



Mayor D. Michael Collins

June 30, 1944 - February 6, 2015

In loving memory of D. Michael Collins, June 30, 1944 – February 6, 2015

As a devoted Husband and Father, D. Michael Collins was surrounded by love and God's grace in his passing on February 6th, 2015.

D. Michael Collins considered it a great honor and privilege to serve as Mayor of the City of Toledo as he took the oath of office on January 2, 2014. The City's motto: Laborare Est Orare ~ "To work is to pray" truly reflects Mike's life. He followed the calling to invest his gifts, time and talents in the service of others over the course of a career in public service for the City he dearly loved.

As a police officer, Mike protected and served the citizens of Toledo for 27 years, retiring in 1999. He was elected as the District 2 Toledo City Councilman in 2007 and re-elected to a second term which began in 2012. As a politically Independent public servant, Mike was committed to public safety, economic development, and transparency in government.

Mike grew up in the old South End and was a life-long Toledoan. After graduating from Libbey High School, Mike enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps; achieved the rank of Corporal and embodied the motto Sempere Fidelas. A proud alumnus of The University of Toledo, Mike earned a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree in Business Administration. He thoroughly enjoyed teaching Criminal Justice courses at his alma mater and directed the Ohio Police Corps, an Ohio police academy funded by the U. S. Department of Justice.

Steadfast in devotion to his Catholic faith and to his family, Mike was a member of Gesu. Mike was a loving father to three daughters: Tamara, Laurie, Kelly, and was preceded in death by beloved son, Michael. His eight grandchildren were a great source of pride and joy. To them Grandpa was an inspiration and an amazing role model. "Collins Cares" will be their legacy. He leaves his beloved wife Sandra A Drabik, whose faithful love, support and encouragement Mike credited as instrumental in the fulfillment of his life's calling; daughters Tamara (Duane) Dickey, Laurie (Tim) Mulligan, and Kelly (Scott) Sheridan; grandchildren Elizabeth, Ryan and Sara Dickey, Lillie and Kathryn Mulligan, Murphy and Wyatt Sheridan; daughter-in-law Jamie Collins and grandson Michael Evan Collins. He is also survived by his sister Mary Pat (Greg) Hobbs,.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Michael J. and Gertrude (Helmer) Collins and son Michael.

There will be no visitation at the Funeral Home.

Public services for Mayor D. Michael Collins will begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11 at Savage Hall, on the campus of the University of Toledo, with the memorial ceremony beginning at 7. The funeral procession will begin at 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 12 from Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd. The funeral mass will begin at 11 a.m. at Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral, with Bishop Daniel Thomas presiding. Private burial services will follow at Toledo Memorial Park.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, please donate to the charity of choice.

Please leave a special memory or condolence message for his family at www.CoyleFuneralHome.com.

The Coyle Funeral Home is blessed to be serving the Collins Family and the City of Toledo in this great time of loss.

D. Michael Collins (1944 - 2015)

(News article) Toledo Mayor D. Michael Collins, a former police detective who went into politics in retirement and was elected mayor in 2013, died Friday in University of Toledo Medical Center, five days after suffering cardiac arrest while driving a city-owned vehicle. He was 70.

Mr. Collins, Toledo's fourth mayor under the "strong mayor" form of government that went into effect in 1993, had just entered his second year on the job. During his first year, he faced an unprecedented snow and cold emergency, the deaths of two firefighters in an arson, and a nearly three-day period in which residents were advised not to drink the city's water because of an algae-related toxin in Lake Erie.

He was the first Toledo mayor to die in office since 1904 when Samuel "Golden Rule" Jones died after a brief illness. A political independent, Mr. Collins was elected in 2013, defeating incumbent Mayor Mike Bell, also a political independent. He was a come-from-behind candidate in the primary, defeating two Democrats who split the Democratic vote, former city councilman Joe McNamara and Lucas County Auditor Anita Lopez. Mr. Collins finished second in the primary with 24.4 percent of the vote, after Mayor Bell, with 26.6 percent, to go to the runoff November general election. Mr. Collins said the other candidates tried to cast him as not a serious contender, but advancing to the general election did not surprise him. "I believed in it all along. I honestly did," Mr. Collins said at the time. "I believe I have the skill and the capacity to listen and to write the next chapter, which will be the first chapter of the book called New Toledo."

Former Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner recalled Friday that Mayor Collins worked tirelessly to improve the city and life for Toledoans as mayor,

councilman, and police officer. "We should celebrate Mike's commitment to improving the quality of life for Toledoans and their families and policemen and their families," he said. "He was a true old-fashion Irish leader. He would be urging us to continue on to do those things to make Toledo better."

Mr. Finkbeiner said he had known Mr. Collins since his days as union president for the police union, and he threw his support behind the late mayor in the 2013 election because he believed he wanted to clean up blighted neighborhoods and emphasize law enforcement presence.

"He has always been much like myself. Intense, and at times combative, and a competitor. He had a warm Irish heart beneath the intense, combative exterior," Mr. Finkbeiner said.

During the November general election, Mr. Collins attacked Mr. Bell's claims to have faced a \$48 million deficit, made a campaign promise to lower the city's income tax rate - something he still had no specific plans for - and promised to restore police officers to the Northwest District Police Station on West Sylvania Avenue, which had been closed because of budget cuts, a promise he made good on.

The son of an Irish immigrant who had formed close ties to his relatives still living in Ireland, Mr. Collins proposed to adopt Ireland's "Tidy Towns" program to spruce up the city.

Mr. Collins had the support of Democrats and labor unions determined to punish Mr. Bell for his support of a law aimed at weakening public employee unions and because Mr. Bell unilaterally reduced city employee pay and benefits to deal with a fiscal emergency in 2010.

Mr. Collins won the November election with 56.4 percent to Mr. Bell's 43.5 percent.

But after he took office, the challenges of the job seemed to have little to do with what came up in the campaign.

Mayor Collins gained national attention for his handling of the August water crisis that occurred after chemical tests revealed microcystin in the city's drinking water, brought on by an algae bloom in Lake Erie at the city's water

intake.

After about half a million city water customers were told to rely on bottled water for drinking and food preparation for three days, Mr. Collins hoisted a glass of clear water for the cameras to show that water quality had been restored.

Mr. Collins was invited by Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel to speak to other Great Lakes mayors about the threat to public water systems from algae blooms caused by phosphorus pollution in the lakes. Mr. Collins revealed that was his first trip to Chicago.

Recent challenges:

Saving the Jeep Wrangler manufacturing line at Chrysler was Mr. Collins' most recent challenge. He said in a conversation with a Blade reporter Sunday morning that he was unable to divulge details of his discussions about that with Sergio Marchionne, CEO of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, because they had a confidentiality agreement.

His administration was involved in initiatives to sell the former Southwyck Shopping Center, which the city bought last year under Mayor Collins' initiative. The mayor oversaw the demolitions of two eyesores - the former Clarion Hotel near Southwyck and two smokestacks left over from a power plant at the Marina District in East Toledo.

Mr. Collins also was shepherding the proposal from ProMedica Health Systems Inc. to relocate its headquarters and about 800 employees to a campus to be created out of the former Toledo Edison steam plant on the river, with the addition of a parking garage.

Mr. Collins first was elected to office in 2007 to represent South Toledo District 2 following a 10-way primary.

After taking office, Mr. Collins became one of the most outspoken members, often sparring with then-Mayor Carty Finkbeiner.

His intervention into budget details and other matters, including police labor

negotiations, so irritated Mr. Finkbeiner that he said Mr. Collins "considers himself the world's most outstanding expert on any and all subjects."

Mr. Collins blew the whistle on a \$150,000 effort by the Finkbeiner administration to make over the Erie Street Market into a concert hall after getting a call from a North Toledo bar owner who complained that lights had been removed from his bar and installed in the city-owned market.

"Out of curiosity, going into work the next morning I stopped at the Erie Street Market," Mr. Collins said. "There had to have been 60 people working there."

He ran unsuccessfully for mayor in 2009, coming in fourth out of six, against Democrats Ben Konop and Keith Wilkowski, former Fire Chief Bell, Republican Jim Moody, and independent Opal Covey. Mr. Bell won the general election against Mr. Wilkowski.

Mr. Collins was re-elected to his council seat in 2011, and kept up his dogged investigation of city government. He showed that the Bell administration had purchased a GMC Terrain for the mayor to drive under the budget description of "street sweeper."

After he became mayor, Mr. Collins used the compact sport utility vehicle as his official city vehicle, impishly calling it his street sweeper. It was this official city vehicle that crashed into a pole after Mr. Collins suffered cardiac arrest.

Mayor's roots:

Collins' family lore had it that he was a distant relative of the legendary Irish revolutionary politician Michael Collins. But after traveling to Ireland to meet his family, and after his wife, Sandra Drabik, tried to research his genealogy among the limited Irish records, he acknowledged it was far from certain. An investigation by The Blade found that it was, at best, a long shot.

He was born June 30, 1944, the son of Michael John Collins, one of four siblings who immigrated to Toledo from Ireland, and the former Gertrude Helmer, of German ancestry, who died in 2006 at the age of 93.

He grew up in the central city on Fernwood Avenue, attending Roosevelt School for kindergarten and St. Teresa's School until he was in fourth grade, and then moved to Orchard Street in the Old South End, where he enrolled in St. James School.

"It was a tough neighborhood," he said of the south-end community. "You had to fight your way. It was a working-class, blue-collar neighborhood."

He said his father made three demands of his children: Be devout Catholics, obtain a college education, "and never disgrace this family."

At the Fernwood address, his mother collected rent from the building's tenants, while his father worked for the S.M. Jones Co. plant on Segur Avenue, established by former Mayor Jones. Mr. Collins recalls the most "horrific experience" from his childhood being a break-in at their apartment when several people stole all the rent his mother had collected for the landlord.

During the 2013 campaign, Mr. Collins faced suspicion of racism from black voters because of his assertion that Toledo Police did not engage in racial profiling.

He defended himself, saying he had opposed racial prejudice even as a child. As evidence he told of the time a black family moved into his white South Toledo neighborhood. While other neighbors screamed epithets and threw things at the black owner's house, the fifth grader Collins made a sign saying "Welcome to the neighborhood" and got beaten up by the white mob.

He said his father later told him, "'Son, right now I'm the proudest father in the world - but don't ever go back to that house without me."

When Mr. Collins was 17 in 1962, his father, who took care of racehorses at the Lucas County Fairgrounds, was kicked by a horse and killed.

Path to service:

After finishing high school, he enlisted in the Marines for two years of active duty and six years in the reserves.

He joined the Toledo Police Department in 1973 in the uniformed division, and went on to work in the vice squad, metro drug unit, and crimes against persons. He graduated from the University of Toledo, and in 1999 obtained a master's in business administration degree from UT.

In 1988, he was elected president of the Toledo Police Patrolman's Association and continued until he retired in 1999. Mr. Collins said he negotiated the best police salary and benefit package in the state.

Ron Scanlon, a fellow retired Toledo police officer, worked with Mr. Collins in the drug and detective units in the 1970s and early 1980s.

"He was one of the best investigators we had," he said.

Lucas County Sheriff John Tharp, a retired police officer who also worked with the late mayor in the detective unit, said he had an impeccable reputation with informants and witnesses, and that relationship helped him cultivate information.

"He was a man of his word. If he said he would do something he would do it. You could take it to the bank," Sheriff Tharp said.

Diocese of Toledo Bishop Daniel Thomas mourned the loss of the mayor, whose faith was a prominent part of his life.

"Mayor Collins often spoke of the importance of his Catholic faith and the many ways the Lord had blessed his life. I will count among my blessings the opportunity to have come to know him, to have met his family, and to have prayed with his wife at his hospital bedside," Bishop Thomas said in a written statement released Friday. "I invite Catholics and all people of goodwill to pray for the happy repose of his soul, and to pray for and with his wife and family as they mourn his loss."

Mayor Collins' sister, Mary Pat Hobbs, said she, his wife, and his daughters on Friday were sharing memories of the late mayor.

In 2005, Mr. Collins married Ms. Drabik, former vice president and general counsel for the University of Toledo. "Sandy is a solid woman. It is not easy no matter how strong you are. But she is doing the best," Ms. Hobbs said. "He is

a wonderful man. He is going to be very missed."

From his first marriage, which ended in divorce, he is survived by three daughters, Tammy Dickey, Laurie Mulligan, and Kelly Sheridan. A son, Michael, preceded him in death.

Funeral arrangements are pending through Coyle Funeral Home.

Staff writer Mark Reiter contributed to this report.

Contact Blade politics writer Tom Troy: tomtroy@theblade.com or 419-724-6058.

Published in Toledo Blade on Feb. 7, 2015\

Tribute Wall

CO

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Coyle - March 31, 2015 at 12:58 PM

CO

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Coyle - March 04, 2015 at 10:47 AM

CO

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Coyle - March 04, 2015 at 10:47 AM

CO

“ 4 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Coyle - March 04, 2015 at 10:47 AM

CO

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Coyle - March 04, 2015 at 10:46 AM



“ *Truly an advocate for Toledo and its citizens. Mike had something that so many lack...integrity and treated everyone around him with respect and kindness no matter who you were or how Mike knew you and believe me he never forgot a name and always had time for a concern or a handshake. He would listen to anyone was more than a public servant, to me he was a friend!!!*

Clark Felgner - February 21, 2015 at 08:51 AM

JT

“ We were out of town and returned to the tragic news of the Mayor's passing. Our condolences to Sandy and the Collins family. Mike was a long time friend and colleague. We had many commonalities : Libbey, Law Enforcement, Educator, Politics and Elected to Lead. He was a good man and will be dearly missed. He will be in our memories forever. Good bless him and the Collins family.
James and Linda Telb

James Telb - February 15, 2015 at 09:38 AM

PS

“ Condolences for your loss. Michael was a passionate fighter for everything he believed in, and he believed in Toledo with all his heart. My thoughts and prayers with you.

Peter Silverman - February 14, 2015 at 09:20 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Mayor D. Michael Collins.



February 13, 2015 at 02:05 PM

MS

“ Mrs. Sandra Drabik Collins

Our eyes shed tears, our hearts are in pain for the early departure of our beloved Mayor whom we have had the pleasure of calling our sincere friend since 1978. We pray that God blesses his soul and gives you and the entire Collins family the strength and patience to carry on. Please accept our sincere condolences.

Mike Saleh & family

Mike Saleh - February 12, 2015 at 08:33 PM

NF

“ *First of all Sandy, I want to express my heartfelt condolences to you and the entire Collins family. Mike was much more than the "Mayor" to me . . . he was my classmate from the "fighting 33rd" and more importantly my personal friend. I could share so much with you regarding our relationship over the years . . . I'm sure he's told you that I've always told him I know he saved my life during the Waite street incident nearly forty years ago. Or maybe he told you about some of the frank heart to heart discussions we've had while in various roles on the department or how we've always contacted each other over the years to share concerns or get the others insight or point of view. I'm sure he had that kind of relationship with many others . . . that's the kind of guy he is. But our relationship was very special to me because I'm not that kind of guy with everyone. I will always remember that relationship and remember my friend. Just wanted you to know that!*

Nate Ford

Nate Ford - February 12, 2015 at 02:50 PM

PL

“ Though it has been many months, I felt that this was the most appropriate location to express my fondest memories of Mayor D. Michael Collins upon his passing. I had the great fortune to be seeking a position on the Toledo Board of Education at the same time as his successful campaign for mayor. We made numerous appearances together at the same political events. Mike and Sandy could not have been kinder or more gracious to Judy and I, novices that we were. Judy and Mike hugged every time they saw one another ever after. I will never forget his quickness to offer me money when I found myself with nothing to contribute to the collection plate at a Sunday church service. How he took the time to help us hang large campaign signs on my daughter's Jeep as the Blessed Sacrament Parade kicked off and we were in jeopardy of dragging them the whole way. His words of encouragement the night of the election and, even many months later, that reassured me that I was a viable and realistic candidate with just cause to seek elected office as a means to give back to my community. Even when we did not agree on efforts in improving neighborhood conditions, I never doubted his commitment to making Toledo as great as it should be. Call me idealistic, but I really do believe that "You Will Do Better in Toledo" and it is because of D. Michael Collins. Rest in Peace Mr. Mayor. Thank you for everything that you have given us. We will never forget you.

Perry & Judy Lefevre

Perry Lefevre - February 12, 2015 at 01:30 PM

TM

“ Mike was a gift to those of us who had the honor to know him and an even bigger gift to our City as Mayor, Councilman and Police Officer. If there was a need for questions answered or something done he always listened, gave a thoughtful answer and always shared wonderful stories. I know I will miss him as a friend and leader and will Celebrate his life.

To Sandy, his Children and Grand Children,,,,,,our deepest sympathy and a prayer that in the coming days you will find peace in your hearts knowing that others shared your love for him.

Toni & Dave Moore

Toni Moore - February 12, 2015 at 12:35 PM

DS

“ Our prayers are with you Sandra and the Collins Families. He was a wonderful man.
Jesus be with him.
Love Dennis & Dianna Schroder

Dennis Schroder - February 11, 2015 at 11:17 PM

JM

“ Dear family of Mike Collins,
My thoughts and prayers will continue for all of you and especially for the welcoming of the mayor in that "heavenly party". He will not be forgotten. The world-especially Toledo-is a better place because of him!
May God bless you all,
Judy Miller

Judy Miller - February 11, 2015 at 10:58 PM

SL

“ Praying for the Mayor Collins Family and Friends. I did not know him personally but I know someone people who and had only good things to say about him. I felt great sadness and shock when I heard what had happen. May he rest in peace and may God grant you peace. He is with our father in heaven now.



Sandra Linke - February 11, 2015 at 10:48 PM

CG

Michael was mayor of Toledo but his caring spirit flowed over to all of Northwest Ohio. To his family who shared him with us thank you. I think the legacy we can remember the most was in comments from the tv anchors to the manager of the homeless shelter when he told them " call me Mike". He was a guy who grew up and gave it his all and made his city and all of Northwest Ohio a much much better place. Thank you and Gods richest blessings for his family

Carol Goldsmith - February 12, 2015 at 10:39 AM

TH

“ So sorry for your loss. Mayor Collins was a great person and a GREAT Mayor. So sad he had to leave us so soon. He will be missed dearly
Sincerely,
The Hakeos Family



Tara Hakeos - February 11, 2015 at 10:44 PM

DP

“ Back in 1986 when my father and I were golf professionals at the Inverness Club, we owned the merchandising for the 1986 PGA Championship. We knew we needed security to handle our cash pick ups from the many cash registers as well as taking change out to them. We also had to make the very large deposits with lots of cash and drive to the bank during the day and late at night. We also had to go to the bank each morning to get our starting cash and back-up cash banks.

I ask then TPPD President Michael Collins who can we get, as an undercover officer, to work with me handling this project. I mentioned that it would probably be 70-90 hours for the week and if we should use more than one person for the service we needed.

Mike said he had the perfect person for the job - himself. Mike was always "at the ready" and made me take several trips around the bank so he could "check it out" before he would let me pull to make the deposit. Mike and I were together for over 100 hours that week and created a wonderful and lifetime friendship. We kept that relationship until the day he passed.

Thank you Mike for all you did for us at Inverness as well as being in my circle of people I can call very, very close friends.

Godspeed Michael, you will always be remembered, especially by me and my family. You were a man of your word and a man I admired since our working together in 1986.

D. Michael Collins was always a giver always.

Our condolences to the entire family.

Dale & Gayle Perne'
Toledo

Dale & Gayle Perne' - February 11, 2015 at 10:09 PM

DB

“ *Darl Beachy lit a candle in memory of Mayor D. Michael Collins*



Darl Beachy - February 11, 2015 at 08:02 PM

RC

“ *Sincere Sympathy to Mayor Collins family. He was not only a wonderful person but a Great Mayor, and friend. He will truly be missed. R.I.P. Michael Collins We will all miss you.*



Ruthann Couturier(Wollenschlager) - February 11, 2015 at 07:29 PM

BY

“ *Prayers & deepest condolences to the Collins family and to the city of Toledo as we all say goodbye to Mayor Collins. Godspeed, from the Byblos family.*

Byblos - February 11, 2015 at 07:29 PM

SP

“ *Sean Michael Pool sent a virtual gift in memory of Mayor D. Michael Collins*



Sean Michael Pool - February 11, 2015 at 07:27 PM

SP

“ Sean Michael Pool sent a virtual gift in memory of Mayor D. Michael Collins



Sean Michael Pool - February 11, 2015 at 07:19 PM

SP

“ To the Collins Family, I'm very sorry to learn of the passing of Mayor Collins. I have a memory that I'd like to share of him. Last year at Lott Industries during a dedication ceremony for a hydro stripping machine that was installed at the plant. Any how, I'm on the Employee Advocacy and Advisory Council and My members were asked to meet and greet important City Dignitaries that came through the door and one of those important people was then newly elected Mayor D.Michael Collins whom I got the privilege of shaking hands with. I congratulated him on winning the election and good luck on his first term in office. I introduced Myself first before I shook his hand and said what I did and he said, "Thank you Mr. Pool!" and I said, "You're welcome Mr. Mayor!"



Again, I'm very sorry for your loss. You'll be alright because you know he is at peace and forever with God.:)
God Bless you all!:)

Sean Michael Pool - February 11, 2015 at 07:15 PM

BH

“ To the collins family my prayers are with you at this difficult time of your life's, your husband father and grandpa was a great man and will never be forgotten

Barbara hohenberger - February 11, 2015 at 06:08 PM

TF

“ *Fair winds and following seas, Mike.
Semper Fi
Sgt. Tom Furry TPD Ret.*

Tom Furry - February 11, 2015 at 03:58 PM

CD

“ *Mike's legacy is a lifetime of service. He was always a proud and vocal supporter of the Block Watch Program. We appreciate all he has done to make our neighborhoods a safer place to live. The City can say, "We have done better in Toledo" because of Mike Collins. He has gone on to his just reward for a life very well lived. He will be sadly missed and fondly remembered.*

Cheryl Dilbone

Cheryl Dilbone - February 11, 2015 at 03:26 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mayor D. Michael Collins.*



February 11, 2015 at 03:10 PM

AS

“ *My sympathy to Mike and his family. I was privileged to serve on the Board of the TPPA with Mike for several years. He was a kind and giving man and I have fond memories of our trips to International Conventions. May God Bless his soul and comfort his family in this time of great loss. Ann Smith*

Ann Smith - February 11, 2015 at 01:31 PM

LO

“ *My sincere sympathy to Mike's family.I am part of a police family and know how much you are hurting.Mike was a tru human being loved doing all he did serving his country,Protect and serve and council and then to be the finest Mayor for Toledo.He will be missed.Lynn O'Bryant*

Lynn O'Bryant - February 11, 2015 at 12:21 PM

CO

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Coyle - February 11, 2015 at 12:15 PM

PP

“ *On behalf of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, I would like to express my sincerest condolences to the Family Collins and all of Toledo, Ohio. I have had the honor of meeting Mayor Collins through the Maritime Academy of Toledo, he was a great man and he will be truly missed.*

*Peter C. Andre de la Porte
H. Consul of the kingdom of the Netherlands*

Peter Andre de la Porte - February 11, 2015 at 11:21 AM

DL

“ On behalf of the Ragan Woods neighborhood association, Mike was a genuinely committed District 2 councilman, and later Mayor, who tirelessly and passionately advocated on behalf of South Toledo issues and residents. Mike and Sandy were valued guests in my home during his city council District 2 days and they quickly became a cherished part of the Ragan Woods family. Mike's authenticity and work ethic truly set him apart. Mike's profound and vocal appreciation of neighborhood volunteers and advocates in Toledo demonstrated his understanding of their vital role in a healthy Toledo. That was so deeply meaningful to all of us. His monumental accomplishments on behalf of South Toledo as District 2 councilman and all of Toledo as Mayor are an invaluable gift to both present and future Toledoans. A true public servant.

Mike, you live on in our hearts and minds and will always inspire us. Sandy, you are in our thoughts and prayers today and always.

*David Lemon & Jeffrey Sullivan
Ragan Woods Neighborhood Association*

David Lemon - February 11, 2015 at 11:17 AM

RS

“ Sorry for your loss, I understand, been there. I thought Mayor Collins was a good mayor, and we are sorry he is gone. Good luck to his family in the future, God Speed.
Sincerely, Marilyn Neileb, citizen

*My prayers go out to his family and friends, We will miss you very dearly. He was the best Mayor we have had so far in Toledo!
Sincerely, M.r and Mrs. Randy Strohl*

Randy Strohl - February 11, 2015 at 11:08 AM

MF

“ *Michael Durham & Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mayor D. Michael Collins.*



Michael Durham & Family - February 11, 2015 at 11:04 AM

BW

“ *O God whose work and will and very name is love we thank you for the gift we were given in Mayor D. Michael Collins. We yield with confidence to grief, knowing that pain will pass and sorrow ends, but love does not die and will not end. Love abides in us, around us, and beyond us, forever and ever.*

Thanks be to God.

Amen

Bill and Elaine Wright - February 11, 2015 at 10:14 AM

BW

“ *Bill & Elaine Wright lit a candle in memory of Mayor D. Michael Collins*



Bill & Elaine Wright - February 11, 2015 at 10:05 AM

OU

“ OHIO VETERANS UNITED purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mayor D. Michael Collins.



OHIO VETERANS UNITED - February 11, 2015 at 09:36 AM

JK

“ He was a man to be admired. You both were so gracious and good together. You were a strong pillar of support when I needed it. Even when the "after Mass" discussions seemed to last too long they were just solving world problems. If only we had more people like Mike in this world it would be a better place. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to all of you. We were so lucky to have him. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.
Joan King

Joan King - February 11, 2015 at 09:25 AM

BC

“ For The Mike Collins Family
We have fond memories of when Mike was President of T.P.A. and worked with us to revitalize Ashland Ave. & Adams Street in the 1990's. Mike was always helpful. It was not an easy task but Mike was always positive!
Bill & Sharon Coder

Bill & Sharon Coder - February 11, 2015 at 08:53 AM

DS

“ *DM Seeburger lit a candle in memory of Mayor D. Michael Collins*



DM Seeburger - February 10, 2015 at 09:29 PM

DS

The City of Toledo and all of Northwestern Ohio is grieving the loss of Mayor Collins. He accomplished more in his short time as Mayor than most. His dedication to Toledo is unmatched. A friend to all with so many accomplishments; a man of honor; a true gentleman. With sincerest sympathy to Sandy and his family. May he be blessed and rest in peace knowing how much we appreciate his service to the city and we will miss him.

DM Seeburger - February 10, 2015 at 09:44 PM

CH

“ *As a resident of South Toledo for over 20 years I watch you make me proud to say Toledo and now that you are gone but not forgotten I will start representing this great town now it is time for us to come together and put politics aside He was a man of GOD and for that I am truly blessed Put down all your pride and ego and do some good for Our beloved Mayor Collins simply the best see you on the other side*

Go Toledo to all organizations Go TBS (Toledo Public School Proud)

Toledo pride Go Libbey

Christine - February 10, 2015 at 08:29 PM

 JE

“ *Family should be Very Proud of what Mike accomplished in his 70 yrs with Great passion. Best to family John*

John Eisenhart - February 10, 2015 at 06:06 PM

 DE

“ *As we all grieve for the loss of the man with many titles (officer, teacher, councilman, father and granddad, and lastly our Mayor) Heaven is welcoming Mike Home for a well deserved rest and praising him for a job well done!!*

Mike will be remembered for the leadership and strength he showed for the city and people he loved during a crisis filled year. He met each challenge with a comforting smile and worked non stop without complaint. He made us all so proud to have such a leader!.

We will miss you Mike. Thank you for being such a big part of our lives. He always thanked the people for letting him be our mayor but he got that part mixed up...It's us who should say Thank-you Mike for being our mayor!!!

My heartfelt sympathy to Sandy and the Collins family for their loss

Debby - February 10, 2015 at 06:03 PM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with Mayor Collins and his family. May God be with all of you during this hard time. Our condolences from the Brooks and Szczurek families.*

Linda Szczurek Brooks - February 10, 2015 at 05:49 PM

DE

“ *Debby sent a virtual gift in memory of Mayor D. Michael Collins*



Debby - February 10, 2015 at 05:48 PM

JR

“ *D Michael Collins....It was a honor to serve with you on The Toledo Police Department. Sincere sympathy to your family.*

James Relford - February 10, 2015 at 03:40 PM

JR

“ *James Relford lit a candle in memory of Mayor D. Michael Collins*



James Relford - February 10, 2015 at 03:36 PM

LI

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with Mayor Collins, and his family, and all of Toledo, Ohio. Our family well respected him, and trusted him as Mayor. God bless all of us during this time. With deepest sympathy -Bob, Lisa, Tara, Ashley, Julian.*

Lisa - February 10, 2015 at 03:33 PM

JW

“ *Our thoughts and Prayers to the Collins family. May he rest in peace. God Bless you all. Jim & Nancy Wahl*

Jim Wahl - February 10, 2015 at 01:59 PM

DE

“ Mayor Collins was born in , worked for, fought for , believed in and died serving Toledo ! No other mayor in my life time that I am aware of could make that claim. He would have taken this city to new heights that i am sure. I only seen him once, just a few months ago in a city consul meeting i was attending. prior to the meeting starting the mayor worked the crowd.....not missing a single person. Thats just how mayor Collins was.....he was a people person.I doubt in my life time that we will ever see another like him. I hope that as the city moves forward they keep the Mayors drive and determination in mind and do his memory a good service. my prayers to his family.....although you have lost a dear friend, father, grandfathe,r brother ,husband and what ever else he was to you.....we have all gained a life time of memories of a man that had the best interest or the city at heart,

dennis - February 10, 2015 at 01:52 PM

NM

“ Our prayer go out to the family of Michael D. Collins .He's in Gods Hands now. R.I.P. Norman & Barbara Myslinski.

norman myslinski - February 10, 2015 at 01:49 PM

LG

“ The Goodwin Family wishes to send our deepest sympathy to Mayor Collins' family. He will be missed by many of us in the Toledo area. What a great Mayor he was.

Lindsay Goodwin - February 10, 2015 at 01:44 PM

BS

“ I worked for the Toledo Police Dept for over 25 years, so I knew Mike as a cop. When he was elected to City Council, I remember thinking "this is good", he knows all the workings and pet peeves of TPD so he can now stand up for them, but he will be honest and fair. He did and he was. Then when he was elected Mayor, I had the same thoughts "this is good", he'll have their backs, but he'll be honest and fair. He did and he was. God Speed Mayor (or as you always preferred, Mike) Collins. Because of your loyalty and dedication, your beloved Toledo will march forward and we will feel you marching beside us with each and every step we take. My sincere thoughts and prayers to the Collins family.
Barb Siler (retired supervisor of Data Processing)

Barb Siler - February 10, 2015 at 01:34 PM

KB

“ Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace. Amen.

Mayor, your kind, gentle demeanor will be sorely missed on the 22nd floor.

Kelly Bejaige

Kelly Bejaige - February 10, 2015 at 01:03 PM

JS

“ Sandy, your friends from SHS are thinking of you at this difficult, sad time. May beautiful memories of all the wonderful times spent with your husband, remain with you always. In deepest sympathy, Jane Morgan Steiger

Jane Morgan Steiger - February 10, 2015 at 12:18 PM

SC

“ *Our prayers are with the Collins' Family. God bless.*

Steve and Cookie Cherry - February 10, 2015 at 11:15 AM

BC

“ *Sending thoughts and prayers for Mike and family. I was fortunate enough to meet him on several occasions through family. So sorry for the loss of such a great leader and wonderful man.*

Brigitte Collins - February 10, 2015 at 11:10 AM

CH

“ *3 files added to the album New Album Name*



Coyle Funeral Home - February 10, 2015 at 11:10 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mayor D. Michael Collins.*



February 10, 2015 at 10:43 AM

DD

“ *Sympathy and prayers to the family of Mike Collins! He was such a crusader for our District Two! He will be missed! Rest in Peace*
Donna Danford

Donna Danford - February 10, 2015 at 09:55 AM

WS

“ *Our prayers are with the Mayors' family.
Wanda Smith and family.*

Wanda Smith - February 10, 2015 at 09:42 AM

AR

“ *As am not resident of Toledo, but I would like
to extend my condolence to his family and to
the citizens Toledo Ohio. He will surely will be
missed. R.I.P. Mayor D Michael Collins. <3*



Ann Rush - February 10, 2015 at 09:37 AM

ST

“ *Thank you Michael and Sandy for the courage, talent and time that
you gave to the south side Edward Drummond High School alumni
and citizens who tried to make a difference to save the now
demolished, but honored Libbey campus, and to make a difference
for change in our blighted home neighborhood. The dedication and
leadership that you gave us is uncommon.*

Sue Terrill - February 10, 2015 at 09:14 AM

JA

“ *You will always be thought of as the Mayor. Enough said. RIP
Mayor D. Michael Collins. Your people will miss you but you will be
remembered often and fondly. Sending heartfelt sympathies to your
family. May they find strength in the memories they hold near and
dear.*

Jayme - February 10, 2015 at 08:58 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mayor D. Michael Collins.*



February 10, 2015 at 08:08 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathy to the family. The City of Toledo thanks you for your years of dedicated service .*
Mike Schultz
Retired, Toledo Fire Division

Mike Schultz, Mandeville, La. - February 10, 2015 at 07:44 AM



“ *My father-in-law did some electrical work for then councilman Collins and recalled his trust in him when Mr. Collins gave him a blank check signed and said Dad could just fill it in. On another occasion my mother-in-law received a handicapped ticket violation erroneously, called Mr. Collins who simply told her to mail him the ticket, whether he had it expunged, or more likely, paid it himself, we'll never know.*

Praying for his family,
Amy Newman

amy newman - February 09, 2015 at 08:48 PM



“ *Wonder and caring Man. Always said hi. Loved the City of TOLEDO. One Government Center will not be the same. Keep you head up Family. God's got this, Lean on him.*

Alesia Manns-Alexander - February 09, 2015 at 08:42 PM

TF

“ *RIP Mayor Collins. My thought and prayers go out to your family. You will be missed dearly.*

The Artz Family - February 09, 2015 at 07:35 PM

AF

“ *Artz Family lit a candle in memory of Mayor D. Michael Collins*



Artz Family - February 09, 2015 at 07:31 PM

RN

“ *I first meet mayor mike..when he became my district council man..a honest straight talking man..(not a politician)..a true independent..Semper Fi , brother..RN..*

Randy Neubert - February 09, 2015 at 06:52 PM

KG

“ *Condolences to the family of Mr. Collins. My father was also a Toledo Police officer who spoke highly of him. My family still remember him taking the time out of his busy life to pay respect to my family at my fathers furneral years ago. I appreciated all he as done for the City of Toledo.*

*With deepest sympathy,
Krystal Gadoury*

Krystal Gadoury - February 09, 2015 at 02:42 PM

TJ

I want to say how sorry and sad I was to hear of Mr. Collins's passing. I never knew Him personally, but I was proud to call Him our Mayor. With deepest sympathy. Mrs. Theresa Johnson

Theresa Johnson - February 09, 2015 at 04:05 PM



Mike was a young teenager when his Father was killed in a tragic accident. On the morning of the funeral Mike tried to prevent the casket from being closed saying that he would never see his Father again. My Father, Maurice and our Uncle Martin promised Mike that he would see his Father in heaven. On Friday, that promise was fulfilled. Our cousins in Ireland, who loved Mike so much, will gather together for a Memorial Mass on March 5th. The special St. Patrick's Mass on March 15th at The Historic Church of St. Patrick (Toledo) will be offered up for Mike as well as the Noon Mass there on St. Patrick's Day itself (March 17th) God speed Mike.

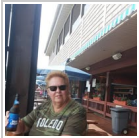
Maury Collins

Maury Collins - February 10, 2015 at 06:39 AM

JT

“ Our hearts go out to Sandy and family. Mike loved this city and modeled compassionate community. The MultiFaith community has been praying for you. - Judy and Woody Trautman

Judy Trautman - February 09, 2015 at 12:31 PM



“ Condolences to the family of Mayor Collins, I pray that their hearts will begin to heal. I didn't know him personally, but I admire what he has done for the City and what he planned to do also.

Susie Davenport

Susie Swigon Davenport - February 09, 2015 at 12:22 PM

PM

“ PAUL KATE WIL SHEILA JONO STEPHANIE AND MARK purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mayor D. Michael Collins.



PAUL KATE WIL SHEILA JONO STEPHANIE AND MARK -
February 09, 2015 at 12:06 PM

DH

“ With deepest sympathy to Sandy, family & friends: Though I never met Mayor Collins I want to give my prayers. I'm a ex-city employee whose father was a lieutenant on the force. I am out of town, but my heart is with the family. God bless....Dave Hall

Dave Hall - February 09, 2015 at 12:05 PM

MH

“ Mary Pat Hobbs purchased the Pure Faith Pillow for the family of Mayor D. Michael Collins.



Mary Pat Hobbs - February 09, 2015 at 11:54 AM

SA

“ We knew Mike as a friend, a neighbor, and our district representative who put his whole heart and soul into whatever role life placed him. He was one of those rare individuals who went above and beyond what was expected of him at the time, no matter the circumstance, because he truly cared about those in his life and the people around him. As a student, a marine, a husband, a father, a uniformed officer, a detective, a teacher, city councilman, and finally as the mayor of the city he loved, he excelled in every capacity and in every role. He will always be remembered by us as one outstanding human being. We will miss you, Mike. Our deepest sympathy to Mike's wife, Sandy and the children and grandchildren he spoke of so often.



Sharon & Denny Arquette - February 09, 2015 at 11:43 AM



“ Mark Pawelczak lit a candle in memory of Mayor D. Michael Collins



Mark Pawelczak - February 09, 2015 at 11:23 AM

JP

“ Condolences to the family of Mayor Collins, his staff, and to the people of Toledo, Ohio.

-Jim Perron

Jim Perron - February 09, 2015 at 10:33 AM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Mayor D. Michael Collins.*



February 09, 2015 at 10:20 AM



“ *I finally had the opportunity to meet and shake Mayor Collins hand last fall. What a great person. He worked so very hard for all of us in Toledo. Mrs. Collins and family, please know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. God bless you.*

Mark Trankina

mark trankina - February 09, 2015 at 09:26 AM



“ *Mary Ragan lit a candle in memory of Mayor D. Michael Collins*



Mary Ragan - February 09, 2015 at 08:39 AM



“ *The McClain Family lit a candle in memory of Mayor D. Michael Collins*



The McClain Family - February 09, 2015 at 08:02 AM

MW

“ *I don't live in Toledo but rather Port Clinton. However I appreciated how Mayor Collins handled the water crisis and represented our entire region at the national level. RIP Mayor Collins, you will be missed.*

Michelle Williams - February 09, 2015 at 12:52 AM

ME

“ *<http://www.13abc.com/story/28055928/public-memorial-honors-mayor-collins>*

megan - February 08, 2015 at 06:03 PM

CA

“ *Carol Annesser lit a candle in memory of Mayor D. Michael Collins*



Carol Annesser - February 08, 2015 at 05:44 PM

ML

“ We invited councilman D Michael Collins to speak at our block watch group. Our neighborhood was being targeted with crime . As a majority of seniors we were consoled and learned of his dedicated years on the police force. (this was the man that would help us, I knew as soon as he began to speak) He guided us on what we could do and promised that he would follow up at city council and with our command officer on the police force. That he did. After that meeting we had many unexpected visits from D. Michael Collins. It was a mutual love I could see growing for the citizens . He told us of his decision he made with his wife, that he would run for Mayor. We all knew he would be what Toledo needed. Caring confident,honest, trustworthy and most of all a man of his word. Once elected we knew he would have countless hours of decision making at one gov center. But surprisingly, without notice the door to our meeting would open and there he was. I said oh my gosh, and his reply was Marie, I will not forget your group. We so loved having his soft spoken comforting manner addressing our group. Thank you Mrs. Collins for sharing him with us. We will never forget him. He certainly was one of a kind. My sincere condolences for your loss.

Marie Lord 820P Toledo Ohio

Marie Lord - February 08, 2015 at 05:16 PM

CK

Although we now live in Northeastern Ohio, about 20 miles west of Cleveland and did not know Mayor Collins, both my husband and I were born and raised in Toledo and extend our sympathy to the mayor's family. We will be offering our Mass for the Mayor and his family. May his soul rest in peach.
Carol Klear, North Ridgeville, Ohio.

Carol Klear - February 09, 2015 at 06:40 PM

TF

“ *The Sheridan Family lit a candle in memory of Mayor D. Michael Collins*



The Sheridan Family - February 08, 2015 at 03:07 PM

RP

“ *Condolences to the Collins family.*

Robert "Pete" Petersen - February 08, 2015 at 02:28 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mayor D. Michael Collins.*



February 08, 2015 at 01:19 PM

MP

“ *Mr. & Mrs. Sol Pietras lit a candle in memory of Mayor D. Michael Collins*



Mr. & Mrs. Sol Pietras - February 08, 2015 at 12:32 PM

MA

“ I been though the same thing I am the only child when a parent die it hurt the only thing I could tell the family the Lord has him he is rip with the big guy up stairs lord be with you

marie - February 08, 2015 at 10:26 AM

MA

“ Marie sent a virtual gift in memory of Mayor D. Michael Collins



marie - February 08, 2015 at 10:21 AM

SS

“ D. Michael Collins never forgot a face, everyone was important to him. He leaves a legacy of dedication and a level of service to our country, our city and our police department that will never be forgotten. It was our privilege to have his life service and his immeasurable accomplishments as Mayor of Toledo. Let us honor him by continuing his good work and paying it forward to each other... God indeed holds Mike in the palm of His hand and I know he is looking down with a smile as each of us share how he touched our lives in such an enormous way. Prayers and the peace of God's embrace to his family, friends, staff, county & city leaders as well as his brothers and sisters of The Toledo Police Department.



~ TPD Sgt. Kevin L. Smith & Carrie L. Smith

Sgt. Kevin L. Smith - February 08, 2015 at 08:26 AM

BW

“ *Bryan Waugh purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mayor D. Michael Collins.*



Bryan Waugh - February 07, 2015 at 09:45 PM



“ *Sending Prayers and thoughts to the Mayor Collins family and friends.*

*May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

We had met Mayor Collins a few times and also heard him speak at the state of the city address. His heart belonged to our city. His legacy will carry on and he will be remembered and greatly missed. His spirit will always be with us!!

DK Treasures- Kellie Schlachter/Debbie Speegle (Point Place)

Kellie Schlachter - February 07, 2015 at 07:25 PM



AD

“ *He was a mayor for the people. Rest in peace Mayor Collins*

amy dye - February 07, 2015 at 04:10 PM

TK

“ *Our hearts and prayers go out to you and your Family during this trying time. Your school mates from St James remember you.*

Thadeaus Kepus - February 07, 2015 at 03:43 PM

JW

“ *Janie Wall lit a candle in memory of Mayor D. Michael Collins*



Janie Wall - February 07, 2015 at 03:06 PM

BE

“ *Bex lit a candle in memory of Mayor D. Michael Collins*



Bex - February 07, 2015 at 02:03 PM