



George Kenneth Collict

July 31, 1945 - November 20, 2023

George Kenneth Collict, 78, formerly of Randolph Township, NJ and most recently from Conway, South Carolina and Spray Beach, N.J. died on November 20, 2023. Son of William J. Collict Sr. and Ada Collict, he is survived by Pamela, his loving wife whom he married in 1967. His brother, William J. Collict Jr., pre-deceased him in 2003. He also leaves his nieces Joanne Collict Hugues, the Rev. Jill Collict, the Lusardi families of Randolph NJ and elsewhere, several cousins both in the U.S. and in Great Britain, and friends, neighbors and colleagues that he has met and worked with over his lifetime.

George was born in Dover in 1945 and spent the first part of his life in the Richard Mine section of Rockaway Township near Wharton. He and his wife spent the majority of their lives in Randolph NJ and a vacation house on Long Beach Island before moving their primary residence to Conway South Carolina. He graduated from Morris Hills Regional High School in 1963 and returned there as an Industrial Arts teacher in 1967. George attended Montclair State College and Rutgers University where he attained BA and MA degrees in Industrial Arts, Vocational Education, and supervision.

He also taught at the Sussex County Vocational Technical High School before moving to Randolph where he spent the remaining years of his career at Randolph High School interacting with students in metalworking, electronics,

robotics and other engineering/technology based courses. Many of his students won local and state competitions, and one team won back-to-back national engineering competitions. Of these students and others George taught, many went on to have major roles in engineering and technical businesses, industry or eventually started technology-based companies of their own. George loved teaching students how to think and solve problems on their own, encouraging them to keep trying because failure was just as much a part of learning as was success. His philosophy was "you forget what you hear, you remember what you see, but you learn what you do" which he and a fellow science teacher later incorporated in the first applied physics and engineering team-taught program in the state. "The Physics of Medieval Catapults" was only one of the activity-based learning activities, culminating in launching bowling balls and other projectiles across the school property using scientific principles to calculate and predict trajectory, total height and distance traveled. This, along with other equally innovative and fun applied-physics projects, initiated statewide interest among both physics and technology educators. His enthusiasm and dedication was rewarded with a NJP&L grant for solar powered vehicle research, a two-year N.J. Dept. of Education grant for technology curriculum development, a Governor's Teacher Recognition Award, and a ten-thousand dollar Martinson Foundation Innovative Technology Educator Award. George authored two technology-based textbooks and is also listed in Who's Who Among American Teachers. Near the end of his career and because of his unique approach to teaching, George was nominated by the school administration for the nationally recognized Disney American Teacher Award.

George was also very involved in the Kiwanis organization from the mid-1970s through the 1990s, becoming club president of the Randolph Kiwanis Club in 1981 and Lt. Governor of the Morris County area in 1986. He was also the advisor to the Randolph High School Key Club (a Kiwanis sponsored youth service organization) for many years and also served as a state Zone

Administrator, then Financial Advisor to the N.J. District Kiwanis Administrative Board of Key Club for several years. George had also been on the advisory board for Easter Seal's Camp Merry Heart for Physically Disabled Children and Adults and served a term as chairman of that board. He was also a volunteer for several years at the Randolph Township Animal Shelter before moving to South Carolina.

In other areas of his life, when our nation was faced with a massive energy crisis in the 1970s, George's research plus his knowledge of new building techniques and construction, together with his wife's background of art and design, prompted them to design and build one of the state's first combination passive and active solar heated houses at the New Jersey shore. In that same decade they also purchased a late-1700's era house in Randolph that needed much attention. After much historical research and sweat equity, they restored "The Cooperage" (the barrel maker's house) which is now listed as a landmark and on the National Register of Historic Places. In the 1980s his love of "building things" led him to a hobby of restoring and modifying antique and classic cars, which continued until his death. Many days either his bright orange 1929 Ford street rod, his 1942 pickup truck, or his 1969 SS El Camino would be parked in his unofficial designated parking space at the high school, greeting students on their way to and from their day's activities. His teaching career suddenly ended in 2003 after an unfortunate interaction with his large John Deere backhoe.

After fully recovering, in 2006 he and his wife purchased a 1920s era beach house on Long Beach Island and again applied their skills in the restoration and upgrading of that structure. When the sun was out and the temperature was warm, both they and their neighborhood friends enjoyed days at the "senior circle" on the beach together. In 2022 they sold the house on Long Beach Island and purchased a beachfront condominium in North Myrtle Beach

to enjoy a longer season of the warm waters of South Carolina.

There will be no formal viewing. George liked ice cream and Reese Cups better than flowers; so instead, donations in his honor can be made to Easter Seals Camp Merry Heart, RD2 Mt. Bethel Road, Hackettstown NJ 07840 or the Randolph Animal Shelter c/o Township of Randolph, 502 Millbrook Ave. Randolph NJ 07869, or to the charity of one's choice.

The family will receive friends at Goldfinch Funeral Home, 606-610 Beaty Street, Conway, SC., on Wednesday, November 29, 2023 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm.

Please sign the online guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com <<http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com>>

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **29**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel
606-610 Beaty Street
Conway, SC 29526

Tribute Wall

NK

“ 5 files added to the album *Holidays with George and Pam*



Nancy Koterak - November 29, 2023 at 01:59 PM

KK

“ 1 file added to the album *over the years*



Kyleigh Koterak - November 29, 2023 at 12:45 PM

JG

“ It is a rare relationship when someone is a part of your life as a mentor, teacher and friend and makes a lifelong impact. Mr. Collict was one of those people for me. For those that know him, any time with Mr. Collict was a true gift. I was a student in several of his classes at Randolph High School, almost 30 years ago, where he fostered curiosity about technology and then demystified it and made it accessible. Arising from a spring break clean up project, I had the privilege of working alongside him for several years in building a house adjacent to the original Cooperage house in Randolph. To put it mildly, it was an incredible time with him and Mrs. Collict! In the many years since, I didn't keep in touch nearly as much as I would have liked. However, still today, rarely a day goes by when his influence is not felt in my life and I frequently find myself thinking of him, as one would a beloved uncle. Mrs. Collict, you have my family's and my deepest sympathies.

Mr. Collict, you've had an indelible impact on my life and it has been all the better for it. Thank you for shining your light on to me and the rest of the world that you touched. Farewell my old friend. I miss you terribly.



Jim Gellas - November 26, 2023 at 11:05 PM

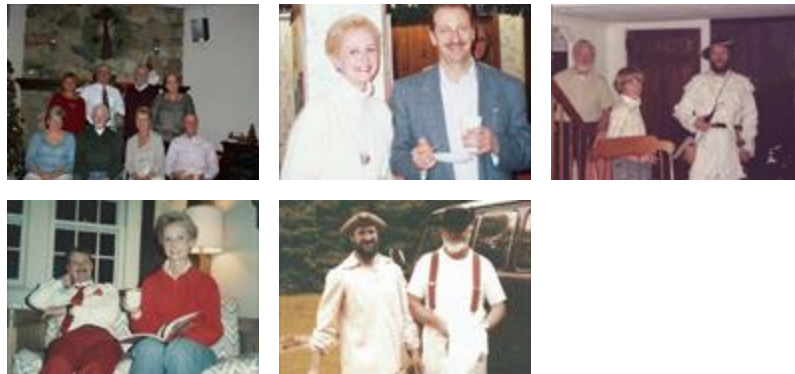
JC

“ *Deepest condolences Pam. Although we never met, I had the pleasure to work with George for 13 years at Randolph High School as we developed an award-winning Technology Education program. He always had a smile and willing to take next steps for what was best for the kids. A wonderful man who will be sorely missed. Many blessings to help in days ahead. . . Joyce (Valenza) Carlough*

Joyce Carlough - November 25, 2023 at 10:29 AM

DL

“ *5 files added to the album over the years*



Diane Lusardi Lehman - November 23, 2023 at 09:00 AM

DL

Hard to summarize all the years , celebrations , holidays , and joyful gatherings shared with you and Pam by your side . A remarkable friendship began when you both moved in across the road in Randolph and then become family (we actually officially adopted them) we couldn't have asked for a better addition. George ,you are one of the most incredible, versatile ,generous in so many ways persons we know - it was an honor to have shared our time together . You left a lasting and loving impression with all of us , you will be greatly missed . Love , Diane , Greg and our family

Diane Lusardi Lehman - November 23, 2023 at 09:28 AM

MW

“ George was one of the most kind and generous people that I’ve ever met. The news of his untimely passing is heartbreaking. Our condolences to Pam, his family and many friends who will undoubtedly miss this guy enormously.

michael washkau - November 23, 2023 at 07:11 AM

RS

“ I had the honor of being George’s neighbor since he moved to Conway. George and I shared a love for classic cars and I was looking forward to him helping me with the 1967 Mustang I recently purchased. He will be missed tremendously by his neighbors on Hidden Oak Drive who all grew to love both George & Pam. Pam, you are in our thoughts and prayers and we are just a phone call away for anything you may need

Robert Shelley - November 22, 2023 at 09:19 PM

RA

“ A good neighbor...a found treasure! Hidden Oak was blessed with “found treasure” when George and Pam headed down south and settled here. They immediately interacted with the neighborhood children when George parked his antique truck on his front lawn fully decorated in fall fashion (using Pam’s artistic talents I’m sure). It became the background for my granddaughters’ fall picture. Just a couple of weeks ago one of them asked when they were going to decorate the truck again; they needed a new picture! Lol. They never asserted themselves but you always knew they were willing to help. I will miss my decorated treat of candy corn often left at our back door. We were all, especially my husband, in awe of George’s ability to restore old vehicles. He wore a smile wherever he went and was always busy. My last memory of him was on a lift with a saw trimming the limbs from his beautiful oak trees. We left for a cruise a couple of days later never thinking this would be our last picture of him. After reading his obituary I learned more about our outstanding neighbors! He was never one to tout his accolades. He was just GEORGE. So let’s all remember to live each day as if it were our last. It could be. Love and prayers for Pam and all the family. Rachel and Johnny Allen



Rachel and Johnny Allen - November 22, 2023 at 10:28 AM

ST

“ George and I became friends over our shared love of old cars. He was a wealth of knowledge, always willing to pitch in and never seemed to run out of energy. He will be sorely missed. My deepest sympathies to Pam and his other family members. Steve Therry

Stephen J Therry - November 22, 2023 at 10:18 AM

TH

“ George and I were classmates as Industrial Arts Education Majors at Montclair State College. I wish to extend my heartfelt sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.

Tom Hudak

Tom Hudak - November 22, 2023 at 09:54 AM

PS

George was a neighbor that always tooted his horn when passing the house, had a smile on his face and hoped for the best to those around him. He will be missed. Condolences to Miss Pam, fsmily and friends.
Perry and Kimberley Small

perry small - November 23, 2023 at 08:50 PM