



Mr. James Buford Collins Obituary

March 24, 1916 - December 31, 2011

James Buford Collins, 95, of Albany died December 31, 2011 at Morningside Assisted Living in Albany.

The funeral service will be Tuesday January 3, 2012 11:00 AM at Kimbrell-Stern. The Rev. Jim McBride will officiate. The family will receive friends 1 hour prior to the service at Kimbrell-Stern.

Buford was born in Albany, GA on March 24, 1916 and moved with his family to Johnson City, Tennessee where he attended grammar school at East Tennessee Teachers College. At the age of fifteen his family moved back to Albany where he attended Albany High School. He was a graduate of Albany High School, Class of 1936, where he was Captain of the Varsity Football Team and was on the track team. He attended Middle Georgia College on a football scholarship for three years. While in college he was the 1937 South Georgia Golden Glove Champion — Bantam Weight.

Buford served in the Army Air Force during World War II and the Reserve recall during the Korean War. At the completion of his duties in the military he returned to Albany where he was employed by Albany Coca Cola Co. for 48 years. He was Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Albany from 1960-1972. He was also the 1972 Georgia Municipal Association President 2 District, on the Board of the Albany Chamber of Commerce, 1976 —1977, Chairman of Military Affairs for the Chamber of Commerce and on the Water, Gas & Light Commission City of Albany Utility Board from 1991 —1994. He received the Georgia Recreation Society Lay Award for 15 years of service as

an athletic official of the Georgia High School Association. In 1988 he was an initial inductee into the Albany Sports Hall of Fame. Other honors include honorary member of the Air Force 4133 Bombardment Wing, 1978 United Way General Campaign Chairman, Dougherty County Stadium Authority and 1976 Outstanding Citizen by the Woodman of the World. Through the years Buford was known for his love of sports and has been an active supporter of Darton College from the 1966 ground breaking to the present.

He is survived by many cousins in Albany and South Carolina and was preceded in death by his parents J.F. (Frank) & Hattie Barnes Collins, his wife of 49 years Billie Speer Collins and his beloved dog, Herman.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

You may sign the online guest book and share your own special thoughts with the family of Buford Collins by visiting Kimbrell-Stern's website at www.kimbrellstern.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. James Buford Collins Obituary*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM

NJ

I met Mr. Buford while attending college at ASU and working at Cracker Barrel where he was a regular. Before I knew it -I looked forward to seeing him walk in cigar in hand, hat on, in his little RED HOT ROD. We talked about everything from our March Bdays to cars!!! forever in my heart! RIP. He was a blessing!

Niecey J. - July 15, 2025 at 09:35 AM

WA

“ *My most vivid memories of Mr. Collins are breakfasts at the Merry Acres restaurant. I was there with my father (Dan) before going to work WAY too early at least by the standards of a 15 year old. I was enthralled listening to Mr Collins converse about city government & goings on. He would talk to me about school and the importance of education but mainly I listened while the Mayor of Albany talked to businessmen of the town.*

Wilson Holloway - Albany, GA - acquaintance - January 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ *Mr. Buford was a true Southern Gentleman. I met him while my daughter played softball at Darton College. We spent two years together watching the girls play and listening to Mr. Buford tell his stories. I treasure that time and am proud to have known him. He will surely be missed.*

Kathy Keown - Newnan, GA - Friend - January 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ A real nice man. Glad to have known him.

Chuck Owens - albany, GA - January 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CN

“ Billie and Bufford were neighbors of Alza and Merrill Jones and me and my husband Mel. We have lived down the street from them for over 35 years. It was always a pleasure to come home and see Bufford and Billie sitting on the front porch with his "unlit cigar". He had a great relationship with his across the street neighbor. They would always be talking about something when we passed by and would always smile and wave. I know Mel's parents knew them better than we and could share more. A great generation has gone and you just get neighbors like that anymore!!! He will be missed.
Cheryl Jones

Cheryl Jones - Albany, GA - Neighbor - January 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ My condolences go to Henry, Genie and Jimmy over the loss of our good friend, Buford. I learned of his passing yesterday and hope the service went well.

Buford once told me he wouldn't go into a barber shop unless he could get good conversation, and I guess that just about exemplifies his love of people and his understanding of human nature. From him I learned patience and am, at almost sixty-one, just beginning to understand the values he had discovered in his life.

I got a geiuine Cuban cigar a couple of months ago and was saving it for Buford. I guess I'll keep it a little longer and give it to him when we meet again, if I am so lucky.

-Ron

Ron Shook - Marietta, GA - Friend - January 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

VF

“ *I enjoyed spending this past month visiting with Buford. Jane you are in my prayers*

Virginia flick - GA - Friend - January 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ *Buford was known as an outstanding citizen of Albany Ga. He was supportive of his city and friends over the years and made many contributions. We were honored to have him move to Morningside where he became a friend to all very quickly. He will be missed, but, always part of our Morningside family.*

*Marlene Godwin RN. ED.
Morningside of Albany*

Marlene Godwin - Albany, GA - Friend - January 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *Buford was the sweetest man I have ever met. We always used to go to red lobster or longhorn and eat and I would listen to him talk for hours... Even though I had probably already heard most of the stories about 100 times :) He would never miss a practice or game and thought of our team as his family. I am very thankful that I was able to spend time with him. He will be greatly missed!*

Stephanie Martin - Douglasville, GA - Friend - January 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ I was blessed to get to know Mr. Buford during my short time in Albany. He was more than a friend and our #1 fan, he was a member of the DC family and we loved him like a grandfather. He was such a generous man, always wanting to give and do for others. I will forever cherish the time I had with him. You will be missed, Buf!

Britni McCall - January 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I only know this kindhearted man as "Shorty". He used to come to PCB to stay at the Dunes of Panama. It was through my brother, Tim Cox, and my father, Denver Cox, that I met this very generous man. We used to go to the Gulf Coast softball games/practices while he was here. I so enjoyed his stories and his company. He will be sorely missed by his family and friends. I feel privileged to have known this man. God bless you Shorty.

Jacqueline (Jackie) Barton - Panama City Beach, FL - friend - January 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Buford was a true gentleman. He was always good to our daughter. She was always happy to see Buford at the softball field. She enjoyed her dinners with him. Thanks for spending time with Carly, you left a good impression on her. You will be missed. Carol and Kevin

Carol and Kevin Keane - Monroe Township, NJ - friend - January 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ *Buford was such a sweet old man. He came to every single one of the my teams softball practices and all the home games. Buford even traveled to Utah to cheer us on in the Nationals. He took the entire softball team out to eat on numerous occasions. Since he did so much for us, a friend of mine and myself went to his house and cooked dinner for him since he hasnt had a homemade meal in 9 years at the time. We ended up in the hospital due to him falling but the hours we spent with him was worth it. He was so generous and so nice to us. He will always be in my heart and never forgotten. Rest in peace Buford !!*

Carly Keane - January 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

HC

“ *Seeing Buford drive up every day at practice in his little red car was always a good moment for us Darton softball players. He was there every time we were, smiling and cheering us on no matter what. So many memories with him...he would do anything for us. Team dinners or just a sweet pat on the back to let us know he would always be a fan. I loved Mr.Buford and he will always be a sweet memory that hold dear to my heart. Thanks for everything you did. You touched many and we will all miss you!*

Hannah Billingsley - Macon, GA - Darton College - January 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM