



MSgt Gary Lynn Collins Sr.

March 15, 1960 - April 12, 2026

MSgt. Gary Lynn Collins Sr., 66, passed away peacefully at his home in Woodstock, Maryland, on April 12th, 2026. Born in Jefferson City on March 15th, 1960, Gary was one of the first graduating classes of Jefferson County High School and received an Associate's degree in Mechanical Engineering from State Technical Institute at Knoxville (now Pellissippi State Community College). He enlisted in the US Air Force on September 15th, 1983, where he remained until April 25th, 2005.

Gary had a successful career in the Air Force. He specialized in radar technology, was an instructor for Biomedical Equipment at the Technical Training School at Sheppard AFB, led biomedical equipment repair teams, and achieved the rank of Master Sergeant. His career was tragically cut short by a debilitating service-related disability which left him riddled with pain for the rest of his life. Despite his disability, he kept a jovial spirit – trying to whistle and sing through the pain. He was a devoted father and loving husband. He was a kind and charitable man who saw his life as one that was meant to give, not to take.

Twenty-five years of pain had a toll on his body and mind, but now he is pain-free and at-home with God. He was preceded by his mother and father, Georgia Young Collins and Estell Collins; his nephew James ("Little Jimmie") Kelley; and his sister-in-law, Katherine Kelley. He is survived by his wife of

nearly 40 years, Hye Yong Collins; his two children, Hayley Young Collins and Dr. Gary Lynn (Natalie Belew) Collins Jr.; his four siblings: James Dean Kelley, David (Pat) Kelley, Kathy Collins, and Cindy Collins; his nieces: Vickie (Charlie) Josey, Debbie (Richard) Ledbetter, Kim (Ray) Byrd, Cynthia Kelley; his nephew, Alan (Lindsey) Kelley and Dr. James D. Collins; and 29 Great Nieces and Nephews, and 8 Great-great Nieces and Nephews.

A funeral will be held in his honor on Wednesday, April 22nd, at the Fielden Funeral Home in New Market, TN. Visitation will be from 5PM to 7PM, followed by a service. Military Honors will be presented for him on Thursday, April 23rd, at the East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery (John Sevier Hwy) at 2PM followed by his burial with full military honors by East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard. Fielden Funeral Home is honored to serve the Collins family.

Cemetery Details

East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery

2200 E. Governor John Sevier Hwy.
Knoxville, TN 37920

Previous Events

Receive Friends

APR 22. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Fielden Funeral Home, Inc.
910 Churchview St
New Market, TN 37820

Funeral

APR 22. 7:00 PM (ET)

Fielden Funeral Home Inc.
910 Churchview St
New Market, TN 37820
(865) 475-3468
<https://www.fieldenfuneralhome.com>

Interment

APR 23. 2:00 PM (ET)

East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery
2200 E. Governor John Sevier Hwy.
Knoxville, TN 37920

Tribute Wall



“ *Fielden Funeral Home Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of MSgt Gary Lynn Collins Sr.*



Fielden Funeral Home Inc. - April 21 at 02:03 PM



“ *I am sorry for your family's loss. I am sorry that I will never see justice served on earth. I am blessed in my faith in that I believe Gary was met at the Gates by our Maker and that our Maker ruled justice will be served in Purgatory. May Gary serve his penance there and enter the Gates freely without sin and await his family in Heaven.*

Lin - May 01 at 08:33 AM



“ *Angel's Embrace Bouquet was purchased for the family of MSgt Gary Lynn Collins Sr..*



April 20 at 08:08 PM

DY

“ Hye Yong: Ok Cha (An Ok Cha) & I are very saddened by the passing of your husband Gary. God bless you as you grieve his loss. We thank the Good Lord that Gary suffers no more! 'Till we meet again...Dave Yingling

David L. Yingling - April 19 at 08:53 PM

SW

“ Sheila Guinn Williams lit a candle in memory of MSgt Gary Lynn Collins Sr.



Sheila Guinn Williams - April 17 at 07:51 PM

SW

Always treated us like family rest in peace my dear brother

Sheila Guinn Williams - April 17 at 07:53 PM