



## Edward Lee Collins

May 13, 1950 - September 30, 2018

Edward Lee Collins was born in Taylor, TX on May 13, 1950. His parents were Edna Marie Collins and James Lewis, both are deceased.

As a youth, he joined The First Baptist Church and attended O.L. Price and Taylor High Schools.

He moved to Austin to attend Huston-Tillotson University where he received his teacher certification. His professional career was in Education. While at Huston-Tillotson University, he was a member of "Who's Who" in American Colleges and Universities; he was the Student President of The National Honor Society; he received The College Department of Social Studies Achievement Award. He was the president of Sigma Rho Sigma, The National Honor Society for Social Studies and the Student National Education. He graduated in the top five percentile at Huston-Tillotson University.

His first teaching job was at the newly built Bedichek Middle School where he taught for 19 years and where Mr. B. G. Henry served as the school's first principal. He taught both 7th and 8th grade Social Studies, Music, and Math. He sponsored the Texas Junior Historians, Honor Society, Student Council, tennis team, and he was the Social Studies Department Chair.

While still teaching he and his future wife, Shirley Sterling- Collins, also a teacher went back to school to receive a Master of Education with a specialization in Special Education Counseling at University of Texas in Austin. Edward continued his education by attending Texas State University in San Marcos, TX where he received his Administrative Certification.

He was hired as an assistant principal at Manor Junior High before even receiving his certification. He worked in Manor for a total of 10 years. During that time, he also worked as an Assistant Principal at Manor Intermediate School, Manor Elementary School, and Manor High School. He was most proud of the fact that he was the charter Principal at Decker Elementary School.

He retired after employment in Manor in 2001. He then became a substitute for principals here in Austin at Linder Elementary, Covington Middle School, Crockett, Atkins, and

McCallum High Schools.

His final employment was as Administrative Assistant over the Learning Support Services (LSS) at Gus Garcia Middle School.

In between that time, he became the musician here at Sweet Home Missionary Church in 1973, while his future wife was serving as musician over the Sunday School Department. He married Shirley Sterling-Collins in 1980 here at Sweet Home where both were also educators and musicians. As musicians, they both also played at the newly started Greater Calvary (Archbishop Sterling Lands), Zion Rest (R.L. Foster) and back home here at Sweet Home making it 45 years of playing together and 41 years as a devoted married couple.

They have one son, Bronsnon Sterling Collins, who is employed at the first school his father taught at, Bedichek Middle School.

He leaves to cherish his loving memories, his devoted wife and son; in laws - Irene Sterling Silver, Evangelist JoAnn McFadden, Otis Sterling, Jr. and Ray Sterling. Three in laws preceded him in death, Herbert Sterling "Rock", Melvin Sterling, and Dennis Sterling. His cousins are Rubye Nell Sampson, Beulah Brown, Henrietta Patterson, Emma McDonald, Joyce Myers, Laura Myers, Ernest Walter Williams (Mabel) and a host of nieces and nephews he absolutely adored!

# Cemetery

---

## Evergreen Cemetery

E12th & Airport Blvd  
Austin, TX, 78721

# Events

---

**OCT 12** **Public Visitation** 04:00PM - 07:00PM

---

King-Tears Mortuary  
1300 E 12th St, Austin, TX, US, 78702

**OCT 13** **Celebration Service** 01:00PM

---

Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church  
1725 West 11th Street, Austin, TX, US, 78703

# Comments

---



“ Shirley and family,

Please accept my sincere sympathy and prayers on the passing of Ed. I have many fond memories of working with him and with you through social studies in Austin ISD. I was unable to attend the service in the historic Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church but know that the service was inspiring. I am grateful for the contributions that Ed made to public education in Austin and Manor and I am glad that I got to come his way.

With prayers,  
Rosemary Morrow

**Rosemary Morrow** - October 15, 2018 at 05:12 PM

---



“ I am so very sorry to hear that Edward has passed away. He was always a positive, calm and steady presence in his time with us at Covington I was always glad to see him on campus or for any teacher's class, and especially when I was fortunate enough to have him in mine. Ed could deal with any situation in a classroom with patience and caring. I am fortunate that I had the opportunity to know this kind and giving educator. My love to Shirley and all of the Collins family.

Diane Young

**Diane Young** - October 11, 2018 at 11:48 PM

---



“ Luanne Stovall lit a candle in memory of Edward Lee Collins



**Luanne Stovall** - October 09, 2018 at 09:09 PM

---



“ I so fondly remember Ed, with his founding role in bringing the first Peace Through Pie Social at Sweet Home. Shirley said Ed would join us at the lead of this movement, as long as she could bring him a generous piece of pie! Shirley was right - Ed was on board! His powerful musical talent and warm smile was infectious. Ed

will be greatly missed.

**Luanne Stovall** - October 09, 2018 at 09:08 PM

---



“ I worked for Mr. Collins at the opening of Decker Elementary in Manor. He was such a wonderful administrator. He cared about his staff and mostly the children. You will be missed. I am honored to work with your son.  
Donna Robbins

**Donna Robbins** - October 09, 2018 at 11:05 AM

---



“ Mr. Collins was my 7th grade Social Studies teacher when Bedichek first opened. I enjoyed learning about history from him. I also remember Mr. Collins paddle "black magic" :)  
Back in the 70's if you got out of line you got paddled. One day while playing "paper football" in his class I got to meet "black magic" up close and personal. Needless to say, I never played paper football again in his class.

My condolences to the family on his passing.

Bob Shaw

**Bob Shaw** - October 09, 2018 at 10:32 AM

---



“ Collins,  
I am so sorry to hear about the passing of your father. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May God hold and comfort you with Love and Peace in the name of Jesus.

Vanessa Sowder  
Bedichek Middle School

**Vanessa** - October 09, 2018 at 10:32 AM

---



“ My sympathy is extended to Mrs. Shirley Collins and family. Mr. Collins was a giant in so many ways, his service as an outstanding educator, my principal in Manor ISD, a marvelous musician, a truly loving husband, superior father, most of all "A Christian that followed the guidance of GOD!" It showed in his positive attitude toward everybody he met. Never one to be judgmental or negative. We have lost a really true Christian gentleman and I am so happy to have many fond memories of our association during our time at Decker Elementary School! He was an outstanding

leader and a warrior for all children, possessing attributes that can't be measured.

GOD Bless you all always.

Sincerely,

Margaret Wright and Family

**Margaret Wright** - October 08, 2018 at 10:06 AM