



John Collins

September 28, 1951 - November 16, 2019

Funeral services for John Collins will be conducted Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 11 A.M. in the First United Methodist Church. A private Graveside Service will be held later in the day.

The family will receive friends at the church from 10 A.M. until the service hour.

Bernard “John” Collins, Jr, 68, of Milledgeville, GA entered the gates of Heaven on November 16, 2019. John died peacefully at home surrounded by his family after a long and tough fight with Merkel cell carcinoma cancer. John was born in Sacramento, CA on September 28, 1951 to the late Catherine Londergan and Bernard Collins. Growing up as the son of an air force officer, John and his beloved sister, Sharyn Collins Holmes, traveled and lived all over the world which molded him into a man who never met a stranger. He loved people and adventure and shared that love with all who knew him.

After attending college at Kennesaw State and the Graduate School of Banking of the South LSU, John married his sweetheart, Kay Brannen. The newlyweds began their life together in Atlanta, GA. Together the couple had two daughters, Courtney Collins Cawley and Kyle Collins Hitchcock. Anyone who knew The Collins Family knew how important family was and they also knew that their doors were always wide open and welcome to all. The family

made several moves throughout South Carolina and Georgia and finally settled in Milledgeville in 1985. John exhibited an amazing work ethic and spent 21 years in personal banking. A career change in 1993 led him down a new path where he worked diligently to sell AFLAC supplemental insurance. He believed in what he did and would tell anyone, after losing his parents to cancer, that all you had to do was share the product and it would sell itself. In the last year of his life, John decided to get licensed to sell real estate so that he could team up with his wife and help others find the perfect home for their family with Sinclair Reserve Realty.

John and Kay spent years praying and serving the Lord. They were a part of a committee that focused on Christ centered counseling in Milledgeville, GA. They both realized the importance of biblical wisdom and felt the Lord call them to help bring those services to families in their local community. John has truly left his mark in our community in many areas from banking, AFLAC, Rotary, President of The Bulldog Club, the Stephen's Ministry at First United Methodist Church, and as a gallery guard for years at the Masters golf tournament... but the truth is none of this mattered to him compared to the title "Pop." Kay and John are affectionately known as "Lolli and Pop" and investing in their seven grandchildren was what John will truly be the most remembered for. There was hardly ever a ballgame, gymnastics meet, a piano recital, or a school program where you didn't see Lolli and Pop there to support. John enjoyed playing golf, cheering for the UGA Bulldogs, playing on the lake, and traveling but again he got the most enjoyment from doing these things with his family. John enjoyed sharing stories from the past including witnessing history with Mickey Mantle, Masters trivia and his beloved Georgia Bulldogs to his present-day travel experiences. He will be missed tremendously and is irreplaceable in the eyes of so many.

Heartbroken survivors include his wife of 45 years, Kay Collins, who he absolutely adored. His biggest concern leaving this earth was not being able

to take care of her. She is also fighting cancer and their prayer was to be the miracle couple that fought together and survived together. Although, this was not the Lord's plan, they never stopped fighting and believing that He could do the impossible. Other survivors include his children Courtney Collins Cawley married to Chris Cawley and Kyle Collins Hitchcock married to Andrew Hitchcock. His grandchildren: Chandler Davis Cawley, Abbie Kate Hitchcock, Kip Cawley, Canon Hitchcock, Emily Collins Cawley, Sterling Cawley and Caroline Hitchcock. His sister Sharyn Holmes and her husband Denny Holmes and their children Kellie and Dennis Holmes. Last but not least, their beloved dog, Molly.

John's favorite verse was Proverbs 3:5-6 that says, "Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."

In lieu of flowers, please make all donations to the Milledgeville Christian Counseling Center.

Cemetery Details

Heritage Memorial Park

371 Log Cabin Road
Milledgeville, GA 31061
(478) 452-2148
staff@williamsfuneralhome.net
<https://www.williamsfuneralhome.net>

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 20. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Methodist Church of Milledgeville
366 Log Cabin Drive
Milledgeville, GA

Celebration of Life

NOV 20. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Methodist Church of Milledgeville
366 Log Cabin Drive
Milledgeville, GA

Tribute Wall

SP

“ *What a true loss. John was so caring and giving and will never be forgotten by Steve and I. He and Kay opened their pool house for Steve to live in for two months without even knowing him. We enjoyed our talks and visits with John and Kay so much. Our prayers are with you Kay and your entire family. What an impact he made on us and his entire community. RIP John.*
Steve and Sherri Pitt

sherri pitt - December 11, 2019 at 08:47 AM

JT

“ *Kay, our deepest sympathy and prayers are with you and the family.*
Janet and Ben Thompson

janet thompson - November 20, 2019 at 10:30 AM

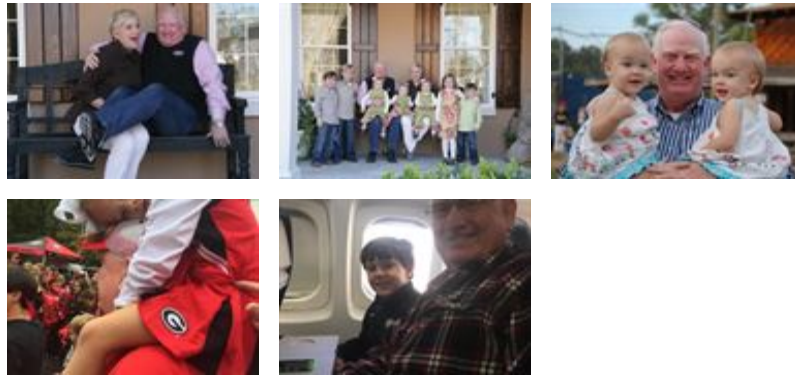
TS

“ *Prayers and hugs for all of you. It just does not seem real! John was one of the most giving loving and caring people I have ever known. A good neighbor! RIP John! You will be missed.* 🙏🙏🙏😊

Terry and Bonnie Schubert - November 19, 2019 at 11:40 PM



“ 245 files added to the album LifeTributes



Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory - November 19, 2019 at 04:40 PM

BT

I know this fine man leaves a legacy second to none. My heart is broken for you, but I cherish all the stories and photos I've seen through his precious grandchildren. Prayers will continue for you all!

Becky Takac - November 19, 2019 at 05:11 PM

SA

Our thoughts and prayers will be with you, Kay, and with all of you family. We cherish the times we have been together, especially when we attended the church group meetings in your home. Stan and Wanda Aldridge

Stan and Wanda Aldridge - November 19, 2019 at 09:39 PM

RG

Our hearts grieve with you Kay but we also know in Whom our hope lies! Our love and prayers go out to you and your precious family!

Ron & Nancy Galloway - November 20, 2019 at 08:34 AM

GK

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the family~Love Always, Keith and Gina Kuehn*

Gina and Keith Kuehn - November 19, 2019 at 10:02 AM

LS

“ Kay, Lynn and I just heard of John’s passing today and we are so sorry. We will keep you, the girls and your whole family in our prayers. Wishing you comfort and peace in the coming weeks and months.

Lynn and Nancy Smith

Lynn and Nancy Smith - November 18, 2019 at 09:21 PM

AC

“ Hi Kay, my heart breaks knowing that John is gone. Although I have been disconnected from him for years, I always have fond memories of him when we worked together years ago. I respected and admired him. Know that my prayers are with you and your family asking the Lord to comfort and give you peace through out this sad time. Sending my love.

Ana Castillo - November 18, 2019 at 03:18 PM

QF

“ Kay, I am so sorry to hear about John. Please know that you and your family are in my prayers. If there is anything that I can do, please let me know.

Quay Fuller - November 18, 2019 at 02:40 PM

DB

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you. God be with you through this difficult time. Much love to you all.

Danny and Donnell Brown

Danny and Donnell Brown - November 18, 2019 at 02:22 PM

GS

Kay we are so sorry to hear about John. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. May God give you peace and comfort.

Ginger Smith - November 18, 2019 at 06:37 PM

LM

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Luther & Berta and Friends at Johnnie McDade Grocery.*



Luther G Minor - November 18, 2019 at 10:51 AM

BM

“ *Kay*

So sorry to hear about John. John loved you and your family very, much. If I can ever be of any help to any of you please feel free to give me a call. You and your family are in are in our prayers.
Brad Murphey

Brad Murphey - November 18, 2019 at 10:21 AM

KH

“ *Kay I'm so sorry to hear this. Please know you and your family are in my prayers in the coming days.*

Kristen (Peek) Hamm - November 18, 2019 at 08:28 AM

HP

Bless you and your family Kay, John was a true gentleman. All of you are in my prayers.

Henry Power - November 18, 2019 at 05:26 PM

CD

Kay, Richard and I are so shocked to hear of John's death. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Cindy and Richard Dennard - November 18, 2019 at 08:43 PM



“ So thankful to John for introducing me to Aflac. Funniest part of all was how we met. . I was driving him to a restaurant and chatting about Atlanta. We realized we both went to the same high school. Then we discovered that John and my dad were buddies in high school and spent lots of time together until my dad disappeared. 33 years later when John and I met he found out why his friend vanished. Too funny! John you are missed. Thank you for the support and friendship.

Scott Williams - November 18, 2019 at 07:58 AM

WF

“ Kay, I will never forget John's many kindnesses to me as a co-worker and friend. I am truly thankful for all he did to encourage my early years in banking here in Milledgeville. You and the girls are in my prayers and will continue to be. Much love to you all.

Wanda Fitzgerald - November 17, 2019 at 08:41 PM

RI

“ To Kay and Family with love,
Journeys' ends are so painful! May God's hope-filled promises bring comfort to your soul and peace to your heart. Please accept my sincere sympathy.
Hilda Ringsrud

ringsrud@windstream.net - November 17, 2019 at 08:13 PM

TS

Kay and family..want you to know you how sorry we are for your loss. May God give you your girls and grandchildren, his comfort and love during this difficult time. You will remain in prAyers. 🙏

Terry & Joe Steuerwalt's

terry steuerwalt - November 18, 2019 at 09:50 AM

ST

Kay, our deepest sympathies. We loved spending our AFLAC days with you and John and cherish the many memories we had with you guys on all the great trips we took together. John will be forever missed and was a key mentor to me in my career. Our prayers are with you and your family!

Scott, Mary and Katie Taylor

scott Taylor - November 18, 2019 at 10:03 AM

DP

“ *Debbie Yeager Pounds lit a candle in memory of John Collins*



Debbie Yeager Pounds - November 17, 2019 at 07:39 PM

AG

“ *You 2 Great 👍 Daughter Courtney AND Kyle.*

Alex Goodrich - November 17, 2019 at 06:38 PM

 Clint
Kathy
Butler

“ So sorry to hear about John. I worked with him at the bank. He was a pleasure to be around. I always remember him bringing the best ever mashed potatoes to work if we were having a get together. I think he said his wife made them and gave me the recipe so that's how I've made them ever since. When people tell me how good they are I always tell them about John bringing them to the bank dinners. Prayers for all his family.

Clint Kathy Butler - November 17, 2019 at 03:40 PM

ML

“ To all of the family,
We were saddened to hear about the passing of John. He always greeted me with a smile, and I am thankful to have known him. He and Kay as a couple were always friendly, and I enjoyed seeing the two of them. John will be greatly missed, and I ask the Lord to bring comfort and peace to the entire family through the love of many friends. May God help each of you with this painful loss, and give you strength as you face each day.
Love and Blessings,
Ben and Marlene Lovejoy

Marlene Lovejoy - November 17, 2019 at 02:04 PM

AG

I Going Miss You 🥺 So Much Great 👍 To See You AT College Football 🏈 Playoff Championship Game Monday January 8TH 2018 Between University Of Alabama 26 AND University OF Georgia 23 From Mercedes Benz Stadium 🏟️ IN Atlanta Georgia.

Alex Goodrich - November 17, 2019 at 06:18 PM

DD

“ *Kay & family, you have my sincere condolences and it is my prayer that you find peace during these next trying days, and I know your faith and trust in God will see you through this.*

Doris Daniel - November 17, 2019 at 11:54 AM