



## David Bruce Collins Jr.

March 20, 1963 - July 21, 2024

### David B. Collins, Jr. Obituary

There was nothing David Collins loved more than the ocean, and being out on it in his boat, rod at hand and reel ready, family and friends near. Nothing, that is, except his wife and children, whom he loved deeply and who returned that love in full. David Bruce Collins, Jr. of Wilmington, North Carolina, died on July 21, 2024, aged 61.

David was born in Athens, Georgia, to David Bruce Collins, Sr. and Renee Williamson Godwin. He grew up mostly in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and Charlotte, North Carolina, where he attended Myers Park High School, Central Piedmont Community College, and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, from which he graduated cum laude in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology.

Continuing his education, David received his Juris Doctor and a Master of Business Administration from the University of South Carolina at Columbia in 1993. Shortly thereafter, he was admitted to the bars of North and South Carolina and the federal courts in those jurisdictions. In 1996, he founded Collins Law Firm in Wilmington, North Carolina, where he practiced for the rest of his life, focusing on criminal defense, traffic, and personal injury law. He was, as well, a great mentor to several generations

of young lawyers and lawyers-to-be.

David was a member of Wrightsville United Methodist Church from the time he moved as a young man to Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina until his death. He loved life and was passionate not only about the ocean and fishing but also about golf and music. He was a great guitar player and really loved playing acoustic folk music sing-alongs. More than anything, David loved his family dearly and adored his wife, Jana, and his children, Sarah and Dave. Watching his children excel in sports was his great joy, and he traveled all over the Southeast to see them play.

David is survived by his wife of 21 years, Jana Hertel Collins; daughter, Sarah Morgan Collins; son, David Bruce Collins, III; mother, Renee Williamson Godwin and stepfather, Dr. Herman Allen Godwin, Jr. of Charlotte; brother, John Duren Collins and his partner, Hannah Peele, of Hillsborough, North Carolina; stepsister, Lois Convere McNichols (John) and stepbrother Martin Allen Godwin (Amy) both of Charlotte; and stepbrother, John Myers Godwin of Albuquerque, New Mexico; and his dog friends, Newton and Onslow. David was predeceased by his father, David Bruce Collins, Sr. and stepsister, Sophie Elizabeth Sawyer.

David will be buried on August 2nd at 11:30 AM at Lakeside Cemetery in Conway, South Carolina. The Rev. Charles A. Collins, Jr., Rector of St. Andrews Anglican Church, Savannah, Georgia, will officiate. Following the service, there will be an opportunity to visit with the family at the Cypress Inn, 16 Elm Street in Conway.

It's easy to imagine David, moving out on the swells, the sun setting behind the dunes, bending to the pull of a fish, surrounded forever by those who love and were loved by him.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the charity of the donor's choice or to one or more of the following:

A Helping Hand of Wilmington  
5013 Wrightsville Avenue  
Wilmington, NC 28403

Coastal Horizons Center, Inc.  
615 Shipyard Boulevard  
Wilmington, NC 28412

New Hanover High School Football Booster Club, Inc.,  
P.O. Box 7071  
Wilmington, NC 28406

# Previous Events

## Inurnment

AUG 2. 11:30 AM (ET)

Lakeside Cemetery  
401 Lakewood Drive  
Conway, SC 29526

# Tribute Wall

PI

“ I just learned that David's physical presence is no longer here with us on this earth. I only knew him briefly, as he helped me through a legal matter. Although our encounter was brief I can tell you he was a great attorney , and a super cool human being. He had a down to earth vibe that is much needed in this world. My thoughts and prayers are with his family whom he spoke very highly of with me when we shared stories of our kids. I remember when I was there he was planning a trip with his wife and had taken a phone call from her while I was in the office and how excited he was to be able to spend that quality time with her. I know this time of year is so, so especially hard without our loved ones here physically with us. I have no doubt he is watching over them proudly, and with grace. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family. Know his spirit remains with you always! 🙏💙 Pamela Irwin

Pamela G Irwin - December 20, 2024 at 03:20 PM

JC

Thank you very much for your kind words!

Jana Collins - September 22, 2025 at 04:36 PM

RS

“ I just learned of David's passing by reading the November SC Bar magazine. Learning of his passing was quite an unexpected gut punch and my heart goes out to his wife and children. David and I were law school classmates and we loosely stayed in touch over the years. He was both a good man and a good lawyer and he will missed by all of us who had the pleasure of calling him friend. Rest in peace David.

Robert Sutton - November 29, 2024 at 04:09 PM



*Thank you for your kind words. I am grateful.  
Renée Godwin  
(David's mother)*

**Renee Godwin** - December 07, 2024 at 01:05 PM

SB

“ *Stephanie Bell lit a candle in memory of David  
Bruce Collins Jr.*



**Stephanie Bell** - August 02, 2024 at 06:46 PM

SB

*May his memory be a blessing to his family, and all those who knew  
him. He will always be remembered in our family. My prayers are with  
Jana and the family.*

**Stephanie Bell** - August 02, 2024 at 06:49 PM

LK

“ *Love, Nikki, Lee and Ray Korbutt purchased the  
Country Basket Blooms for the family of David  
Bruce Collins Jr..*



**Love, Nikki, Lee and Ray Korbutt** - August 01, 2024 at 02:31  
PM

EA

“ *Eugenia and Marshall Allen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Bruce  
Collins Jr..*

**Eugenia and Marshall Allen** - July 31, 2024 at 08:29 PM

EA

“ *Eugenia and Marshall Allen purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of David Bruce Collins Jr..*



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**Eugenia and Marshall Allen** - July 31, 2024 at 08:29 PM

SC

“ *David was a good attorney and an even better person. Ma the Peace of God comfort you in your time of grief*

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**steve culbreth** - July 30, 2024 at 05:49 PM

JC

*Thank you very much for your kind words.*

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**Jana Collins** - September 22, 2025 at 04:37 PM

TF

“ *The Dewey Hudson Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of David Bruce Collins Jr..*



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**The Dewey Hudson Family** - July 30, 2024 at 10:43 AM

EA

“ *Dear Jana, Sarah, and Dave, I am so sorry for your loss of your beloved husband and father. I know that he loved you all very much, and was extremely proud of you. I trust and hope that he is now at peace. Thinking of you, Cousin Eugenia*

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**Eugenia Collins Allen** - July 27, 2024 at 06:18 PM