



James Collins

August 27, 1943 - October 15, 2021

The funeral service for James “Jim” Collins, of Deer Creek will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 20, at the New Life Church of God in Bertha with Pastor Jason Knoll presiding. Visitation will be held at the church on Wednesday, one hour prior to the time of the service.

Jim, age 78, was called home on October 15, 2021, after a long battle with Alzheimer’s at his home near Deer Creek, MN. Compassionate care was provided by Knute Nelson Hospice and his loyal wife Sandi.

Jim was born to James Nicholas and Jessie Opal (Bishop) Collins on August 27, 1943 in Albert Lea, MN. He attended school there and also in Freeborn. Jim continued his education to achieve a degree in mechanics at Austin Technical College, eventually opening his own auto repair shop in Albert Lea where he worked alongside his sons Mike and Marc, with Marc eventually opening his own shop in the same location. Jim later ran another repair shop in rural Hewitt. In addition, he owned and operated an expanding dairy farm with his wife Sandi and son Mike. Jim and Sandi enjoyed raising a variety of animals on their farm and always shared their love of caring for animals with grandkids and anyone that would stop by. He passed his high level of integrity and hard work ethic on to his grandkids as they worked side by side with him on the farm. Jim was a big supporter of 4H and pretty much anything his kids and grandkids were involved in.

For a time, Jim was married to Betty DeRaad, and they later parted ways. He was united in marriage with Sandra "Sandi" Ruth (Schabow) Cerney on November 18, 1989, in Wadena, and they made their home in nearby Hewitt.

Hours away from work found Jim enjoying his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and tending to his horses. Family and friends knew Jim to be helpful, generous, hardworking, honest, and a mentor to everyone. He was a great, husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend, and above all else a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. Three words that described Jim: Faith, Family, Farm.

Preceding Jim in death were his parents, James and Jessie; brother-in-law, Larry McMartin; niece, Carrie Hildebrandt and nephew Ray Bohm.

Surviving Jim are his devoted wife, Sandi; children, Mike (Sarah) Collins of Deer Creek, Marc (Barb) Collins of Albert Lea, Brian (Pricilla) Cerney of Dayton, OH, and Bruce (Tamie) Cerney of Glenwood; grandchildren, Tyler (Megan) Cerney, Trevor (Janae) Cerney, Holly (Mac) Cerney, Tommy (Samantha Kirckof) Collins, Bobbi (Nate) Haller, Sydney Collins, Bryce Collins, Haley (Derek) Wiese, Missy (Jordan) Blank, Jesse Collins, Miranda Cerney and Meghan Cerney; and great-grandchildren, Gaius, Greyson, Emma, Lila, Tatum, Jarod, Keira, Alli, Harper, Nolan, Addison, and the newest one, Rylee Rose; siblings, Lorraine (Owen) Ferguson of Blooming Prairie, Joyce McMartin of Claremont, Imogene (Luther) Opdahl of Emmons, Gary (Marcene) Collins of Deer Creek, and Carol Hildebrandt of Alexandria; along with numerous special nieces and nephews.

Burial will be in Zion Cemetery, Bertha, MN.

Cemetery Details

Zion Cemetery

43815 County Road 1
Bertha, MN 56437

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **20**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

New Life Church of God
401 Main St. - West
Bertha, MN 56437

Service

OCT **20**. 11:00 AM (CT)

New Life Church of God
401 Main St. - West
Bertha, MN 56437

Tribute Wall



“ *Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of James Collins*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - October 16, 2021 at 05:47 PM

PB

My sympathies to Jim's family. May you find peace in the memories of him. 🙏

Patty Bernstetter - October 18, 2021 at 12:30 AM

DS

Our deepest sympathies from the staff and management of the Nelson Creamery Association

Darrin Savoie - October 29, 2021 at 09:31 PM

LB

“ *Linda Borntreger lit a candle in memory of James Collins*



Linda Borntreger - October 24, 2021 at 02:23 PM

LS

“ *Lea And Mike Snyder lit a candle in memory of James Collins*



Lea and Mike Snyder - October 20, 2021 at 04:03 PM

MG

“ *Sympathy, prayers and hugs to you Sandi and family. Many wonderful memories.
God's love and blessings to you.*

Marilyn Goslee-Jurrens - October 19, 2021 at 10:01 AM

KH

“ *thinking of you .*



kathy heltemes - October 18, 2021 at 03:42 PM

SH

“ Schuller Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom event.

James Collins Funeral Service

Time: Oct 20, 2021 11:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85051830945>

Meeting ID: 850 5183 0945

Passcode: Collins

One tap mobile

13017158592,,85051830945# US (Washington DC)

13126266799,,85051830945# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 850 5183 0945

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/ktW7YOufl>

Schuller Family Funeral Homes - October 18, 2021 at 12:01 PM

JT

“ *Jamie Toftum(Doll) lit a candle in memory of James Collins*



Jamie Toftum(Doll) - October 17, 2021 at 09:13 PM



“ 47 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - October 16, 2021 at 05:44 PM



“ *Tom And Connie lit a candle in memory of James Collins*



Tom and Connie - October 16, 2021 at 06:13 AM



“ *Rita Anderson lit a candle in memory of James Collins*



Rita Anderson - October 15, 2021 at 10:44 PM

WV

“ *Have lost a true friend a very God fearing man. Rest In Peace and be God's friend.*



wayne voge - October 15, 2021 at 07:09 PM

DV

“ *Dorothy Voge lit a candle in memory of James Collins*



Dorothy Voge - October 15, 2021 at 06:30 PM