



## "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins

April 9, 1949 - November 16, 2023

Kenneth Lee "Kenny" Collins was born on Sunday, April 9, 1949 in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, the son of Paul Credric and Pauline Ruth (Dobbins) Collins. He passed this life on Thursday, November 16, 2023 in Tulsa, OK. He was 74 years of age.

Kenny was a 1967 graduate of Broken Arrow High School. He played trumpet in the band and was Drum Major his senior year. He attended Northeastern State College in Tahlequah, until he decided to serve his country during the Vietnam era. Kenny was a proud veteran of the United States Navy, having served from February 27, 1969 to February 4, 1975. During his naval career, he had some amazing experiences. One highlight was being chosen as an Honor Guard for the dedication of Coronado Bay Bridge in San Diego, CA with Governor Ronald Reagan. While waiting for his orders for Naples, Italy, he played in the Navy band for officers' clubs throughout the country. He met the former Miss Janice Ellen (Jan) Simmons in 1971 at Naples, during his tour there; they were married on June 30, 1973 in Broken Arrow, and just celebrated 50 years of marriage.

Kenny worked for Rainbow Concrete for 16 years from inception of the company, assisting in building the plant. Especially talented in mechanics and sales, he served in every position with the company. He was later employed in Construction Management as Safety Director with Ashland Pavement and Chemicals, often achieving 0% accident records annually.

Kenny's life motto was "for everyone he met, to try to make their life better" which he learned from his brother, D.A. Always ready and willing to give a helping hand serving, he used his musical talent in Nursing Home ministry for 18 years, singing old favorites and new songs he wrote. Kenny was known especially for living out scripture by caring for widows, the elderly, and single moms. It was not surprising he was selected by Broken Arrow Alumni Association as a Great Graduate of Broken Arrow in 2019.

Most recently Kenny volunteered at the Oklahoma Military History Center. While giving tours as a docent, he shared that the building began as the Broken Arrow Hospital in 1941 and often pointed out the specific room in which he and his brothers were born. His woodworking and handyman skills are on display throughout the Center, as he spent countless hours honoring veterans and his country,

Growing up, Kenny enjoyed fishing, baseball, and camping. He loved music and while in the Navy he traded his trumpet for a guitar and taught himself to play it and the harmonica. He loved the outdoors and would escape to fish and float the river with Jan and their daughters or high school buddies. In recent years, he could be found at weekly jam sessions with his bluegrass group, coffee time with several groups of friends, or perfecting his golf game. He loved to laugh and could deliver a joke and one-liners like no one else.

Kenny was also very good in construction, building his home 38 years ago. His greatest joy came from spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren, cheering them on at sporting events.

Kenny recently initiated a Student Scholarship Fund at the Oklahoma Military History Center. for those interested in serving their country. The family requests memorials to the Oklahoma Military History Center, 112 North Main Street, Broken Arrow, OK 74012.

He is survived by: His wife, Jan Collins, of the home, daughters, Laura and husband Jonathan Hopkins, Owasso, OK, Mollie and husband Blake Moses, Broken Arrow, OK; Grandchildren, Troy, Clay and Judd Moses, and Audrey,

Ava and Levi Hopkins;

Brother, Paul and wife Gwen Collins, Skiatook, OK., Sister-in-law, Stephana "Stephy" Collins, Gibsonville, NC, and Sister-in-law, Barbara Simmons, Broken Arrow, OK.

Nieces Susan, Lisa, Terri and Kim; nephews Darren, Paul and Tommy, and a host of great nieces, great nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Pauline, a brother, D.A., his in-laws, Paul "Pete" and Frances Simmons and A brother-in-law, Chris.

# Cemetery Details

## Fort Gibson National Cemetery

1423 Cemetery Rd.  
Fort Gibson, OK 74434  
(918) 478-2334

# Previous Events

## Viewing

NOV **21**. 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home  
1660 South Elm Place  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
(918) 258-9623  
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Visitation

NOV **21**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home  
1660 South Elm Place  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
(918) 258-9623  
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Graveside Service

---

NOV **22**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Fort Gibson National Cemetery  
1423 Cemetery Rd.  
Fort Gibson, OK 74434  
(918) 478-2334

## Celebration of Life

---

NOV **22**. 1:30 PM (CT)

Life Demonstration Church  
Broken Arrow, OK

*1200 South Olive Avenue Broken Arrow, OK 74012 Kenny asked that everyone wear Red White & Blue*

# Tribute Wall

DG

“ I have known Kenny since I was born. My family and his family were long time friends. Some would say they were part of the family you pick for yourself. Kenny was one of the most devoted and loving people you will even meet. He was the friend we all would like to believe we are. He was the real deal; A family man, proud veteran, volunteer, hard worker, sports fan and friend. He will be greatly missed by many.

Debra Goodner - November 22, 2023 at 11:30 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Preservice pictorial video



Hayhurst Funeral Home - November 22, 2023 at 04:24 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Wrapped In The Flag



Hayhurst Funeral Home - November 22, 2023 at 04:24 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Pictorial Video Tribute



Hayhurst Funeral Home - November 22, 2023 at 04:24 PM



“ In all things you did good, Sailor. Rest you oars.

Raymond & Bobbie Sturm

Raymond Sturm - November 22, 2023 at 02:52 PM



Sorry, meant "Rest your oars."

Raymond Sturm - November 22, 2023 at 02:55 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins.



November 22, 2023 at 08:31 AM



“ Wimpees planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins.

Wimpees - November 22, 2023 at 08:31 AM

JM

“ Jan, we will be on the road tomorrow heading to Daughters for Thanksgiving. But, I give THANKS for having known Kenneth and being a fellow Veteran. Prayers to you and family 🙏🙏🙏🇺🇸

Jerry Medlin - November 21, 2023 at 12:22 PM

JM

“ Jerry M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins.

Jerry M. - November 21, 2023 at 12:18 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins.



November 21, 2023 at 10:02 AM

BF

“ Bo Moses Trucking Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins.

Bo Moses Trucking Family - November 21, 2023 at 09:07 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins.*



November 21, 2023 at 09:07 AM



“ *Bobby, Nicole, Abby and Carter planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins.*

**Bobby, Nicole, Abby and Carter** - November 21, 2023 at 09:04 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins.*



November 21, 2023 at 09:04 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins.*



November 20, 2023 at 06:17 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray* was purchased for the family of "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins.



November 20, 2023 at 05:12 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins.



November 20, 2023 at 04:13 PM



“ *Lester, Shannon & Madison Austin* planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins.

**Lester, Shannon & Madison Austin** - November 20, 2023 at 03:31 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins.



November 20, 2023 at 03:31 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins.*



---

November 20, 2023 at 12:02 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins.*



---

November 20, 2023 at 10:17 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins.*



---

November 20, 2023 at 09:05 AM



“ *Kenny was an upstanding and gentlemanly young man when I knew him in 1967. It seems that nothing had changed in the ensuing years. A life of purpose and dedication, and a wonderful family. I'm not surprised at all.*

---

**Jann Colwell Snyder** - November 20, 2023 at 12:35 AM

LG

“ Love, The Virtue Girls planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins.

Love, The Virtue Girls - November 19, 2023 at 03:58 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins.



November 19, 2023 at 03:58 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins.



November 19, 2023 at 03:08 PM

MP

“ Elmer has known Kenny for many, many years, and when I asked him what he would like to say about him, he quickly responded that he was always willing to help wherever, and whomever needed the help. What a great reputation to carry through life!

*I, Marcella, can say that one of the neatest things about being married to Elmer is that I gained, Lord only knows, how many new friends. Any time I've been around Kenny & Jan, I have always felt uplifted with their mutual positive, friendly personalities. Ken's big bright smile is one a person doesn't forget.*

*Every time I/we go to Broken Arrow, we drive right by the front of their well-kept, attractive home. I "always" look that direction, and have commented that I can barely tell you what's across the street from them. In the Spring through Fall, it wasn't unusual to see Kenny out mowing the lawn, weed-eating, or trimming the long row of beautiful pink crepe myrtle bushes. He took great pride in that work, and I for one always enjoy seeing their home and yard. I had forgotten (if I ever knew) that Kenny had constructed their home. WOW! That's just another reminder to me of my recent years of mixed feelings when I learn really interesting things about people, "after" they pass from this earthly life. His obituary is full of so many wonderful details of his fully lived life. And I know he was a great Christian; it just doesn't get better than that!*

*Jan, Laura, Mollie and Paul Wayne, and families, you are in our thoughts and prayers. May God give you strength, comfort and rest, as only He can.*

*Elmer & Marcella Pense*

---

**Marcella Pense** - November 18, 2023 at 10:11 PM

DS

“ Grew up with Kenny at the Assembly of God church and worked with his dad at the post office. Great family to know. Enjoyed having coffee with Kenny on Saturday morning with a bunch of other guys from Broken Arrow telling lies and solving the world's problems. Going to miss Kenny and praying for Jan and all the family during this time.  
Dannie Sawyer

Dannie Sawyer - November 18, 2023 at 03:09 PM

B1

“ BA Class of 1967 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins.

BA Class of 1967 - November 18, 2023 at 11:40 AM

B1

“ BA Class of 1967 purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins.



BA Class of 1967 - November 18, 2023 at 11:40 AM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of "Kenny" Kenneth Lee Collins.



November 18, 2023 at 11:38 AM

HH

“ It is our honor and privilege to serve the Collins family and to provide this permanent tribute website in memory of Kenny.

---

**Hayhurst Funeral Home** - November 16, 2023 at 01:10 PM

LE

*Kenny was such a blessing to me. I loved hearing his stories about the military. He was so kind. I loved it when he called me “Mom” with a big smile on his face. I miss him, but looking forward to seeing him again. Condolences to his sweet family.*

---

**Linda Emmert** - November 21, 2023 at 04:24 PM