



## William "Billy" Joel Collins

March 4, 1951 - August 4, 2015

William "Billy" Joel Collins, Jr., 64 of Franklin, NC passed away Tuesday, August 4, 2015. Born in Atlanta, GA, he was the son of Evelyn Graves Collins of Conyers, GA, and the late William Joel Collins, Sr. In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by a brother, Steve Collins. Billy was a retired school teacher/coach at Edwards Middle School in Rockdale County; he coached basketball, football and track and enjoyed running, playing the guitar and keyboard and listening to music. He is survived by his mother, Evelyn Graves Collins, Conyers; ex-wife, Barbara Collins Vlass; son, William Geoffrey Collins and wife, Jennifer of Gainesville, FL; sister, Christi Collins Mitcham (Johnny Mitcham) of Conyers, GA; brother, Danny Collins (Tracey Collins) of Covington, GA and several nieces and nephews. Funeral Service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, August 6, at Scot Ward Funeral Services with Rev. Dave Benson officiating; burial will be in the East View Cemetery, Conyers, GA. The family will receive friends from 10 until 11 a.m. Thursday, at Scot Ward Funeral Home. Memorial donations can be made to Relay for Life, Franklin Chapter, 120 Executive Park, Building 1, Asheville, NC 28801 or Atlanta Track Club, 3097 E. Shadowlawn Avenue, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305. Condolences may be submitted on-line at [www.scotward.com](http://www.scotward.com). Scot Ward Funeral Services, 699 American Legion Road, Conyers, GA 30012, 770-483-7216.

# Cemetery Details

## East View Cemetery

1127 East View Road NE  
Conyers, GA 30012

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Scot Ward Funeral Services at Green Meadow Memorial Gardens  
699 American Legion Road  
Conyers, GA 30012

## Service

AUG 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Scot Ward's Green Meadow Chapel  
699 American Legion Road  
Conyers, GA 30012

# Tribute Wall

AP

“ I was his point guard I 1989 at Edwards. One of his best teams and the best basketball coach I ever played for. He brought the best out of all our players and will never forget the index cards with plays he used in practice. RIP

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**andy parker** - July 15, 2019 at 02:38 AM

HA

“ I remember Coach Collins (and his cart) from the time my daughter was a student at Edwards MS.  
The best memory I have of him is when he played Stairway To Heaven at the talent show.  
It was great ! Now he is on top of that stairway, hopefully still playing his guitar.  
Rest in peace, Coach Collins !

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**Helena Ajo-Kelly** - September 22, 2015 at 06:37 PM

KP

“ Coach Collins taught me at Edwards Middle School. Later, when I became a runner in high school, he was a great example of the joy of the sport. I competed against his brother Danny (compete over states it...I wasn't even in the same class of runner as Danny) and often saw Billy there, leading the Peachtree, etc etc. Billy always had a kind word for me and was encouraging. He was a great role model for fitness and dedication to sports. My prayers for his family and my gratitude for sharing him with us.

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**Kevin Kit Parker** - September 14, 2015 at 07:47 AM

BB

“ Enjoyed teaching with Billy at Edwards the few years I was there. Probably saw him more taking a run on the streets of Conyers- always out enjoying himself. He was a dedicated man. Prayers to his family; so sorry for your loss.

*Bobbie Brown*

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**Bobbie Brown** - August 11, 2015 at 06:49 AM

AR

“ Deepest sympathies to the family of our Coach Collins. When we worked together at Edwards Middle School, I knew him to be a very dedicated teacher and a man of deep integrity. It was such fun to see his joy on the last day of school the year we both retired from teaching. I know that he will be missed.

*Ann Riggleman*

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**Ann Riggleman** - August 06, 2015 at 11:26 AM

DL

“ Daniel L. purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of William "Billy" Joel Collins.



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**Daniel L.** - August 06, 2015 at 10:52 AM

CM

“ I was deeply sadden by the news of Billy passing. He was such a great person with a big love of sports and a caring heart for the students he taught. Billy will live on in our memories forever.

*Coach Cindy Marcus-CMS*

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**Cindy Marcus** - August 06, 2015 at 07:10 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of William "Billy" Joel Collins.*



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August 06, 2015 at 02:25 AM



“ *Wishing you God's Peace at your time of sorrow. Coach Robert Brown and Carol- CMS (retired)*

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**Robert and Carol Brown** - August 06, 2015 at 12:36 AM



“ *I never knew Coach Collins well because he was a very quiet man and worked on the other side of the building from me. I do remember he had a cart at school where he kept all his things and you would never see him without it. One of our co-workers came in early one morning and hid his cart from him. He looked all over for that darn cart and finally decided to go get another one and keep it moving. The cart was returned to its proper owner later in the day and we all had a good laugh over it. We talked about letting Billy take that cart with him when he retired, but I'm not sure if he did. He was a great contributor to the the staff at EMS and always helped out at athletic events to make sure the kids were safe.*

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**Lorri Smith** - August 05, 2015 at 08:59 PM



“ *Coach Billy Collins was a great man. I replaced him when he retired and he will always be missed. Forever live the 'BILLY COLLINS GYM' at Edwards MS*

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**Josh Seymour** - August 05, 2015 at 07:59 PM

JF

“ I appreciated Coach Collins enthusiasm for coaching. I enjoyed my years with him at EMS. My prayers go out to his family and friends.

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**Julie Fressola** - August 05, 2015 at 07:51 PM

JC

“ Billy Collins was a quiet man who didn't call attention to himself, but had great integrity and dedication to his job and his students. One morning when he had a flat tire on the way to school, he ran the rest of the way to EMS so he could be there for bus duty. Amazing. An excellent guitarist, I remember he played a solo of "Free Bird" at a retirement party for Wayne Watts. One of a kind, he will never be forgotten by his students and colleagues

*Judy Carpenter*

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**Judy Carpenter** - August 05, 2015 at 07:35 PM

CK

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family and close friends. I enjoyed the years that I worked with Billy at EMS.

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**Carole Ann Kumm** - August 05, 2015 at 06:17 PM

KC

“ He was a special man. I remember him as not ever getting rattled by anything. He was a quiet man with a huge heart. Rest in peace, Billy.

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**Kathy Collins** - August 05, 2015 at 06:16 PM

PD

“ Pam And Don Davis lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Joel Collins



Pam and Don Davis - August 05, 2015 at 05:47 PM

SS

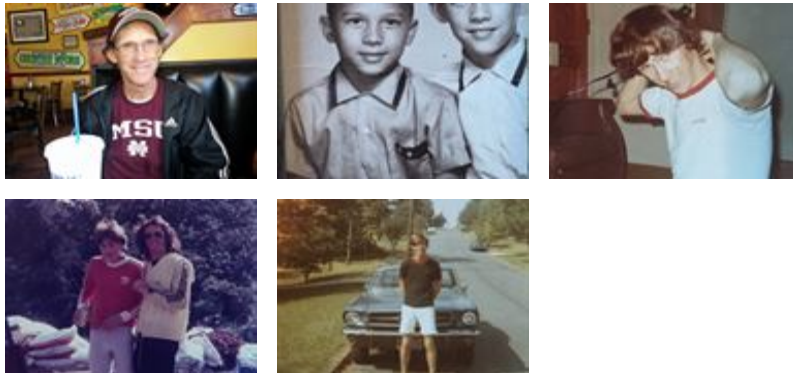
“ Condolences to Coach Collins' family and friends upon his passing. Our two kids liked Coach Collins during their time at Edwards, and so did we. He was an "all star" teacher and coach. We appreciated his enthusiasm and energy and for what he did and gave to his players and students. Coach Collins was definitely a unique and very special person because he cared a lot about our kids being successful in everything they chose to do. He truly made a difference for our family. Thank you, Coach Collins.

Steve and Joan Sundstrom  
Franklin, TN

Steve Sundstrom - August 05, 2015 at 02:24 PM



“ 37 files added to the album LifeTributes



Scot Ward Funeral Services - August 05, 2015 at 01:53 PM

LF

“ Our condolences to the family. We knew Billy from our children's association with him at school. We knew his son Geof through soccer too. I played on a Geritol Soccer team with him and he was a terrific player, we were undefeated. We had not seen him running the streets of Conyers for a while and had no idea where he was. We are very sad to learn of his passing.

*LARRY and Loretta Flowers, Conyers, GA*

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**larry flowers** - August 05, 2015 at 01:03 PM

CK

“ Billy was a very special man who shared his love for sports and running with many Rockdale County Youth. He was always happy, free spirited and full of life. He loved his son, Geoff deeply and took pride in his success. He was a good friend to our family. Cheryl & James Knight

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**Cheryl Knight** - August 05, 2015 at 11:53 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William "Billy" Joel Collins.



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August 05, 2015 at 11:08 AM

VG

“ He was my pe coach all three years of middle school. He was the coolest coach ever and i got to choose my pe coach.

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**victoria guthrie** - August 04, 2015 at 11:42 PM

SW

“ I had Coach Collins in middle school...he will b sorely missed...a great man.  
Prayers for the family.

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**Sherri Wellham** - August 04, 2015 at 11:28 PM

AN

“ Coach Collins was one.of the best parts out of middle school. We all thought it was so cool when he played Stairway To Heaven at the talent show.

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**Anonymous** - August 04, 2015 at 09:39 PM

HA

“ I had Coach Collins many years ago at Edwards Middle. I really enjoyed being in his PE class. Coming from a running background, he was definitely a stickler for it. He would push us to do our best. I wasn't a big fan of middle school, but I was a big fan of Coach Collins. He was one of the good ones I had on my journey through the Rockdale County School System. I am praying for the family as they go through this tough time.

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**Hunter Ames** - August 04, 2015 at 08:35 PM

BR

I consider myself lucky that I worked at Edwards with Billy. I am praying for his family during this difficult time.

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**Barbara Robbins** - August 05, 2015 at 07:49 PM

BM

Billy was a great competitor and talented runner. It was an honor to be his teammate at UGA. Wonderful memories!

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**Bill McChesney** - August 05, 2015 at 09:06 PM



*I don't live in Conyers, but was visiting on Tuesday. As I drove past EMS I thought of my teachers, including Coach Collins and the great memories we made during its first year. He was a positive influence and had loads of patience for rowdy middle schoolers.*

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**Laurie Carpenter Luebbe** - August 06, 2015 at 11:54 AM