



Howard Collins

May 21, 1923 - December 7, 2017

Howard Collins, age 94, of Bowling Green passed away Thursday, December 7, 2017 at the Missouri Veterans Home in Mexico.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at the St. Clement Catholic Church in St. Clement with Rev. Jason T. Doke S.T.L. officiating. Burial will be in the St. Clement Cemetery with full military rites performed by the VFW Post #5553 and Missouri Military Honors. Visitation will be held from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm on Tuesday at the Bibb-Veach Funeral Home in Bowling Green.

Howard was born May 21, 1923, the son of Mahlon James Collins, a Mason and Knights Templar, and Elizabeth Dean Collins. While in the service he married Hazel Yarbrough and had two sons. He later married Karen Dianne Barksdale December 30, 1975 in Fern Park, FL and had one daughter. He is survived by his wife; sons J. Michael Collins (Debbie) and Thomas Lawrence Collins both of the Lake of the Ozarks; daughter Stacey Elizabeth Bibb (Ryan) of Bowling Green; nine grandchildren Kristen Tomei (Rodolfo), Caleb Collins (Sara), Philip Bibb, Jack Bibb, Conor Bibb, Jorie Bibb, Charity Herren (Mark), Angela Suddarth (Heath) and Adam VanMeter (Noelle); 16 great grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters Mildred Collins Slusher and Elizabeth Lucille Collins Walker.

Howard grew up in the coal mining hills of Harlan County, KY during the Great Depression and attended a 1-room school house until he moved to Cincinnati with his mother. At the age of 14, he hitchhiked out West, hopping freight train cars to Colorado to look for work so he could move his ailing mother out there for treatment. After being turned away repeatedly because of his age, he returned home and his mother died shortly thereafter. Upon her death, he moved to his father's farm where he stayed until he left to join the United States Navy when WWII first started, serving his country as an Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class from 1941-1945. During the War, Howard flew in the Navy's PBY land and sea plane, stationed at Midway Island in the Pacific Ocean, as well as serving in the Atlantic. During his service, he received special Commendation for saving the life of a fellow serviceman when he pulled him out of a burning aircraft. After returning from War, he completed his education in Starke, FL at Bradford County High School.

Howard retired as a Lieutenant from the Florida State Highway Patrol, where he served from 1946-1970. During his career, he served the Governor of FL working special detail in the FL State Prison from 1953-1956, as well as Governor-appointed special detail for Martin Luther King Jr in St. Augustine, 1964. As a State Trooper, Howard won the Florida State Pistol Championship, 1st Place Slow Fire, 1st Place Marksman, and 1st Place Sharpshooter. He also worked part-time as a Federal Marshall, transporting criminals on domestic flights. After retirement, he worked as an instructor at the University of Florida and Florida State University. He later worked Federal Law Enforcement at N.A.S.A. Kennedy Space Center 1979-1985. The following year, he moved his family to Louisiana, MO. He served as Municipal Court Judge in Louisiana from 1989 – 1993. Howard was honored as 2001 Legionnaire of the Year, and was a member of the VFW and St. Clement Catholic Church.

Serving as pallbearers will be Ryan Bibb, Michael Collins, Caleb Collins, Rick Mollerus, Jim Mollerus and Donald Meyer. Serving as honorary pallbearer will be Thomas Collins.

Memorials may be made to the Missouri Veterans Home in Mexico, MO or St. Clement Catholic School.

Cemetery Details

St. Clement Cemetery

St. Clement, MO

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **12.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Bibb-Veach Funeral Home's & Crematory LLC - Bowling Green
606 West Main Street
Bowling Green, MO 63334
(573) 324-2211
office@bibbveach.com
<https://www.bibbveach.com/>

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC **13.** 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Clement Catholic Church
21509 Hwy 161
Bowling Green, MO 63334
<http://www.stclementmo.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Bibb-Veach Funeral Home's & Crematory LLC created a Tribute Video in memory of Howard Collins*



Bibb-Veach Funeral Home's, LLC. - December 12, 2017 at 09:02 PM

JV

“ *Diane, Stacey, Mike and families,
Cathy and I are very sorry for your loss. Although we did not get to know him really well, he was always very nice to us when we did meet. Per his obituary, he had a very interesting life. Sorry we could not be there. May God's abundant Grace, Comfort and Peace abide with you tomorrow and the days ahead.
John and Cathy Veach*

john veach - December 12, 2017 at 11:16 PM



“ 189 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Bibb-Veach Funeral Home's, LLC. - December 12, 2017 at 12:31 PM

WR

“ *I met Mr. Collins and his wife while on my way home from the women's prison. They were hit by a snow plow truck, and I stopped to assist them, and get responders on site. Very nice people, and he thanked me for my service. His wife Later became a valuable client of my wife's make-up company. God bless the Collins and Bibb families in your time of mourning!*



William and Kelly Rhoades - December 11, 2017 at 08:58 PM

RA

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the Collins family*

Rita Auwarter - December 11, 2017 at 11:09 AM

AC

“ *Your family is in my thoughts and prayers.*



Amber Cope - December 10, 2017 at 04:46 PM

SM

“ *Sammy Meyers lit a candle in memory of Howard Collins*



Sammy Meyers - December 10, 2017 at 03:06 PM



“ *Howard was a was a kind man who I will remember fondly. I met him and Diane on Christmas Eve and have happy memories of them and their daughter Stacy on my visits back to Louisiana. Love and Prayers for you all.*

Bill Koch

Billy Koch - December 10, 2017 at 11:34 AM

DC

“ *I remember Howard Collins and his wife when they moved to Louisiana. I enjoyed his company when we would see each other. He tried his best to do the right thing and in a good way.*

My sympathy and best wishes to the family and friends. D. Randall Cone

D. Randall Cone - December 10, 2017 at 06:45 AM