



## Dr. Owen David Collins

December 4, 1935 - April 14, 2026

Dr. Owen David Collins, 90, of Butler, KY, passed away on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at the River Valley Nursing Home in Butler, after an extended illness. Born on December 4, 1935, in Elkatawa, Breathitt County, KY, Owen was a son of the late Cyrus William and Grace Gabbard Collins. On August 17, 1961, he married Janice Taylor from Lexington, KY, and together they enjoyed 64 years, living their faith, loving their family and friends, promoting education and a love of learning to all ages, experiencing adventures, and finding ways to help and support others. “Doc” graduated from Lees College, Jackson, Kentucky; Centre College, Danville; Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond; and the University of Kentucky with a Doctorate in Education. He taught in Breathitt County, held several administrative positions in public education, including serving as Academic Dean at Lees College, and finished his career as superintendent of schools in Wolfe and Pendleton Counties in Kentucky. “Doc” served his country faithfully in the National Guard, and he belonged to Christ’s Church at Eastside Park, Butler, where he took part in many church activities. For decades, “Doc” was a stalwart member of the Falmouth Rotary Club, having served as President where he contributed to many club projects, including their annual golf scramble, which he started, and several grant projects, educational scholarships, and community outreach events supporting the mission of the club. Since his retirement in 1996, “Doc” has written extensively, primarily as a columnist in two weekly newspapers in Kentucky: “The Breathitt County

Advocate” and “The Falmouth Outlook.” In addition he has published three books: “A Generation Bloodied but Unbowed,” “Rounding Third and Heading for Home,” and “A History of the Falmouth Rotary Club,” along with two community histories: “Morgan” and “Gardnersville” in Pendleton County, KY. The epitome of a southern, scholarly gentleman, “Doc” shared his gifts of leading, teaching and writing in so many ways. An interesting and witty conversationalist, he looked forward to any healthy exchange among family, friends & colleagues, ready to support his argument and opinions and always willing to listen to the ideas of others.

In addition to his wife and best friend of 64 years, Janice Collins, he is survived by one son: Mark Collins (Stephanie); 5 grandchildren: Elise, Luke, Hager, Olivia and Natalie Collins; his chosen family Barry and Denise Hisel; and a host of extended family and friends.

“Doc” was also preceded in death by his daughter Kelly Taylor Collins and a son Kevin Todd Collins.

Visitation will be held from 10:30 am – 1:00 pm on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at Christ’s Church at Eastside Park, 106 Mader Street, Butler, KY 41006, with his funeral service following at 1:00 pm and Bro. Mike Flynn and Adam McElfresh officiating. Graveside services will be held at 5:00 pm on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at Jackson Cemetery, Jackson, KY. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are suggested to Oakdale Christian Academy: 5801 Beattyville Road, Jackson, KY 41339, the Falmouth Rotary Club (memo line: Kevin Todd Collins Memorial Scholarship), or the charity of one’s choice. Woodhead Funeral Home, Falmouth, is honored to serve the family.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 18. 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Christ's Church at Eastside Park  
106 Mader Street  
Butler, KY 41006

## Funeral Service

APR 18. 1:00 PM (ET)

Christ's Church at Eastside Park  
106 Mader Street  
Butler, KY 41006

# Tribute Wall

DG

“ Owen was a cousin of mine and a brilliant, upstanding man in every regard. I'll treasure the many fond memories. Prayers for Janice, Mark and the family.  
*Doug Gabbard*

Doug Gabbard - April 19 at 10:22 AM

AJ

“ Allison and Alvin Johnson purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Owen David Collins.



Allison and Alvin Johnson - April 17 at 07:11 AM

TT

“ The Jubilee Jobs team purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Owen David Collins.



The Jubilee Jobs team - April 15 at 09:54 PM

LT

“ Owen Tomlin was named after him and really admired him. They have remained friends throughout the years.

Louise Tomlin - April 15 at 08:16 PM

KL

“ The first time that I met Owen Collins, I believe was in the summer of 1963 or 1964. I had decided to spend time with his mother & dad. Grace & Cyrus Collins, to help her with her house cleaning & cooking. He stated that he was looking for Kitty of which I stated, “This is her.” He corrected me & said “not this her, but this is she.” Afterwards, I never heard his name spoken without remembering his correcting my words that day. Owen, fly high.

Kitty Litteral - April 15 at 04:51 PM

RH

“ Prayers of comfort in your time of need. The Lord has called another faithful servant home. Yours in Christ Love. Brother Richard Halcomb Jr and family and Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church Alexandria Kentucky.

Richard Halcomb,Jr. - April 15 at 03:02 PM

MC

Dearest Collins family my very deepest condolences to your family and friends .Mry Lou (Delany) Christner

Mary L. CHRISTNER - April 15 at 04:15 PM

CH

Owen was a good man. I enjoyed working with him on many projects at Lees College. Owen was loyal, compassionate and loved his family, friends and community.

Cluster Howard - April 15 at 09:13 PM

LW

I remember him chewing tobacco when he was dean Lees College.

Larry Watts - April 15 at 09:16 PM

JM

*Dr. Collins was instrumental in the forming of the Pendleton County Planning and Zoning Commission. He was meticulous, pursuant in being a patient listener, moved slowly but intently to make sure all commission members were informed. It was due to his leadership that created such a strong board for the citizens of Pendleton County.*

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**JoEllen mitchell** - April 18 at 05:04 PM