



Don Frederick Collins

October 18, 1941 - December 24, 2025

Donald (Don) Frederick Collins was born on October 18, 1941, in West Virginia to Mabel Bragg Collins and Robert Collins. From a young age, Donald (Don) learned the value of hard work, a trait that followed him throughout his life. He later served his country proudly as a paratrooper in the United States Army.

Though born in the North, Don's heart found its home in the South after meeting and marrying his beloved wife, Janis Phillips Collins. Together, they made their life along the banks of the Mulberry River, where they spent most of their years. Don embraced the Southern way of life wholeheartedly, and his home became a true reflection of "Southern hospitality." He loved entertaining, welcoming friends and family with warmth, laughter, and open arms.

Don, often affectionately called "Uncle Don," had no children of his own, but he was deeply cherished by his nieces and nephews, who looked to him as a father figure. He possessed a lively personality and was truly a man of many talents. Known for his quick wit, storytelling, and sense of humor, Don had a special gift for connecting with people. His love and knowledge of music were unmatched; in his younger years, he often greeted visitors on his front porch with his guitar. Among his favorite artists were Johnny Cash, Hank Williams, and Willie Nelson.

A mechanic by trade, Don loved working with his hands and had a passion for tinkering with cars, even dabbling in racing for a time. He was also an avid collector, especially proud of his knife collection.

Don passed away on December 24, 2025, at Westminster Assisted Living in Cullman. He was preceded in death by his parents; his stepfather, Cedric Lester Ferguson ("Pop"); brothers Robert Boyd Collins and John Cedric Ferguson; sister Catherine Collins Levesque; brothers-in-law Teddy Phillips and Floyd Hasty; and sisters-in-law Joyce Blackmon and Paula Sando.

He is survived by his wife, Janis Phillips Collins; sisters, Sonee Ferguson Hasty and Jeanne April Ferguson; brothers-in-law Jim Phillips (Corene), Charles Phillips, and Donald Phillips; sister-in-law Pat Baker (Johnny); and a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and great-great-nieces and nephews, all of whom loved him dearly.

Don will be forever missed and lovingly remembered by all whose lives he touched. His spirit, stories, music, and laughter will live on in the hearts of his family and friends.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to the staff of Westminster Assisted Living for the kindness, compassion, and wonderful care given to our beloved Don.