



Keith Michael Collins

September 5, 1951 - May 15, 2019

Keith M. Collins

Walled Lake – I was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin on September 5, 1951 to Joseph and Gladys Collins. Most of my childhood was spent in Oshkosh, WI where I grew up with Jan, my older sister by 11 months. We truly were best friends as we did everything together. I know I pushed her buttons sometimes. I would turn off her imaginary stove and she would turn it back on and I would turn it back off. She would get so angry at me. I was thankful that she forgave me for cutting the ear off of “Miss Suzy” her favorite stuffed animal. Oh the fun we had growing up as kids. Back then I really enjoyed building model cars, going to drag races, riding bikes, and playing with my neighborhood friends. Things changed 14 years later when my younger sister Carrie came along. At that time, I was more interested in getting a color TV than a baby sister, but what did I know. Good thing we didn’t send her back like I asked.

Following my schooling at Lourdes Academy High School and time at UW-Oshkosh, I got married to Judy Tritz in 1972. If you know anything about me, you’ll know that I LOVE CARS!! I found myself on the road to the Motor City in the mid ‘70’s where I earned my degree in Automotive Aftermarket Management from Northwood Institute. I worked in the automotive industry for many years with companies such as Fram Filters, Hastings and Belle Tire. Detroit is my true home. In the summer of ‘83 my biggest joy arrived in my life and that was my son Christopher. The two of us have had so many great adventures together over the years. We loved making frequent visits to Cedar Point Amusement Park, going to RC car events, Autorama, any car show we could find, including the Woodward Dream cruise. Plus I can’t forget the one time Chris allowed me to win at Play Station on my birthday and then refusing to ever play again so I could remain “undefeated”. We’d spend hours talking about car “crap”. Any time we were together, was always the best time. Chris was my world.

In the late ‘80’s I created a wonderful lifelong relationship with Ann Coe. We worked together daily in an entrepreneurial fashion building the best Dairy Queen on Grand River

and 7 Mile. Additionally we owned a Burger's Direct and a coffee business on the side. We wouldn't want to be bored you know. We enjoyed collecting Budweiser steins, going to car shows, and attending local festivals. The simple pleasures of going out for breakfast or dinner and taking a drive around Walled Lake were the times I treasured most. It was the quality time we spent together. She never agreed to marry me, as "hell hadn't frozen over yet", but I must have done something right, for her to be by my side all of these years.

I faced many health challenges in my life, especially being diabetic and all of its complications. Over the last 20 years, I learned to do things differently as I wasn't about to sit at home and do nothing, plus that would have driven Ann nuts. I had way too many projects to get done. When I found myself needing to use a scooter, I loved that I could retain my independence as I could still get around. Knowing I had "wheels" made me feel as though I was on a race track. FINALLY, I had my race car. What did it need? Hot rod flames and a sign on the back that said, "How's my driving? Call 1-800-WHO-CARES". Watch out everyone, here I come!

Back in the day, I used to dress up like Frankenstein. I had 10" platform shoes and a "Frankie" mask that I mounted to a hat that I wore along with the Frankenstein outfit. I was almost 9' tall. I had a ball dressing up and scaring the kids as well as the adults. I got such a kick out of watching everyone else smile and laugh. This memory, inspired me to start decorating my "wheels". It started out with a few Halloween decorations, which people really seemed to enjoy. I thought heck, why stop there! Thanksgiving and Christmas were around the corner. What started out as a simple decorating project at Halloween (since I love projects) bloomed into a year-round event of being decorated for all holidays and special events. My "wheels" were renamed my "scooter" as I had to add a basket, additional battery and platforms to hold all of decorations. Go big or go home I guess. When we were in between holiday seasons, people would ask, "where's your stuff?". I couldn't disappoint, so Geeky Beek was born. You gotta love a grown man going into a Build-A-Bear store to buy outfits for a metal bird that is attached to his scooter because people wanted to know "where your stuff was". I loved every minute of decorating my scooter as it was a festival of delight for me to bring a smile to someone else's face.

My love for my family, especially my granddaughter Kaylee who brightened my world, my friends and even strangers has blessed me immeasurably over the years. I loved to meet new people, hear their stories and help others in any way I could. I lived each day with humor as laughter is truly the best medicine. Continue to smile when you think of me and know I'll be smiling back at you.

I am survived by Ann, my partner of over 30 years; my son Christopher (Heather) Collins;

granddaughter Kaylee Collins and feline granddaughter Harley; sister Jan Collins (Appleton, WI) and feline nephew "Max the Cat"; sister Carrie (Steve) Otto (Neenah, WI); most special Black Lab canine nieces Kyah "my little doll" and Allie "baby doll". I am further survived by so many friends in my neighborhood, at L'George's, Lakeside Family Diner, Home Depot and of course all of my "fans" at the Twelve Oaks and Somerset mall.

I was preceded in death by my parents, Joseph and Gladys (Knevel) Collins, Shadow, my Old English Sheepdog mix, Rilee our Border Collie and German Shepherd mix who LOVED DQ cones, Amber our Red Fox Labrador, and of course our beautiful black short haired cats Schatzie and Louie .

I have a few more surprises to share with you since my death on May 15th, so come and celebrate my life on Thursday May 23rd, 2019 at O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home 41555 Grand River Avenue, Novi, MI from 4pm – 8pm and Friday, May 24th, 2019 from 10am until time of service at 1 pm at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Glen Eden Memorial Park, Livonia MI. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the American Diabetes Association - Click here to contribute(<http://www.diabetes.org>>). or the Michigan Humane Society- Click here to contribute(<http://www.michiganhumane.org>>).

"Let's get this show on the road"

Expressions of sympathy <http://www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com>

Cemetery

Glen Eden Cemetery
35667 Eight Mile Road
Livonia, MI, 48152

Events

MAY 23 Visitation 04:00PM - 08:00PM
O'Brien-Sullivan Funeral Home
41555 Grand River Ave, Novi, MI, US, 48375

MAY 24 Funeral Service 01:00PM
O'Brien-Sullivan Funeral Home
41555 Grand River Ave, Novi, MI, US, 48375

Comments



“ One of the nicest patients I have EVER had in 17 years! He truly cared about everyone he came into contact with. He had a spice for life that is hard to find these days. He let his "Light so shine..."
We will miss his visits each holiday on his decorated wheels.
Many blessing to his friends and family.
Sincerely,
Nikki Novak
Physical Therapist

Nikki Novak - May 28, 2019 at 03:04 PM



“ Sending our condolences to Ann and to Keith's family. Keith, Judy and Chris were our neighbors in Redford Twp. and fellow parishioners at St. Agatha's Church and became good friends. You couldn't help become friends with such a friendly, generous, fun loving guy! Keith and I exchanged practical jokes, like the "For Sale" sign he placed on our front lawn and the time I had him show up to be an adult altar server at the 6:30 am Mass (he wasn't actually scheduled). Our sons were born the same year and were good buddies when they were young. Keith really was someone you turned to for help, like the time we solicited his help negotiating a new car purchase, as his resume included car salesman. Keith's creativity always amazed, from the mural he painted at the Dairy Queen to all the crazy get ups with his Scooter. Halloween was always an event, even back in Redford days! Keith, we know you're grinning away, causing some trouble in heaven!

Tim and Beverly King

Tim King - May 24, 2019 at 07:46 AM



“ First time my wife and I saw him it took me back ~~~ who is this man all dressed up having so much fun. Well we went up to him and thanked him for the smile he put on our face. We have seen him over time and what a joy.
Rest in piece my friend, T & J

tc - May 22, 2019 at 08:43 AM



“ Dorren Simpson purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Keith Michael Collins.



Dorren Simpson - May 20, 2019 at 10:09 PM



“ With deepest sympathy, Mike & Jayne O'Mera purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Keith Michael Collins.



Michael A. O'Mera - May 19, 2019 at 10:48 PM



“ It is easy to say that Keith was one of the most spirited and authentic human beings that I had ever met... He smiled as broadly as one might expect from a guy biting at the bit to share some wretched funny tale that he had just witnessed, experienced or dreamt about partaking in. He was my neighbor, a GIANT of sorts, ...always moving about in his scooter, waiting to find adventure or to create some. I often think of him as a true BEACON of LIGHT, because that is what he brought to anyone that made his acquaintance ... He was KIND, CARING, HELPFUL, ENTHUSIASTIC, and LOYAL to all who knew him. Whether I was calling him to rescue me from a garden snake hidden in my bushes, or a snapping turtle out on my front lawn, or a water heater that burst, into a flood, ... the guy ALWAYS became the Superman that he was, ... if he couldn't actually DO the work, he would find someone who could. He protected us the neighbors and we always felt the safety that he so generously provided. Keith never said NO, if my garbage was left out from travels he would find a way to bring it back in, if my packages were left on my porch, he would gladly put it into his refrigerator ... (including my sneakers, which he thought were my vitamins that needed cold...) we laughed quite a bit about that one! I would text him pictures and he would love sharing them of himself in his funny get ups or share locations that I was traveling to and he always marveled. But his REAL fascination were the stories that I would share working with the CAR companies, he loved hearing about the new technologies, or the the models that would be coming out as many times I would have an inside view. When I had shoulder surgery, he became my chariot to the Physical therapist, no matter what time was required, or cataract surgery, he made a big sign outside my front door asking if" I could see this now"! He was funny and loved life,... Keith was a true inspiration to us ALL as he never complained despite his own limitations, he just tried that much harder and better for everyone around him. It is honest to say that I have lost a TRUE FRIEND, .. a brother of sorts... YES he had two REAL sisters and a wonderful partner in Ann whom he loved and cherished so greatly,... but he always made time to be there for other people and made YOU feel like family. I will miss him deeply and dearly, thank you for your loyalty and your friendship, I will carry you in my heart forever and be inspired by your amazing spirit and magical gifts!

wendy reiss - May 19, 2019 at 01:37 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



wendy reiss - May 19, 2019 at 12:15 PM



“ My sincere sympathy over your great loss! Joe Drexler Oshkosh WI.



Joe Drexler - May 18, 2019 at 11:39 AM