



Benjamin Franklin "Pete" Collins

February 7, 2017

Pete was born June 15, 1945 in Charleston, West Virginia and lost his battle with cancer on February 7, 2017. Pete was raised in Rattlesnake Hollow, West Virginia the son of Margaret Collins, brother of Marty Craighead and Marilee Haynes (Jon). He married the love of his life Vickie Sharon (Tawney) Collins on August 7, 1965. The proud father of Sherry Willen (Brent) and Benjamin Todd Collins (Amanda). The devoted grandfather of Kaila, Benjamin Cody, and Taylor. Pete was an avid golfer and enthusiastic West Virginia Mountaineer fan. Pete started his railroad career as a clerk with the C & O Railway and worked his way up to Vice President of Car Utilization with CSX Railroad. He then started his own company Transportation Operations, Inc (TOI). With this company, he organized President George H. W. Bush's Whistle Stop Campaign Train Tour and became half owner in the Iowa Northern Railway. He eventually reorganized TOI into Ironroads Railway. With this company, he became partial owner in five additional railroads, Bangor and Aroostook, Canadian American, Northern Vermont, Quebec Southern, and Nova Scotia Southern. He and Vickie eventually retired to Louisville, Kentucky to be close to their children and grandchildren. Pete became a born again Christian with the help of his cousin Roger Keller. In the end, the most important thing is he gave his life to Christ and Pete is now at peace. Memorial Service will be Saturday at 1 P.M. at the Owen Funeral Home, 5317 Dixie Highway with burial of cremains at Cave Hill Cemetery. Visitation is Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Tribute Wall

JH

“ Dear Vickie,

I am so very sorry to hear of Pete's passing. I will always remember his big smile and outgoing personality.

Find peace in knowing Pete is no longer suffering and is in a better place.

Jim Hord

Jim Hord - June 28, 2018 at 03:57 PM

AL

“ Cousin Pete. We didn't see each other much but I'll always remember the story you told me about children washing the steps in front of the rowhouses in Baltimore. I think about you every time I walk by these steps. Thank you for that.

Allen - June 28, 2018 at 03:57 PM

SP

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Pete was a good man, husband and father.

Scott Page - June 28, 2018 at 03:57 PM

SG

“ To the Collins family I am deeply sorry for the loss of a great man...God Bless the family

Susan George - June 28, 2018 at 03:57 PM

DP

“ I was very blessed to have met Pete when I worked for CN which gave me the opportunity to be hired by him and my current boss today Dan Sabin. I have many great memories of working with him and I will forever hold them close to my heart. What a blessing he found and accepted Jesus in his life. May our Heavenly Father welcome him home and continue to bless Vicki and his children with love and strength.

Dianne Plumley - June 28, 2018 at 03:57 PM

JR

“ So very sorry for your loss. May you all find peace in beautiful memories.?

Jeanne Rabakon - June 28, 2018 at 03:57 PM

WW

“ Hi Vicki. So sorry to hear about the passing of Pete. I enjoyed working for Pete at the railroad and at your home in Veazie Maine. He was also a good friend. May he rest in peace. I wish you and your family the very best. Wade Wilson

Wade Wilson - June 28, 2018 at 03:57 PM

NG

“ Vickie:
So sorry to learn of the passing of Pete. He is certainly in good hands with his Heavenly Father. May God Bless you and your family and give you the strength and grace needed during this very difficult time and period of adjustment to life without Pete.
Take care,
Norma Jean Griffiths

Norma Jean Griffiths - June 28, 2018 at 03:57 PM

WM

“ Pete Collins was my friend. He hired me, actually twice, first with the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad back in 1996 and secondly he contacted me and convinced me to come to work for the Iowa Northern Railway Company back in 2002. This move turned out to be the opportunity of a lifetime. I will forever be grateful to Pete for looking out for me and my family over the years.

I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to Pete's family.

Bill Magee

William Magee - June 28, 2018 at 03:57 PM

WH

“ Vickie,

I am so very sorry for your excruciating loss! Was able to exchange a couple e-mails with Pete a few months back. I'm sorry for all he and your family endured. I'm sending you lots of prayers and hugs!!

Wendy Pelleman Holladay - June 28, 2018 at 03:57 PM