collins

November 21, 1932 - February 10, 2025

Kenneth “Bear” Franklin Collins, Sr., 92, of St. Claire, Missouri, passed away on Monday, February 10, 2025, at Meramec Nursing Home in Sullivan, Missouri. He was born on November 21, 1932, Troy, Missouri and was the son of Authur and Effie (Pery) Collins. Kenneth was united in marriage on February 4, 2000, in Farmington, Missouri.

Kenneth attended high school and continued his education to become an iron worker. He worked as an iron worker for the Union Local #396 for over 50 years. Kenneth was very instrumental with several very large projects with the Union. He had a passion for taking care of his yard and gardening. Kenneth was an outdoor enthusiast and was always willing to help others. He looked forward to the sweet treats delivered by Audriana and Ainsley. Kenneth spent many hours with them, playing games and going on adventures. He was a loving man with a heart of gold.

Kenneth is survived by his three sons and one daughter: Kenneth “Buddy” Collins, Jr., Steven Smithey, Steven Collins, and Dana Collins; step-sons: Jason, Thomas and Christopher; one daughters-in-law: Rena, Rhonda, Jessica, Katie and Lana; one sister-in-law, Nona Collins; several grandchildren, including: Audriana, Ainsley and John; several great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his mother and father: Authur and Effie Collins; one son, Marvin

“Marty” Collins; brothers and sisters: Otis Collins (Helen), Evelyn Collins, Orville Collins (Alvena), Earl Collins (Helen), Darlene Hunter (Buck), Eleanor Wallace (Glen), Wanda Regot and Clifford Collins; nephew: Ricky Hunter and very dear friend, Bob Cross.

Family and friends will be received from 12:00 am to 2:00 pm on Monday, February 24, 2025 at KEMPER-KEIM Family Funeral Chapel located at 351 Monroe Street Troy, MO 63379. Funeral service will be held at 2:00 pm on Monday, February 24, 2025 at KEMPER-KEIM Family Funeral Chapel located at 351 Monroe Street Troy, MO 63379. Interment will be held at Wilson Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to The Family of Kenneth Franklin Collins, Sr., in care of Kemper-Keim Family Funeral Chapel P.O. Box 222 Troy, MO 63379.

Arrangements are under the direction of Kemper-Keim Family Funeral Chapel; 351 Monroe Street Troy, MO 63379. Online condolences may be made at www.kemperkeimfamilyfuneralchapel.com Phone 636 528-8221

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **24**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Kemper-Keim Family Funeral Chapel - Troy
351 Monroe St.
Troy, MO 63379
(636) 528-8221
millardchapel@aol.com

Service

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

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351 Monroe St.
Troy, MO 63379
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Tribute Wall

JN

1 file added to the tribute wall

Jena Neisinger - February 15, 2025 at 10:46 PM

JN

Many memories of my grandfather taking me and my cousins to church, or him sleeping in his chair and listening to the gospel on tv. My cousins and I would try to change the channel but he was listening to it while dozing off lol. Or the time my cousin told him "look grandpa when I put my hands over my rabbits eyes it thinks it's in a hole" to which he replied "put him in a pot he"ll think he's in a hole" lol I also still love the all stories my dad would tell me about his childhood at kings lake and learning about yet another family member and trying to figure out the family tree. My favorite photo is of him and my dad down at kings lake with all the coon hounds and their coons. I'm so grateful for this man helping care for my cousins and I. I'm proud to tell my children he was involved in the construction of the gateway arch. What a life he has lived. I'm grateful he got to hold my first born son but sadly didn't meet my daughter or youngest son. I enjoyed hearing his voice on over the phone. I'll never forget his voice. Till we meet again you will forever more be in my heart and memories will live on.

Jena Neisinger - February 15, 2025 at 10:40 PM

HA

Kenny ,dale and me used to go up to south Dakota to do work in the rose bud indian reservation. Kenny was a good friend. I didn't see him for a lot of years but i never forgot about this great man.

Harold - March 19, 2025 at 08:49 PM

DQ

I spent a lot of time with Uncle Kenny and Aunt Shorty. My Father did as well from childhood to his adult life. Dad hunted a lot with Kenny he has told me a lot of stories. one time my sister and I went along on a coon hunt near Kings lake they put us across the fence so when the coon fell the dogs wouldn't scare us . Sure enough it jumped and landed right near us we was a screaming. just one of the many times we had with Kenny. My condolences to his family. Diane Queathem

Diane Queathem - February 14, 2025 at 02:08 AM

RB

Sorry for your loss. My dad and I worked with him about 40 years ago. Take care

Robert Bunch - February 14, 2025 at 03:03 PM