



## Bruce H. Collins

March 2, 1938 - October 28, 2015

Bruce H. Collins 77, of Kingsford, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, October 28, 2015 at his home from complications of Lewy-Body dementia. Bruce was born to George and Helen (Jensen) Collins of Negaunee, MI on March 2, 1938. He was a graduate of Negaunee High School in 1956. Bruce attended Northern Michigan University and Michigan Technological University. He married Janice (Bjorne) Collins on July 13, 1963, whom he met at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in 1957. Bruce served in the 107th Engineers Battalion with the Michigan National Guard. He was employed by Champion Incorporated in Iron Mountain as a Sales Engineer and Operations Manager retiring in 2000 after 31 years.

Music was an important part of his life; he played the cornet in the Negaunee Drum and Bugle Corps, Negaunee City band, Ishpeming City band. Bruce also sang in church choirs for over 60 years with his beautiful tenor voice. He served on the Board of Directors of Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp and Trico Opportunities. He was an active member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church serving on the church council and various committees.

In retirement, Bruce enjoyed volunteering much time with Habitat for Humanity, working on the construction weekly crew. He and Jan traveled to Biloxi, Mississippi, Texas and Minnesota providing disaster relief. In 2008, they traveled to Tanzania, Africa to visit the Our Saviour's Companion Congregation of Kijitonyama where he made lasting friendships.

He enjoyed hunting and fishing especially with his best buddy Larry and time

with family at camp at Conway Lake and winter travels to Florida. Bruce was a kind, mild mannered man, jack of all trades, who always was willing to lend a helping hand to those in need.

In addition to his parents, Bruce was preceded in death by his brother, George and his youngest son, Eric in April of 2014.

Bruce is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Jan; His children, Todd (Kim) Collins and grandchildren, Anthony and Emily Collins of Aurora, IL and Kirstin (Matt) Rose and grandchildren, Hannah Tahtinen, Grace Tahtinen and Hayden Rose of Cedarburg, WI; daughter in law, Laura Collins and grandchildren, Lilly, Evan, Leah and Ethan Collins of Arlington Heights, IL; brother, Dan (Fae) Collins; sister in law, Jonelle Collins; sister in law, Barbara (Ray) Yunkari; brother in law, Ralph (Susan) Bjorne; many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, October 31, from 9:00-12:00 noon at Our Saviours Lutheran Church. Memorial services will follow at 12:00 noon Saturday at the church. Reverends Lori and Lee Liverance will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp or Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Bruce Collins online at [www.e rnashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.e rnashfuneralhomes.com)

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **31**. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
1210 S. Kimberly Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

## Memorial Service

OCT **31**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
1210 S. Kimberly Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

# Tribute Wall

DH

“ Sorry this is late -- living / moving away makes it a little harder to get family news on time.

*Had a lot of great role models growing up in the Bjorne, Walimaa, Juhola, Hill, Knott family fold. Bruce was this cool guy who smoked a pipe and had a certain peace about him.*

*Our thoughts and sympathy to your family*

*Don and Connie Hill, Nick and Andrea Hill Alyssa and Luke McCollum*

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**Donald Hill** - November 02, 2015 at 10:26 AM

AR

“ Gordy and I sadly and sincerely regret not being able to attend the visitation and funeral today. We are out of town. We send our caring thoughts and prayers. The world has lost one of the sweetest, kindest, and most caring of men. I remember Bruce's deep compassion when our group was in Tanzania together. He has made the world a better place as a servant of God.

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**Alice Reed** - November 01, 2015 at 07:38 AM

RB

“ i knew Bruce when he worked at the Empire mine. We worked together at Champion Inc. for a short time after he started. Bruce was a nice guy in every way. He was pleasant, honest, happy and never seemed to be discouraged. My heart goes out to his family.. Russ Balconi

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**Russ Balconi** - October 31, 2015 at 08:04 PM

BW

“ *Jan & Family,*

*Thoughts and prayers from our family on Bruce's passing. I always enjoyed seeing him and sharing fishing stories. Certainly a great man that will be missed.*

*So sorry we were not able to make the service today, but hope to see you soon.*

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**Benji & Tara Wood** - October 31, 2015 at 12:28 PM

JZ

“ *Dear Jan and family,*

*We are very sorry for your loss of Bruce. He was always so pleasant, kind, and a most interesting person to visit with. May your friends, family, and faith carry you through these difficult times.*

*With prayers,*

*Joyce and Bill Ziegler*

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**Joyce A Ziegler** - October 30, 2015 at 07:24 PM

RK

“ *Jan and family: We are on our way to Florida, and just saw Bruce's obit on the computer. We send our sincere sympathy. You are in our thoughts and prayers. We have all lost a great guy. Thinking of you.*

*Ron and Darlene Kulie*

*Estero, Florida*

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**Ron Kulie** - October 30, 2015 at 01:33 PM

SJ

“ Dear Jan,

*Both Bill & I want to send our sympathy to you and your family on the passing of your dear husband, Bruce. We met him at your wedding, oh, so many years ago. We were camping in a tent with Joe & Nancy and must have appeared quite disheveled at church! I last saw Bruce after our Augie reunion and he appeared happy & content in the love of his family. What a joyful reunion he and Eric must be having in heaven.*

*God bless you, Jan, and I know the wonderful memories you have will comfort you.*

*Sue Anderson Jacobs Augiegirl, class of '63*

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**Sue Jacobs** - October 30, 2015 at 10:24 AM

JK

*Dear Jan*

*Sorry to hear of your loss. Being a classmate of Bruce's, I have known him for many years. We even car-pooled to NMU. I always enjoyed talking to you both whenever we met. He was a kind and talented person. Prayers to you and your family*

*Joyce Kirkwood*

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**Joyce Kirkwood** - November 02, 2015 at 08:01 AM

JS

“ *Thoughts and prayers are with your family.*

*Jay Schupp*

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**Jay Schupp** - October 30, 2015 at 08:14 AM

MJ

“ To let you know that thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of sorrow.

*Mel and Karen*

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**Mel and Karen Juhola** - October 29, 2015 at 08:56 PM

TV

“ Dear Jan, Kirsten, Todd, and family, What a beautiful legacy Bruce has left to your family to cherish. The Facebook posts in the last year show the wonderful memories you continued to make. Bill and I are trying to make arrangements, so we can leave tomorrow and be at the funeral. We love your family dearly. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

*Love,*

*Tammy and Bill VanVreede*

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**Tammy VanVreede** - October 29, 2015 at 05:07 PM

AR

*Gordy and I sadly and sincerely regret not being able to attend the visitation and funeral today. We are out of town. We send our caring thoughts and prayers. The world has lost one of the sweetest, kindest, and most caring of men. I remember Bruce's deep compassion when we were in Tanzania together. He has made the world a better place as a servant of God.*

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**Alice Reed** - October 31, 2015 at 10:28 AM



*Dear Jan and family, Bruce sounds like such a loving, giving man who has always thought of others.*

*May God comfort you in your loss.*

*Penny Crosh MacKenzie -Augie classmate*

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**Penny Mackenzie** - October 31, 2015 at 02:53 PM

JR

*My Deepest Sympathy to the family. Wonderful guy, great friend. John Ruusi*

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**John Ruusi** - November 01, 2015 at 12:20 PM