



## David Glen Collins

August 15, 1956 - August 6, 2024

David Collins, 67, passed on August 6, 2024. Born on August 15, 1956 in Evansville, Indiana, he is preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Shirley Collins. He is survived by his loving wife of 37 years, Sandra (Smith) Collins, sons Matthew Collinsmith (Adele) and Russell Collins (Rosie) and beautiful granddaughter Violet, as well as his younger sister Sheri (Collins) Barringer (Marty), nephew David Barringer, niece Stacy (Barringer) Smith (JD), great nephew Benjamin Smith and the many young men whose lives he touched.

David was a 1974 graduate of Gar-field High School in Woodbridge, VA and a proud 1978 alumni of James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA, where he earned his BS in Geology. He loved his first job as a geologist in Albuquerque, NM. He met his soul mate and future wife Sandra, while earning his Masters degree in Geology at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. Married in 1987, they later settled in Alexandria, VA where they raised their sons Matthew (Matt) and Russell (Russ).

David grew up in Dale City, Virginia. He was very proud of his Marine Corps father, and was raised with the Corps' values. He played Little League baseball, basketball and track. He played trumpet in the school band and played with a drum & bugle Corps. He was a sports photographer in high school for the school newspaper & enjoyed hanging out with his friends. He

enjoyed swimming and spent a lot of time at the community pool with his sister. He was very active in his church and youth groups at Good Shepherd, UMC. Once he got his driver's license, he gladly drove his sister and her friends everywhere in his VW.

David was committed to doing his best at every position he held as a consultant and working for the Navy. He was very proud of being a geologist. David was a mentor to the young environmental geologists he worked with professionally and helped guide them in the beginning of their careers. He was employed at a few businesses over the years, ending his career working for the Navy, at the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC), from which he retired at the end of June of this year.

He adored his wife Sandra and tolerated her idea of a fun hike, watching BritBox and just being together. When he had time, he loved chatting with folks. His sister tells that he would ask her when was a good time to call & she would be sure to schedule the call when she had at least 1 ½ hours available. Later on in life he took up radio controlled planes and helicopters as a way to relax and riding his bicycle.

More than anything, he loved being a dad. He was always very active in the lives of Matt & Russ. If he wasn't volunteering with their Scout troop, he was coaching one of their sports teams or cheering them on from the sidelines. He encouraged and pushed his sons to follow their passions, and was always involved in their activities, often being the first one to volunteer.

The Collins door was (and continues to be) open to all of Matt and Russell's friends. He always welcomed them into his home and treated them with the same respect, love and care as his own sons. To the boys he watched become men, he was a mentor and a friend. He was always there to listen to their problems, was always willing to offer advice, to help identify options, and

guide but not make decisions. He was always proud of the young folks in his life and enjoyed watching them grow up.

He was a wonderful Popop to his adorable first grandchild, Violet. His eyes lit up every time she walked into the room. He loved taking her for walks, teaching her silly things and just spending time with her.

The family is planning an informal Life Celebration for all to celebrate Dave's life on September 14, 2024 between 3 and 7 PM at:

Thompson Community Center  
6090 Kingstowne Village Parkway  
Kingstowne, VA 22315

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in David's memory to: Inova Health Foundation at:

[[https://join.inova.org/tribute?\\_gl=1\\*1s1jg15\\*\\_gcl\\_au\\*MTIzNjQ1MjQ5NC4xNzIzMjE1OTEy](https://join.inova.org/tribute?_gl=1*1s1jg15*_gcl_au*MTIzNjQ1MjQ5NC4xNzIzMjE1OTEy)]

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

SEP **14.** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Thompson Community Center  
6090 Kingstowne Village Parkway  
Kingstowne, VA 22315

*Service from 3:30 to 4 followed by a celebration meal. Dress casual.*

# Tribute Wall

LC

“*Dave and I worked together for many years at CH/Jacobs and NAVFAC. I can't believe he is gone so soon. He was a great geologist and friend. For Sandra and family, Dave talked about you with immense pride all the time. Sandra, Dave really appreciated all the meals you prepared for him before your business trips. He was so impressed with your career successes. He glowed with love for Russell and Matthew and was over the moon about baby Violet. Just thought you should know his love for his family went everywhere with him. 💕💕*

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**Laura Cook** - October 02, 2024 at 04:12 PM

LG

“ I was so shocked and saddened to learn of Dave's passing on 8/6 while at a partnering meeting last week. My first dealings with Dave were as a fairly new MDE RPM and I could not help but respect his wealth of knowledge (even if he was pushing back on my position - that's part of the territory!) I regret I did not have the opportunity to get to know him better, but I always got a chat in with him at RITS and I can say that my respect did broaden into a genuine appreciation of his humor and again - extensive brain trust! I was hopeful that his retirement would afford him the space and time to recover and forge ahead into a new phase of life. Six weeks is nowhere NEAR long enough. As with my Division Chief Ira May, who we lost in January at age 69, I feel we, the world, have been cheated with their time being cut so suddenly short. I like to think there IS a hereafter, and those two are enjoying stimulating conversation over a hearty beverage of choice - Ira was partial to stouts, I know. May Dave's memory be a blessing, may his life's path be an inspiration to those who follow. Because it's before 5pm and I still have hours of work ahead on this day, I will FIGURATIVELY raise my glass in a toast - I'll miss you, Dave! From your sometimes spiky regulatory pal - Linda Gustafson/MDE Federal Facilities

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Linda Gustafson - September 03, 2024 at 11:50 AM

JL

“*Dave and I worked together for many years at CH2M as fellow geologist. He was like a fatherly figure to me and a mentor. I will always remember the times we had working with the Navy-Pax River team and his guidance as project manager. One memory that makes me smile was when he and another colleague played a joke on me at an Applebee's after a meeting. Dave had switched the menus with a menu that he had edited and had my name as a menu item. This was part of a ongoing joke the team had with me. We laughed and laughed that dinner and Dave had great time and a smile just like his photo here. It was a memory of Dave I will always have. He was a jokester at times and loved to give me a hard time about things but in a joking manner. I will miss his humor, kindness, and smile but will cherish the memories and times we shared. We will miss you Dave but we'll meet again some day and have some laughs again.*”

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**John Ledbetter** - August 22, 2024 at 03:57 PM

SB

“ David was my big brother & I was his L'il Sis. I will miss his "Hey, Sis" when we talked - often for a couple of hours! He is the only one who could ever call me Sis and I will miss hearing it terribly. He was a wonderful brother. He was 5 years older than me and never minded my tagging along. He often took me & my friends around in his VW.

We were a very close family. We lived in VA and our extended family all lived in Mass. I have so many memories, I can't even count. He was adored by my kids. He loved his wife, Sandra, and treasured his boys. He cherished the girls his boys chose as life partners & was grateful they found their soul mates. The light of his life was his precious granddaughter. He loved every second he was with her and was so excited for the gift of seeing her grow.

He would often talk to me about the boys he watched grow up & the wonderful men they all became. His door and heart were always open to them and he loved each one as his own.

I love my brother & will miss him beyond measure, but I know his faith & I know he is free of pain, anxiety and worry as he spends eternity with his Lord & Savior. Love you, big bro!!

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**Sheri (Collins) Barringer** - August 15, 2024 at 04:56 PM

RW

“ Dave was the sweetest most kind hearted person I had ever met. He did so much for me and treated me like his very own daughter. I loved when he would talk to me, and even though i wasn't the most talkative person, he always had something to talk to me about & would give me the greatest advice on how to navigate adulthood or just how excited he would be to watch the JMU game on tv and how my daughter violet would watch it with him. His granddaughter was his world and i'm so glad i could give him that gift while he was still present in this world with us. He excepted me & my friends into his home and his life and treated them with so much kindness. I will never meet someone like him again in my life. He was a one of a kind man and a blessing to anyone that got lucky enough to know him in this lifetime. We will miss you so much dave. Thank you for being the greatest father to me, your sons, & a great husband to sandra. We miss you down here and we will see again soon.



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**Rosie Williams** - August 14, 2024 at 05:25 AM