



Richard A Collins

February 16, 1950 - August 28, 2025

Richard A. (Dick) Collins, 75, of Bergenfield and formerly New Milford, passed away peacefully on August 28 after a long illness.

Dick was born and raised in New Milford, NJ, the son of Robert W. and Agnes (Beyea) Collins. He was predeceased by his parents, his older brother Bobby, and his loyal Labrador retrievers—who no doubt greeted him with tails wagging at heaven’s gates. He is survived by a sister.

From an early age, Dick’s greatest passion was sports. At New Milford High School (Class of 1968), he excelled in baseball and football, continuing his athletic career at Ithaca College (Class of 1972). He went on to play semi-pro baseball in the Metropolitan Baseball League and participated in the Stan Musial and Suburban Men’s Baseball Leagues, as well as the New Milford Men’s Softball League with close friends with whom he played and coached throughout his life.

Along the way, he formed an unbreakable bond with many cherished friends, most notably five lifelong high school buddies and their wives; and with others who became like family while enjoying vacations, golf outings, New Year’s Eve celebrations, Giants games, and get-togethers. Their laughter, loyalty, and memories carried him through every stage of his life.

After college, Dick began his professional career as a Phys Ed teacher in the

New Milford school system, where he taught for nine years and became known to countless students simply as “Mr. Collins.” He went on to serve as Director of Technical Process Operations at Glatt Air Techniques, Inc. from 1985 until his retirement in 2015.

Coaching was one of his greatest callings. For 16 seasons, he proudly coached River Dell High School baseball teams. He was beloved by his players not only for his knowledge and love of the game but for the relationships he forged with them. In 2016, Dick received the Bergen County Coaches Association’s Special Award for his contributions to Bergen County high school athletics. He also coached baseball and football at his alma mater, New Milford High School, shaping the lives of a multitude of players. In 1983, Dick met the love of his life, Terri (Delorme) Collins. They married in 1987 and built a life full of devotion, love, laughter, and partnership. To Terri, he was not only a husband, but her hero, her handyman, her chauffeur “Hoke,” and the center of her world.

His daughter, Caroline (Collins) Geraci, was the light of his life. His face beamed whenever she and her husband, Joe, walked into the room. Dick was endlessly proud of his grandsons, Michael, Alex, and JT, whose strength on the football field, athletic drive, and genuine kindness mirror his own, and who carry forward his spirit and zest for life.

His family circle was wide. He will be missed dearly by his brothers- and sisters-in-law—Robert and Christine Delorme, Janine Delorme Nowatzky and Desmond Sherry, and Richard and Amanda Delorme—as well as his five nephews: James Delorme (and wife Sruti), Michael Nowatzky (and fiancée Abby), Eric Nowatzky, Luc Delorme, and Jack Delorme. His nephews were his pride and joy, with whom he shared sports, fishing, music, thumb wars, arm wrestling, and plenty of laughter. He was especially grateful to his nephew Michael, whose selfless unending care during his final weeks brought him

peace and comfort.

Beyond his career and family, Dick's life was rich with hobbies and friendships. He loved fishing, golfing, tinkering in his garage, bike riding (with his makeshift side mirror), and playing music. A founding member of the "Backyard Boys," he earned the title "Washboard Legend." Known also as "The Assassin," a silent predator of large mouth bass, "Deek," "Dickie," and "Uncle Wenis," his wit and humor were never in short supply. He was a lifelong Yankees and Giants fan, an antique collector, and a lover of good craftsmanship.

He believed in hard work, fixing what was broken, and always carrying a pocket knife. For him, it was more than a tool; it was a philosophy: that in a complicated world, there is honor in simplicity, preparedness, and being someone others could count on.

Above all, Dick was more than a husband, father, brother, Pop, uncle, coach, and friend—he was loving, loyal and humble like his Labs, the sprit animal he joked about being connected to. He leaves behind a legacy of family, friendship, humor, and quiet strength that will live on in all who were lucky enough to know him. He was the kind of man the world could use more of.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Dick's memory may be made to FOCAS, Bergen County's Animal Welfare Organization, or Happy Tails Animal Rescue in Paramus, NJ.

Cemetery Details

George Washington Memorial Park

234 Paramus Road
Paramus, NJ 07652

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 2. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Volk Leber Funeral Home
268 Kinderkamack Road
Oradell, NJ 07649
info@volkleber.com
<http://volkleberfuneralhome.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

SEP 3. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Joseph's RCC
300 Elm Street
Oradell, NJ 07649

Committal Service

SEP 3. 12:30 PM (ET)

George Washington Memorial Park
234 Paramus Road
Paramus, NJ 07652

Tribute Wall

OR

“ *My deepest condolences to Terri and the whole family. Dick had touched so many lives. I was so fortunate to work for and with him at Glatt for ~ 17 years. He was a gentleman, kind hearted, great mentor and teacher. He was very knowledgeable yet so humble. He led his group by example, worked hard and gave it his all no matter what the task was. He always had time to listen and help in anyway he could. He was a great man with integrity. I am so grateful to have known him throughout the years.*

Orapin Rubino

Orapin Rubino - September 03, 2025 at 04:50 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Life Tributes*



Volk Leber Funeral Home - September 02, 2025 at 11:13 AM

RP

“ Same Junior football team, same Babe Ruth baseball team, four years New Milford High School football. We played guitar (Riverside-AMERICA). We made a silent movie (SUPERBREATH). Five years we winter camped in the Catskills. Last 24 years Dick was my fishing partner; once a week mid-Spring through mid-Fall. . . . so, one day we're on the lake. The fishing was especially good. The sky started getting darker and darker, lightning and thunder in the distance. It started to rain. The lightning and thunder were getting closer. (but the fishing was good). I finally convinced Dick, the Assassin, that we should motor back to the dock. It was too late to make it back to the cabin, so we motored to the closest lake shore. We covered ourselves with the branches of a lake edge bush as rain filled the boat. Suddenly the storm was upon us; over us. There was no space between lightning and thunder just BOOM, BOOM, BOOM. . . We're staring at each other with these Tom Sawyer-Huck Finn, shit eating grins. I should have been completely, utterly, absolutely terrified. I wasn't . . . I knew that Dick had my back. He was a problem solver. A problem to Dick was an opportunity. He was technical, electrical, mechanical. He and T loved dogs. Hell, he spoke Dog. We weren't best friends. We were special friends. I'll miss him always.

Ron Pergola - September 02, 2025 at 11:12 AM



That's a beautiful story Ron. I'm Terri's sister. Dick spoke about your fishing days all the time and he took my son Michael, "Mickey Two Perch," for a memorable day with you ❤️

Janine Delorme - September 02, 2025 at 01:42 PM

SA

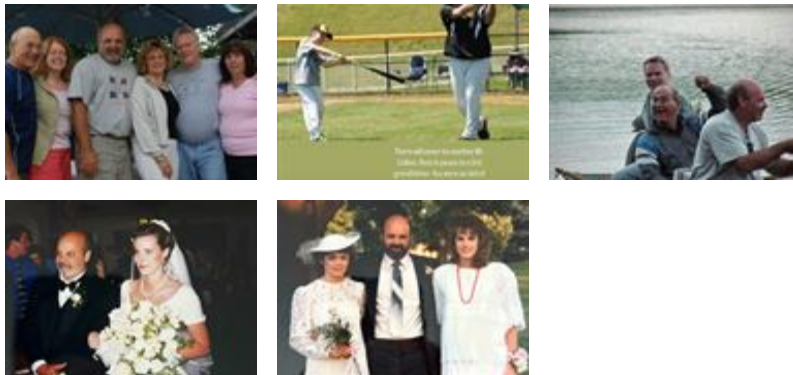
“ Dear Richard. Danica and I remember how you guys welcomed us to the Park Ridge farmhouse when we moved in upstairs as newly weds. Lots of laughs and adventures during those years. The “jam sessions in your living room and the back yard, traveling together and so much more. You all made a big difference and a lastin friendship., We miss you. Rest in peace.



Steve and Danica Adler - September 02, 2025 at 09:02 AM



“ 149 files added to the album LifeTributes



Volk Leber Funeral Home - September 02, 2025 at 08:48 AM

KC

“ karen croal lit a candle in memory of Richard Collins



karen croal - September 01, 2025 at 06:39 PM

PP

“ Dick was a valuable teammate of mine on the Ithaca College baseball team along with being a loyal brother in the Phi Epsilon Kappa fraternity. RIP Brother !

Paul “Stretch” Pattetson - September 01, 2025 at 07:29 AM



Dick used to recite a response he learned as a pledge when you asked him what time it was. I wish we wrote it down. I remember it had the word, tintinnabulation...

Janine Delorme - September 02, 2025 at 01:49 PM

KW

“ I extend my most profound condolences to Terri Collins, the entire Collins family, those whom Dick coached athletically (and otherwise), and the many friends and business contacts that Dick had throughout his life. He was a bright spot during the decade-plus that he and I shared a place of employment. His cheerfulness and incisive sense of humor did much to ease the burdens of challenging workdays, and I am blessed to have had those years alongside him. We had rewarding discussions and great laughs, especially at the parties and staff recreation days. It is evident, from his life details, that he was a far greater man than I knew, and indeed, the world needs a lot more men like Dick. May it be so.

Ken Westpy

Ken Westpy - August 30, 2025 at 09:12 PM

JP

“ My deepest condolences to Terri and the whole family. May you always keep his memory close to your hearts 💕 with love Jane and Jim.

Jane Pulver - August 30, 2025 at 06:25 PM



“ We share dog stories! When Terri and Dick first came to meet me and the pups, I was instantly heartened by their warmth together, and individually. More often than not, I find that my task is to win over "the husband" while the lady snuggles and coos over the baby dogs. But Dick was as tender-hearted and loving as anyone could be. Over the years I talked these two into dogs and more dogs, and my experience was always the same. Sweet, smart, kind, witty and loving people. My deepest condolences go to Terri, and to the rest of the family, of course. And let's not forget that pups are sentient beings, and grief and loss will be there, too. I am so grateful I know these two, together. And for Terri, and the family, and for me, May Dick's Memory be a Blessing. Sending love. And thanks. For all you are and always will be.

Elisabeth Henry-Macari - August 30, 2025 at 05:57 PM

SL

“ My deepest condolences go out to Terri and the whole Collins family. Dick was a great guy and I have so many fond memories of him from high school and beyond. May sweet memories sustain you at this difficult time.
With sincere sympathy,
Sherry Jones Levy

Sherry Jones Levy - August 30, 2025 at 11:42 AM

SP

“ So sorry and my condolences to his family and friends 🙏. Susan Weisenbach Preziosi

Susan Preziosi - August 30, 2025 at 11:07 AM

FS

“ A great guy As moved on to heaven. My memory of dick is as my freshmen High school baseball coach. Best baseball coach I ever had in my life and inspired me to do the sane for kids when I grew up. You will be Missed. But never forgotten my friend. (COACH)

Frederick Sapuppo - August 30, 2025 at 10:40 AM

NM

My deepest condolences to entire Collins family! Dick had an extreme influence in my life. My coach for 4 years in 2 sports. He then hired me as his his Freshman Football Coach and then OC at NM. Then a friend and fellow player to more importantly a friend. The best way to stress how great a man he was to watch him Coach and Teach. As a NM Police officer I would stop at Gibbs School and watch him interacte with second graders who adored him to after 3 watching him Coach young men with professionalism and intensity. RIP pal you truly made a difference in the life of many! RIP 🙏

Nick De Mauro - August 30, 2025 at 04:07 PM

CC

“ I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge how warm and welcoming Dick and Terri were to Don when he re-entered my life. We had many hearty laughs when we were together. I loved his story telling! I will miss you Dick. Hopefully you and Don will be playing bocce.

christine collica - August 30, 2025 at 09:47 AM