



Joseph E. Collins

April 13, 1929 - August 12, 2006

Joseph Edward Collins was born April 13, 1929 and raised in Wilmington, Delaware, the second son of Norvin "Hughie" and Myrtle O'Rourke Collins. As a teenager in World War II with an older brother serving in the Coast Guard, Joseph decided early to make the military his career. Joseph attended Pennsylvania Military College, graduating in June, 1950 as the Distinguished Military Graduate and commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army. His specialty was artillery/missals/nuclear weapons. Joseph proudly served in the US Army until his retirement in November, 1970.

Joseph served in Korean War from 1950 to 1952 with the 2nd Infantry Division. In February, 1951, his unit, the 503rd Field Artillery Battalion (155MM), still a segregated unit, fought in the major battles of Chip-yong-ni and Wonju, which resulted in repulsing a powerful Chinese counter offensive. As a result of this victory, Joseph's unit was part of the regiment that was awarded both a US Presidential Unit Citation and a Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation. In April, 1951, Joseph was wounded by a land mine and was awarded the Purple Heart. After going to a MASH hospital and being medivaced to Japan, he returned to combat in Korea, returning home in 1952. He was stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, which would prove to be Joseph's primary stateside assignment during his military career.

Joseph served in the Vietnam War from 1965 to 1966 with the 1st Infantry

Division, providing artillery support to the Corp of Engineers while they built the harbor at Cam Rahn Bay and later in Bien Hoa.

In addition to his combat tours, Joseph spent a total of nine years in England and Germany fighting the Cold War, working with other branches of the service as well as the Bundeswehr and the military of other countries.

For his military service, Joseph was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal w/Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal, US Korean Service Medal w/Silver Service Star (representing five major campaigns), US Vietnam Service Medal w/4 Bronze service Stars, UN Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, ROK Korean War Service Medal, the RVN Cross of Gallantry w/Palm and the ROK Civil Action Medal Unit Citation w/Palm.

Upon Joseph's retirement from the US Army, he worked for Farmer's Lumber Company in Lawton, Oklahoma before moving to Lindsey, Oklahoma where he worked for Lindsey Builders before finally retiring. He enjoyed spending time with his family, watching football, playing on-line games and reading his emails. Joseph was also a member of the Elks Lodge.

He married Karen Frances Pocklington on February 27, 1976 in Las Vegas, Nevada. After living in Lawton, OK for a few years, they established a home in Lindsey, OK in 1979.

He is survived by his wife, Karen, of the home.

He is survived by the following children:

Pat and Danny Miller, Fletcher, OK

Joe Collins, Tulsa, OK

Mary and Dan Scarborough, Hurst, TX

Phil and Karen Collins, Antlers, OK
Penny Dodd, San Antonio, TX
Cindy and Tommy Ramming, Lindsey, OK

He is also survived by the following grandchildren:

Georgia Miller, Weatherford, Oklahoma
Patrick Miller, Norman, Oklahoma
Ranee Ramming, Lindsay, Oklahoma
Buffy Miller, Bedford, Texas
Joseph Alexander Collins, Tulsa, Oklahoma
Ben Scarborough, Hurst, Texas
Sam Scarborough, Hurst Texas
Brandie Dodd Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Dylan Dodd, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Kelli Stephens, Cincinnati, Ohio
Van Higginbottom, Antlers, Oklahoma and one Godson, Ayden Ramage

Joseph also leaves behind his great-grandchildren; Bailey, Rowan, Garrett, McKenzie, Brooklyn and Abby, his brother's family; Connie Collins and Ronnie Hales, Wilmington, NC and Corky Collins of Arlington, Virginia.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Norvin and Myrtle Collins, his older brother, Norvin "Rip" Collins, and a son, Joseph Hugh Collins.

Memorial serv

Tribute Wall

HG

“ Everyday more and more of our heros, the fathers that fought is far off lands to keep us free, pass on to their just reward. Although I didn't know him personally, I sure I knew him. He was one of Dan Rather's greatest generation. The was a man that knew what he stood for and stood for what he knew. We military brats of the 60's and 70's had fathers like him. As I think back to my own father's passing and now Joesph's, I can only say. You now sit deservingly so with the Lord and he says well-done Joseph, well-done. I am pleased. Thank you Joseph for being you and may all of God's blessings shine upon you.

Harry H. Grindrod - August 21, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ Pat,
Your Dad is a hero to all of us. He is part of our family of BRATS. God Bless you all.

Rosemary Disney - August 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Dear Pat and family--I hurt so deeply for all you've been through. Just keep the wonderful memories of your father that you shared with your FAHS family, close to your heart. God will give you the strength and we'll give you the love and support you need. God Bless you all.

Diane Harlow - August 16, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ My sympathies go out to all of you during this time of loss. No matter how bad their condition gets, we are never fully ready to let go. I am so pleased that your dad managed to hold on to life for 77 years, probably quite an accomplishment for a soldier. I love you and wish you peace.

Janet Williams - August 16, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ All your FHS family grieves for you. We are proud to be dependents of your Dad through our brat link...he was one of 'our' Dads~

Dwight Meeker - August 16, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ I am so sorry for your loss, trusting in God will bring you through these rough times.

Marilyn L. Brown - August 15, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JZ

“ I always remember

the kindness of the entire Collins clan. They have included me like a sister. My thoughts are with you...I 'magine... love you all, Jaz.

Jaz Zielinski - August 15, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ Pat & family: My heart goes out to you all on your dad's passing, adding to all the trials you have had to endure in the last few months. May he rest in peace, and may your family find some peace, also.

Buddy Lerch - August 15, 2006 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ We are reading to often of our veterans passings. My husband is honored to be in the good ranks as vceterans. God Bless your famaily.

Kenneth & Judy Holden - August 14, 2006 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ I have always been proud of my father's service to our country. I know that the personal sacrifices were great, but he always persevered to do the right thing. While i have sometimes disagreed with the choices that he made for his life, I know that he made his decisions on his life with the best interests of everyone considered. I love you Dad, and I will miss your presence.

Philip Collins - August 14, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ I am very sorry for your loss. I will be attending the services Wednesday, see you then. Take care.

Tammy Smith - August 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM