



Roger Collins

JAN 15, 1949 - JUL 1, 2024



Scan to Visit

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6
Media	Page 17



Roger Collins

JAN 15, 1949 - JUL 1, 2024

Roger Collins, born January 15, 1949, died on July 1, 2024. He placed his faith in Christ at age 11 and lived his life consistent with that calling; his faith remained the cornerstone of his life. He was truly a man of virtue, discipline, and honor. His passion for leadership and mentoring others is evident in all the lives he has touched. He grew up in Odessa, Texas, with his older brother Jay and two younger sisters JoRene and Rita. He felt blessed to have had wonderful parents and great siblings with whom he remained close throughout his life.

Roger played football at Permian High School and was a proud member of the school's first state championship team in 1965. He went on to play football at Rice University, where he earned a BA and then earned a MBA from the University of Texas. Throughout these formative years, Roger's love of people developed. From grade-school through today, Roger put his time, love, and energy into friends – resulting in friendships spanning over 60 years.

In August of 1978, Roger married Marilyn Merten, an associate professor of nursing at Baylor University in Dallas, Texas, and they raised two daughters Lauren and Lindsey. Marilyn passed away after 32 years of marriage, and his daughters remained the highlight of his life. He was so proud of the women they became and their many accomplishments. His happiest times were the times he spent with them.

He worked for the public accounting firm Arthur Anderson and Co. from 1973 -1977, then for a Dallas based, privately-held printing company as the VP of Finance until 1986 when he started at Harps Food Stores as their VP of Finance.

He would become Executive VP in 1995 and CEO and Chairman in 2000. He would lead the Company in becoming employee-owned in 2001, retiring as CEO in 2016 and Chairman in 2018. Through his leadership, Harps has become one of the largest and most recognized independent grocery chains in the US. The National Grocers Association (NGA) recognized his achievements in 2015 giving him the annual



Obituary

Roger Collins

JAN 15, 1949 - JUL 1, 2024

industry Entrepreneurial Excellence Award; he served on the Boards on NGA and, also, the NGA Foundation Board as Chairman.

Roger served on the Board and as Chairman of Fellowship Bible Church in Springdale, National Cooperative Bank in Washington DC, Endeavor Foundation (now Excellerate Foundation), on the Board of Associated Wholesale Grocers (AWG) in Kansas City, Kansas, NWA Rape Crisis Center, and Bank of the Ozarks, on the Board and Vice-Chairman of the Ozark Guidance Center. He was given the Lou Fox Community Service Award by AWG for his philanthropic work in helping communities where Harps operates stores, the Beacon of Hope Award by the NWA Center for Sexual Assault, and the Community Champion for Seniors award by Faith in Action and Washington Regional.

He is survived by his daughters Lauren Collins (Andy Brown) of Lowell, Arkansas and Lindsey Collins of Oklahoma City. His brother Jay (Maxann) Collins, sisters JoRene (Chet) Mills, and Rita (Paul) Hall. He is preceded in death by his wife Marilyn Collins and parents Joe and Ruth Collins. He has many cousins, nieces, and nephews with whom he shared great memories.

On Tuesday, July 9th, a graveside gathering will be held in Rogers at Pinnacle Memorial Gardens at 9 a.m., followed by a memorial service at Cross Church, Rogers, Arkansas, at 10 a.m. Donations can be made to the Collins Family Research Fund at the Cleveland Clinic to support cardiovascular research in memory of Roger Collins. Gifts can be made online at give.ccf.org or checks made payable to Cleveland Clinic sent to: Cleveland Clinic Foundation, P.O. Box 931517, Cleveland, OH 44193-1655. Please include "In Memory of Roger Collins to the Collins Family Fund" with your gift. Alternatively, donations can be made to the Fellowship Bible Church of Springdale, 2000 W Emma, Springdale, AR 72762.

To sign the online guest book please visit www.bernafuneralhomes.com



Events


Roger Collins

JAN 15, 1949 - JUL 1, 2024

Graveside


 **Tuesday**, July 9, 2024


 9:00 AM CT

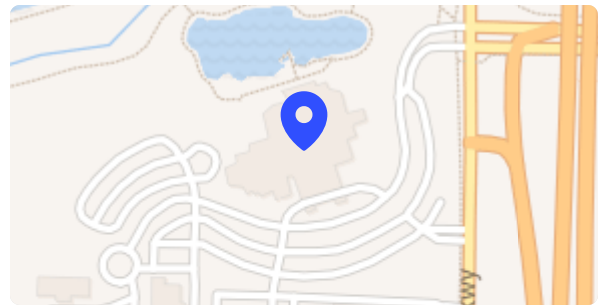
 **Pinnacle Memorial Gardens**
5930 S Wallis Rd, Rogers AR 72758

Celebration of Life


 **Tuesday**, July 9, 2024


 10:00 AM CT

 **Cross Church Pinnacle Hills**
2448 S Pinnacle Hills Pkwy, Rogers AR 72758



Cemetery Details

 **Pinnacle Memorial Gardens**
5930 S Wallis Rd, Rogers AR 72758

 **(479) 203-7399**



Tribute Wall

Roger Collins

JAN 15, 1949 - JUL 1, 2024



M. Harris lit a candle in honor of Roger.



July 10 at 3:43 PM



M. Harris July 10 at 3:45 PM

My deepest condolences to the family of Roger Collins. Your father was a kind and caring leader to the Harps Stores family and every organization that he served and led.



Marty Y. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Roger.



July 9 at 2:42 AM



Jani P. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Roger.



July 8 at 8:57 PM



Above sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Collins family.



July 8 at 7:23 PM



Above planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Roger.



July 8 at 7:23 PM



Tribute Wall

Roger Collins

JAN 15, 1949 - JUL 1, 2024



Anonymous sent a Joyful Memory to the Collins family.

July 8 at 9:10 AM



Awg & Awg Board Of Directors planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Roger.

July 8 at 9:10 AM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Collins family.

July 8 at 8:33 AM



Maurice H. planted a grove of 3 Memorial Trees in honor of Roger.

July 8 at 5:17 AM



Larry Manry posted:

Roger was truly a man who lived his faith everyday. Through his dedication to a life of service and excellence he changed the lives of many. I was blessed to know him.

July 8 at 3:54 AM



Hiland Dairy Foods. sent a Serene Retreat to the Collins family.

July 8 at 3:42 AM





Tribute Wall

Roger Collins

JAN 15, 1949 - JUL 1, 2024

RF

Raynard Fabianke posted:

It has been my privilege to know Roger since we were roommates at Rice for three years beginning in 1968. Rogers life has not only been one of significant professional accomplishments but one of personal generosity, genuine kindness, concern, and consideration for all whom he met with significant positive and enduring effects for so many. His life has been a gift for and to all of us for which we are all so grateful. His gracious persona, his life's many enduring legacies will continue to live on in the hearts, minds and lives of so many. With sincerest personal condolences. Raynard Fabianke

July 8 at 2:40 AM

DG

David Gilles posted:

I'll tell you a story about Roger Collins that I thought about for years. When we were in the sixth grade, we had contests all the time in our classroom, math and spelling are what I can remember. One day towards the end of school, we were having math contests, and we were divided into two teams. It came down to the last two students as to which team would win. It turned out it was Collins versus Mike Allen. Now Mike was a good guy and a good friend of both of us, but he was never any good at school stuff, and he was especially bad at math, and it was a math contest. All of the kids on Collins side were excited, because they were sure they were going to win. Collins was maybe the best in the class. Mike was on my team. I knew we had no chance. They were asked to do a multiplication, like 27×361 on the chalkboard. I still remember watching them writing down the figures. For some reason, it was taking Collins a long time. He was thinking very hard over each number, scratching his head, squinting. He was always a little behind Mike, and he ended up losing to him. My team was over the moon, winning when it seemed hopeless, and Mike Allen was a hero, a new role for him in academia. I remember a kid going up to Collins after and asking him if he was trying to lose, but he said no, he just couldn't think straight, shaking his head like he didn't understand it. He pretty well convinced me of it and it was years before I realized for sure that he deliberately lost. Pretty young to be so thoughtful. But he was like that. Never made much of his accomplishments. He was the quarterback of our football team, the center of our basketball team, the star pitcher and hitter of our baseball team. And the most popular guy. But he never seemed to think anything of it. David Gilles

July 7 at 3:24 PM

MO

Marc Orvin posted:

Roger was a great influence in the lives of my grandchildren. His generosity in time and mentoring will live on in these youth. We are diminished. Marc and Debbie Orvin

July 7 at 1:59 PM



Tribute Wall

Roger Collins

JAN 15, 1949 - JUL 1, 2024



Beverly G. planted a grove of 5 Memorial Trees in honor of Roger.

July 6 at 6:51 PM



Krauss And Robinson Families sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Collins family.

July 6 at 6:07 PM



Shelby S. planted a grove of 3 Memorial Trees in honor of Roger.

July 6 at 4:58 AM



Angie Merten lit a candle in honor of Roger.

July 5 at 3:39 PM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Collins family.

July 5 at 11:50 AM



Darlene Brown sent a Blue Caribbean Bouquet to the Collins family.

July 5 at 11:46 AM





Tribute Wall

Roger Collins

JAN 15, 1949 - JUL 1, 2024



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Collins family.



July 5 at 8:38 AM



Kim, Kevin, Brian With Pfsbrands planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Roger.



July 5 at 8:38 AM



The Staff @ Harps #511, Van Buren, Ar lit a candle in honor of Roger.



July 5 at 8:12 AM



,Rosalyn And Raynard Fabianke sent an Ocean Breeze Spray to the Collins family.



July 4 at 7:27 PM



,Rosalyn And Raynard Fabianke planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Roger.



July 4 at 7:27 PM



Darlene Brown posted:

Dear family of Roger, Those of us fortunate enough to have this extraordinary person in our lives, if only in a small way, were 'Wowed' by his smarts and, made to feel accepted by his kind, gentle nature. May you each find comfort in special memories. My sincere condolences, Darlene Brown

July 4 at 4:11 PM



Tribute Wall

Roger Collins

JAN 15, 1949 - JUL 1, 2024



Anonymous sent an Arrive in Style to the Collins family.



July 4 at 11:48 AM



Katelin Harrell planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Roger.



July 4 at 11:48 AM



Paul Strahan posted:

I played football with Roger for many years including Permian and Rice. I watched A TON of post game film. I don't remember EVER seeing Roger getting blocked by any one. To block him out of the play, they had to put two or more player's on him all of the time. He was one tough cookie. The Lord now has him at His side. God bless you Roger.

July 4 at 10:45 AM



Jim Black shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I grew up in Odessa and went to school with Roger's sister JoRene. I didn't know Roger at Odessa Permian because he was a senior when I was a sophomore, but when I arrived at Rice University as a green college freshman, he got in touch with me and invited me to tag along. For that year, Roger was like a big brother to me, making me feel welcome on campus, introducing me to people and organizations, and reminding me of home. Roger was athletic and very bright, but what I remember most about him was his compassion. He was one of the kindest people I've ever met, and this made a lasting impression on me. I'm attaching a photo of Roger from those college days. This was taken at the Houston zoo and is how I'll always remember him. Jim BlackDenver



July 4 at 7:15 AM



Town & Country Supermarket Of Salem, Mo sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Collins family.



July 4 at 6:45 AM



Tribute Wall

Roger Collins

JAN 15, 1949 - JUL 1, 2024



Town & Country Supermarket Of Salem, Mo planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Roger.



July 4 at 6:45 AM



Bill Abel posted:

Roger and I attended Permian HS in Odessa Texas 1963-1967. A true friend all these years. I will surely miss him. We have lost one fine man.

July 3 at 5:00 PM



From The Ludwicks planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Roger.



July 3 at 3:45 PM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful Dreams to the Collins family.



July 3 at 3:45 PM



Tim Hadley posted:

Roger and I were schoolmates in Odessa from 7th grade through high school--6 years, 1961-1967. He was a great friend and a leader at Permian. My deepest condolences to Roger's family. RIP to a great human being. Tim Hadley Lubbock, Texas

July 3 at 3:37 PM



Tribute Wall

Roger Collins

JAN 15, 1949 - JUL 1, 2024



Lonnie Johnson posted:

I have worked for Harps Food Stores since 1963. I met Roger when he first came to Harps. Roger has always been a shining example to me in everything that he did. He was always cordial, upbeat and willing to make time to sit down and discuss matters with you. He set an example for me to model my life after and I will truly miss him. I had the pleasure of knowing Marilyn, Lindsey and Lauren. I always enjoyed the interaction I had with them through my work in the stores and office. Harps Associates will always be grateful to Roger for his leadership and helping the company become an employee owned company. He has had a positive influence on everyone he came in contact with. I take comfort in knowing that Roger is with our Lord in heaven. Lonnie Johnson Springdale, AR

July 3 at 2:18 PM



Sandy posted:

Roger knew my name before I became an employee. I attended Harps grand openings of new stores my husband was the project manager over. Once an employee, he would still smile and say, "Hi Sandy." I didn't know your dad long but am honored to say I knew the man that forged Harps into employee owned now #17 in the US! May God comfort you in the days ahead with many sweet memories. Sandy Stout, HR Specialist, Harps Food Inc.

July 3 at 12:20 PM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Collins family.



July 3 at 11:22 AM



Kim And Barry Queen planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Roger.



July 3 at 11:13 AM



Anonymous sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Collins family.



July 3 at 11:13 AM



Tribute Wall

Roger Collins

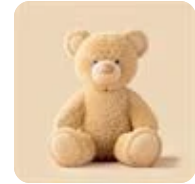
JAN 15, 1949 - JUL 1, 2024

AC

Amber Chambers sent a virtual gift in honor of Roger.

I have worked for Harps for over 11 years and I always heard good things about him. I didn't have the opportunity to meet Mr. Collins in person. I know he will be missed tremendously. My thoughts and prayers go out to his girls and his family.

July 3 at 11:07 AM



WT

Wilson Tang lit a candle in honor of Roger.

July 3 at 10:47 AM



LJ

Liana And Jessie sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Collins family.

July 3 at 10:41 AM



KR

Karen Rogers lit a candle in honor of Roger.

July 3 at 9:24 AM



KC Kathleen Christmas July 3 at 2:36 PM

I didn't know Roger well as he was continuing his studies at UT while Robert was still in Houston at Baylor. I am so glad that you got to meet Robert and share some memories last weekend. All that I have read about Roger in the past few days; the stories that I have heard over the years; and my personal experience of being a guest at his home several years ago have brought me grief that I missed knowing more about this man. I hope all of the many memories will bring you comfort. Kathy Christmas

KR Karen Rogers July 3 at 9:26 AM

May sweet memories give you solace.

KR Karen Rogers July 3 at 9:25 AM

Prayers and condolences 🙏 for an incredible man and magnificent daughters. All my love



Tribute Wall

Roger Collins

JAN 15, 1949 - JUL 1, 2024

TL

Tom And Cathy Luccock sent a Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet to the Collins family.

July 3 at 9:09 AM



JR

Jeanie R. planted a grove of 3 Memorial Trees in honor of Roger.

July 3 at 8:00 AM



JR

Jeanie Ruehle posted:

I work at National Cooperative Bank and had the honor of knowing Roger as he served on our Board of Directors for many years. He was such a loving and caring man, and his personality made all who met him feel instantly at ease. My condolences to his daughters and extended family.
Jeanie Ruehle

July 3 at 7:21 AM

KH

Kathy Hardy posted:

I didn't have the pleasure of meeting him, but after seeing all that he contributed to the Harps infrastructure, the employee-owned business, and so many other wonderful directions he took us, the employees in - he was a true blessing to all of us, and his legacy will live on. Prayers to all of his family, and may God surround you with love and peace as you enter this new season.

July 3 at 7:14 AM

JB

Jim Beavers posted:

The best person that I have had the pleasure to ever know. Prayers and condolences to his family. Jim Beavers

July 3 at 6:54 AM



Tribute Wall

Roger Collins

JAN 15, 1949 - JUL 1, 2024

TT

Travan Taylor posted:

I was fortunate enough to meet Roger in 2018 after finishing the DAL course. Though it was only for a day he made all of us, as manager trainee's feel welcomed, and gained valuable insight on what makes Harps what it is today. Prayers to his family during this time and may the lord give you strength and comfort. Travan Taylor Store #136

July 3 at 6:24 AM

MP

Melissa Pyles posted:

Roger Collins made a lasting impact on so many lives & will continue to do for generations to come. Prayers of comfort to his family during this time of transition. Melissa Pyles & 10 Box 272 (Poplar Bluff, MO)

July 3 at 6:04 AM

KF

Kristie Fortson posted:

He will be truly missed, he was a wonderful man . I will never forget all he had done for Harps... my condolences to the family...

July 3 at 5:37 AM

PL

Peter Larkin posted:

Roger Collins was a true gentlemen, a great friend and a gifted leader. He will be missed by all that had the privilege to know and work with him as I did when I served as President & CEO of the National Grocers Association. Rest in peace Roger.

July 3 at 5:37 AM

BR

Brittany Robinson posted:

One time when I worked at a Harps store, myself and two coworkers ran into Roger and other executives at a restaurant during lunch. He said if we could all say the Harps mission statement he would buy our lunch. We all rattled it off and he did! We were all so proud to be able to say the mission statement to Roger Collins of all people! I also complimented his colorful socks. Lol He said you have to have Some fun!

July 3 at 5:23 AM



Jim Black shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

July 4 at 7:15 AM



Taken in 1971 for the Rice Campanile. At entrance to Houston Zoo.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Roger by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit

