



Mr. Donnie Charles Collins

December 26, 1954 - April 14, 2020

Donnie Charles Collins, a resident of Willow Springs, passed away early Tuesday morning, April 14, 2020, while at his home in Douglas County. He was born December 26, 1954 to Lonard “Cooney” Edward Collins and Beulah Maye Collins in Cabool, MO and was 65 years old.

Donnie grew up in Howell County and attended first grade at Noblett School. After the rural schools were consolidated, he then attended school in Willow Springs. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy at age eighteen and completed his GED while in the military. He proudly served two years before he was honorably discharged in order to return home to care for his parents. He married Mary “Merge” Bunch on October 28, 1977 at her parents’ home. Donnie was a heavy equipment mechanic and was employed at various machinery companies. He also worked for the City of Willow Springs before he suffered an injury which required him to retire in 2014. When he wasn’t working, he loved to fish, hunt, and tinker on his tractor. He especially loved to hunt during the spring turkey season. He was a self-taught guitar player and was a member of the Blue Buck Church praise and worship team. Not only did he play the guitar, but he also wrote songs. He will be dearly missed by his family, his friends, and all who knew him.

Donnie is preceded in death by his parents; his son, Jason Bunch; three sisters: Gladys Boeshans, Trilby Lovan, and Cora Baysinger. He is also

preceded in death by his brother, Leland Collins and an infant brother.

He is survived by his wife, Mary "Merge" Collins; two sons, Derec Bunch and Codey Collins, both of Willow Springs; four granddaughters: Destinee, Kortnie, Jaysa, and Derika; four great-granddaughters; and two brothers, Randy Collins and Tim Collins both of Willow Springs. Further survivors include numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

A private graveside service will be held Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 11:00 A.M. at the Holmes Flatrock Cemetery in Douglas County with Pastor Doug Collins officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Willow Funeral Home, LLC. Online condolences may be left at www.willowspringsfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

CB

“*Mary Lou, I am praying for comfort and peace during this time. Love you so much! My heart goes out to you and your family. We should be happy, he's made it. It's not good bye, but I will see you again.*

Chrisie Barton - April 17, 2020 at 12:49 PM

RL

“*Merge, Codey and family our hearts are truly broken for you all. Just needed to tell you that we're thinking and praying for you and your family. We sure had a lot of good times together over the years. God is walking beside you, lifting you up & holding you in his loving arms. We love you all. 🙏*

Richelle Leighty - April 16, 2020 at 07:21 PM

MS

“*Merge, We at Ozark Machinery extend our deepest sympathy and prayers for you and your family at this time. Greg Goodwin, Randy Taylor and I remember working with Donnie and all the laughter! Donnie will always be remembered by the Taylor boys as the "Gum Guy" because he always gave them gum when he saw them. May Schmitt*

May Schmitt - April 16, 2020 at 07:19 PM

DB

“ I would sit at the table with him while he witted wood, that was my favorite time because he always gave me advice on how to live my life, it always ended with "Trust God baby, He will make it right." Today is my birthday, and I didnt want to even get a cake. But mom told me Grandpa would want me to celebrate life. I didnt understand what she meant, and thought it was rude because how can I do that when I am so sad. And then she told me to "Trust God, because sometimes that's all you can do." And now I know what grandpa meant, God has made my life right, and I should celebrate Him no matter what. I love you Grandpa,

Derika Bendon - April 15, 2020 at 11:01 PM

SB

“ Praying for you Aunt Merge. Derika says she loves you and is so sorry that Grandpa is gone. But she knows today he is with Jesus, and she will see him again one day.

Serenity Bendon - April 15, 2020 at 06:12 PM

DL

“ Merge, our hearts goes out to you. We're praying for peace and comfort. We grieve, but it's not without hope. I personally don't remember a time not knowing Donnie. I remember the times spent as a young girl at Aunt Beulah's and Uncle Cooney's, listening to Donnie and Tim play guitars and sing. His laugh was contagious. He stopped by just a couple of weeks ago - we had a cow wondering around in the front yard and he helped me. We were laughing then...I'm going to miss him.

David and Marsha Lovan - April 15, 2020 at 04:40 PM

BN

“ we are thankful for the way he blessed everyone at church and his guitar playing on the Praise Band. He will be truly missed.

Bill and Helen Nye. - April 15, 2020 at 02:42 PM

SC

“ Our hearts are saddened by the death of our dear friend and brother in Christ. His laugh and quick smile will be greatly missed, but by faith we know he rests in Christ and we will one day be reunited. Our prayers are with Merge and Donnie's immediate family for I know their hearts are broken.
Lloyd and Shirley Collins

Shirley M Collins - April 15, 2020 at 10:03 AM

MD

“ Kim and I are so saddened to hear of the passing of bro Donnie. He was a great blessing to our church family when they attended here at Pomona Assembly of God. He was very talented and was always a joy to be around. He will be missed. Praying for the family.
Blessings

Michael-Kimberly Dillinger - April 15, 2020 at 09:24 AM

SH

“ I was so shocked to hear of Donnie's passing.. Merge and family are all in my thoughts and prayers, so very sorry for your loss. He and his laughter and happiness will be truly missed.



Sue Hedrick - April 15, 2020 at 09:23 AM

DH

“ I am shocked to hear of the passing of my friend. He always had a laugh to go along with his greeting. A truly good guy. I enjoyed his musical talent and his love for the Lord. I can look forward to seeing him again. He will extend his hand and look down at his shoes and laugh. Merge and the Bluebuck family are in our prayers.

Don Hamby - April 15, 2020 at 07:41 AM

RC

“ Donnie was a great guy. I will always remember his laugh and his songs. So sorry Merge and family. Prayers for you all.

Robbie & Shirley Collins - April 15, 2020 at 12:16 AM

TP

“ What a compassionate man! Love you Donnie! This old world was a better place because of you, your wonderful music and the love for Jesus that you so freely shared. I will never forget you and the many lessons I learned from simply knowing you.

Tressa Pressley - April 14, 2020 at 09:51 PM

LE

“ We just have no words.. he was a best friend. Lloyd & Debbie

Lloyd and Debbie Ebert - April 14, 2020 at 08:07 PM

SB

“ Sending our prayers at such a difficult time. Our prayers for comfort and strength.

Steve and Debbie Bryan

Steve and Debbie Bryan - April 14, 2020 at 07:22 PM

NL

“ Thinking of you Merge. Prayers for peace and comfort in your heart.



Nancy and Martin Lovan - April 14, 2020 at 06:52 PM

TC

“ Praying for all the Collins family. I always remember going to church and every time I walked in the door Donnie would always give me a big hug and squeeze me. Oh how I will miss him so very much!



Taya Collins - April 14, 2020 at 06:50 PM

JC

“ Jeannie Collins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donnie Charles Collins



Jeannie Collins - April 14, 2020 at 06:26 PM

CM

I have no words that will express how my heart hurts for you now. You are now and will always be a very special friend and we both are more than a little experienced in knowing how to reach for all the laughter, good times shared and all the happy memories to caring us through the hard and sometimes unbearable times of having to say goodbye. Wish I could be there to give you a hug! Love you always GF Cathy

cathy may - April 14, 2020 at 10:13 PM

SR

“ *Shawna Rose lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donnie Charles Collins*



Shawna Rose - April 14, 2020 at 06:15 PM

MO

“ *I'm so sorry Merge, Codey, and family. Love you guys and sending up prayers for peace and comfort. May the Lord surround you in His love during this difficult time.*
-Matt & Dawn Owens family

Matt Owens - April 14, 2020 at 04:39 PM

SW

I'm so sorry to hear this, Merge. Condolences to you and all your family.
Terry and Sandy Watson

Sandy Watson - April 14, 2020 at 04:57 PM

JM

So sorry for your loss. Donnie was a great man and now heaven has a great angel. Our prayers and comfort to the whole family.

Jim and Tammy Miller - April 14, 2020 at 05:36 PM

SS

Merge and family, we are sending our love and prayers to you that God will comfort and put His Loving Umbrella of care over you thru this difficult time.

Stasey and Ruth Sheppard - April 14, 2020 at 07:13 PM

DG

Worked with Donnie at the city and he was a great friend and colleague, he was an amazing mechanic and fabricator and a great person.. I will miss him so much... A great person....

David a guyll - April 14, 2020 at 08:37 PM

RR

You will be missed by alot of people, me for one, you always have a friend at Ozark Machinery. Prayers for his family to get throught this time!

Rick Richardson - April 18, 2020 at 09:38 AM