



Oliver Fletcher Collins

May 21, 1948 - March 7, 2023

Mr. Oliver Fletcher Collins, a Friday's child, born on May 21, 1948, was the first to be gifted to the union of Willie and Willie Mae (nee Fletcher) in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Reared in the historic West End neighborhood of Cincinnati, Oliver received his elementary and junior high education from nearby parochial schools. After graduating from Hughes High School in 1967, he continued his education at the University of Cincinnati. There, in addition to his academic pursuits, he pledged Beta Eta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Later, Oliver would attend the University of Findlay majoring in Religious Studies. His stellar academic achievement earned him a place on the President's List.

Oliver was employed with the U.S. Post Office from 1970 through 1971.

After relocating to Toledo, Ohio in 1972, he continued his federal employment, this time with the Social Security Administration. One year later, he returned to Cincinnati.

In 1975, Oliver wed Miss Donna Rae Stokes. At that time, the young family resided in Toledo and eventually welcomed two daughters: Erian Nicole and Hillary Danai. However, in 1982, Oliver and Donna Rae divorced, and she returned to Cincinnati. Despite this separation, Oliver remained a doting,

dutiful and loving father. Whether in Cincinnati or Toledo, he spent every holiday and birthday with his daughters. They, in turn, spent summer vacations with Oliver and Barbara in Toledo.

Post-divorce, Oliver continued his employment with the Toledo Social Security Office. In due course, he transitioned to the position of Equal Employment Opportunity "EEO" Investigator, and later became Lead "EEO" Officer for the State of Ohio. Subsequently, he was promoted to Lead Federal "EEO" Officer for the entire Chicago jurisdiction.

After 34 years of service, Oliver retired from the Social Security Administration in 2000.

Two years later, in 2002, Oliver began substitute teaching with the Toledo Public Schools. Eventually, he became a full-time para-professional assigned to Robert S. Rogers High School. During his tenure at Rogers High, he became a founding co-advisor for the Student African American Brotherhood Chapter. S.A.A.B., a national organization, is dedicated to ensuring that young men of color have the support they need to excel academically, socially, and professionally.

He also served on the Board of Directors of The Toledo Federation of Teachers. In 2019, Oliver retired, concluding 17 years of employment with the Toledo Public Schools.

For more than 45 years, Oliver held a great passion for photography. He enthusiastically taught photography at Nathan Hale Elementary School in its after school Lighted School Program. He specialized in portraiture, weddings, reunions, and graduations. Aside from forays in traditional photography, Oliver had broader interests. As a result, he delved into more esoteric and creative picture taking. He explored and photographed natural subjects including

sunrises and sunsets, landscapes, and local wildlife. He shot everywhere, constantly broadening his photographic repertoire.

In 1982, Oliver met his life's partner, Barbara A. Selvey. The two shared a compatible, loving relationship, lasting for 41 years.

Oliver was baptized at an early age. In 1983, he joined Third Baptist Church. There he was an active member affiliating with the Adult Fellowship Choir, the Men's Chorus, and the Voices of Unity. He served as Scout Master for the "Third Baptist Cub Scout Pack: Troop #94". For over twenty years, he served as chairperson of the church Advisory Committee. He served as a Liturgist. His commitment to serve Third Baptist is evidenced by his willingness to support its many events, activities and projects. When asked to serve, he never said no.

Oliver loved music especially Jazz and held an extensive collection dating back to 1956. He sang with The Toledo Opera Chorus, the Toledo Symphonic Choir and the David Carter Symphonic Choir.

His hobbies included hunting, traveling, couture, dapper shoes and Italian dining. He was a die-hard Cincinnati Bengals fan; a staunch member of the "Who Dey" Nation. Most especially though, he loved spending his summer months with grandson, Jaedon.

Oliver was predeceased by both parents, his only sibling, sister Carol Collins and his brothers-in-love Edward "Jeeter" Selvey, Willie Peters, Esq and sister-in-love, Cecelia Peters, M.D.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his life's partner, Barbara A. Selvey, daughters Erian Nicole Collins, Hillary Danai Collins, and grandson Jaedon

James McPherson, sisters-in-love Barbara Jean Selvey, Hazel Selvey, and brother-in love, Robert Selvey, and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends. Oliver shared a special relationship with the family of his honorary “brother-friend” Melvin Daniels, wife Idell, and sons Joshua, Jamel, and Jacob all of whom were with him until the end.

Tribute Wall

DJ

“ Debra Jelks lit a candle in memory of Oliver Collins



Debra Jelks - June 16, 2023 at 10:35 PM

TF

“ The Ringer Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Oliver Fletcher Collins.



The Ringer Family - March 24, 2023 at 10:09 AM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Oliver Fletcher Collins.



March 20, 2023 at 09:42 AM

IN

“ I spent many years knowing Oliver as a fellow member of Third Baptist Church and the Adult Fellowship Choir. He was kind, a helpful volunteer, always had a positive word to share and great sense of humor. Rest in Peace kind sir. Angels of the Lord have you now.

Izetta Ndiaye - March 19, 2023 at 04:18 PM

JC

“ *My prayers go out to Oliver's family. He was a dear friend and co-worker for 30 years. We will all surely miss him.*

Judy Chromik

Judith A Chromik - March 18, 2023 at 11:09 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Oliver Fletcher Collins.*



March 17, 2023 at 10:58 AM

GJ

“ *May your heart find comfort knowing that your love one is at home with the Lord*
Love Gwendolyn E.March Jones and Family

Gwendolyn E.March Jones - March 16, 2023 at 06:15 PM

BD

“ *To the family my prayers are with you. Oliver was a great person, he made many positive deposits into so many young people. As a fellow TPS paraprofessional I was inspired by Oliver.*

Brenda Davis - March 14, 2023 at 10:39 PM

LH

“ Linda Hunt purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Oliver Fletcher Collins.



Linda Hunt - March 14, 2023 at 09:07 PM

CM

“ My dear friend and former union member. Oliver I served on the Toledo Federation of Teachers union board of directors. Kind & gentle man whom I loved and will miss.

Cerssandra McPherson - March 14, 2023 at 08:37 PM



“ Oliver & I & my family were fellow parishioners and FAMILY @ Third Baptist Church on the corner of Pinewood & Division Streets for over 20 years or more, until my family & I moved to Phoenix, AZ in 2016. He was a mentor to my children, Michael C. Huston & Kayla E. Huston-Kurgat. He was a kind, matter-of-fact & funny man of God & I was blessed to know him & be friends/ Church family with him. Heaven has gained a GREAT Angel! Praise God for his life & all things! Amen, Jesus!

Jennis Huston - March 12, 2023 at 02:38 PM

PF

“ Always a gentleman. He served students and staff with dignity. Condolences to his family.

Paula Follis - March 12, 2023 at 01:37 PM

RR

“ On this side of glory, we loved his presence. On the other side of glory, he is in the presence of the Lord. Hallelujah for his journey and his peaceful rest.

Rev. Ruby Radford - March 10, 2023 at 10:06 PM

KS

“ Oliver you will be dearly missed at The Toledo Federation of Teachers.I know you and American Federation of Teachers Paraprofessional Chairperson, Ruby Newbold are up in heaven organizing the angels.

Kristina Schwarzkopf - March 10, 2023 at 08:06 PM

LA

“ To the Family of Mr. Oliver Collins you have my prayers. Oliver was a great man he love his kids at Roger High School he will be missed. Heaven has gained an angel

Laura - March 10, 2023 at 04:26 PM

JR

“ A wonderful Man who was like an uncle to me and a brother to my Mom Joan Bolden...Will love and miss him always and forever.....Just know Family WE WILL SEE HIM AGAIN... ONE LOVE ALWAYS !!!

James (Danny Bolden) Ruffin and Joan Bolden and Family !!!!

James D Ruffin - March 10, 2023 at 02:10 PM

SC

“ *An angel has received his wings and is home with our Father. While I mourn his passing, I thank God for my brother Oliver and the special friendship He opened up between us. To God Be the Glory!*

SIRLEMA CROWLEY - March 10, 2023 at 07:12 AM



Amen, Sirlama. I love you.

Jennis Huston - March 12, 2023 at 02:39 PM

GJ

“ *May your heart find comfort knowing that your love one is at home with the Lord
Love Gwendolyn E.March Jones and Family*

Gwendolyn E.March Jones - March 08, 2023 at 07:58 PM

TS

“ *Oliver will be deeply missed by me, always a smile and encouraging words. My heartfelt condolences to the loved ones.
Terri Shivers*

Terri Shivers - March 08, 2023 at 05:42 PM



Amen, Terri. Love you, hun.

Jennis Huston - March 12, 2023 at 02:39 PM

LH

I was so sorry to hear about Oliver's passing! He was such a thoughtful and wonderful person that he will truly be missed. He was very supportive of the Hunt and Haynes family. My mother baby sat for Erian and Hillary, when they were babies. At times like this, I can't help remembering how fragile life is, may you find strength in the love of family and in the warm embrace of friends. May God continue to bless and keep you during this difficult time! Linda Hunt

Linda Hunt - March 14, 2023 at 08:41 PM

CT

I am so sad to read Oliver has passed. Oliver was my son's Cub Scout leaders years ago at St. Paul Baptist. He will be missed. Condolences to the family 💕💕

Cynthia Toler - March 18, 2023 at 08:35 PM