



William "Bill" Collins

June 3, 1981 - February 15, 2016

Mr. William "Bill" Braxton Collins, age 34, of Dawsonville, passed away, Monday, February 15, 2016. He was born June 3, 1981 in Lithia Springs, the son of Mr. Arthur Robert Collins and Mrs. Nancy Sullivan Collins. He was attending University of North Georgia majoring in Art. Mr. Collins was a very talented artist and intelligent young man. He loved cats and worked at Williams-Sonoma Outlet in Dawsonville.

He is survived by his partner, Norge Martinez of Dawsonville; father, Arthur Robert Collins of Whigham, Ga ; mother, Nancy Sullivan Collins of Douglasville; sister and brother-in-law, Alisha and Jeff Seymour of St. Simons Island, GA; brother, Chris Collins of Athens; grandmother, Ellen Ward of Thomasville, GA; two nieces ,Clare Seymour and Cate Seymour. Several aunts, uncles, cousins and other extended family members also survive.

Memorial Services will be conducted Friday, February 19, 2016 at 11:00 AM from the Chapel of Jones-Wynn Funeral Home with Dr. Walter Taylor officiating. In lieu of flowers the family asks that contributions be made to your local Humane Society. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at www.jones-wynn.com. Jones-Wynn Funeral Home and Crematory of Douglasville in charge of arrangements. 770-942-2311

Cemetery

Events

Cremation

FEB
19

Memorial Service

11:00AM

Douglas Chapel*

2189 Midway Road, Douglasville, GA, US, 30135

Comments



“ Bill was one of my best friends in college and in the first few years after. I've always loved him dearly, and over the years, I've always praised him as a brilliant artist and a beautiful person.

One of my favorite memories is when he and our mutual friend Amy went to Amelia island one summer. I had a job interview in South GA, and we decided to make a beach trip out of it. The three of us were pale as ghosts, all being indoor-kid types, but we decided to spend an afternoon on the beach. Bill had the good sense to apply sunscreen. Neither Amy nor I followed his example. After a little drinking in the hot sun, we all fell asleep in the sun. When we woke, Amy and I had the worst sun burns I've ever seen in my life. Bill was so sweet. We took our burned bodies back to the hotel, and although he was a little miffed with us for being so irresponsible, he went to great lengths to take care of us. He applied aloe to my nearly second degree burns for weeks, came over to my apartment to check on me.

Bill taught me to look at the world differently, and not a day goes by since we met that I haven't felt his gentle, artistic, benevolent influence deep in my bones and my heart.

He used to make me thematic mix cds, all of which I still have. Tonight, I'm pouring myself a glass of wine and listening to a mix of his favorite Smiths tunes that he gave me on my 23rd birthday.

My thoughts go out to Norge, Bill's parents, family, and all of us who were lucky enough to be loved by him. My heart is broken, but I will always love you, Blue Haired Bill.

Matt Jones - February 19, 2016 at 08:57 PM



“ Dear Collins Family,

We are so sorry for the loss of Bill. Our thought are with you during this difficult time. We have made a donation to the Humane Society in Bill's name.

Our Deepest Sympathy,
Erin and Charles Leggett
April and Herschel Chambers

erin leggett - February 19, 2016 at 11:58 AM



“ Dear Collins family,

I want to offer my condolences to all of you. Bill was a tremendously amazing person and will be missed by so many. I am very close friends, Anna, one of Bill's roommates from UGA and had the privilege of getting to know and become friends with him during my years in Athens. I always appreciated his sense of humor and how insightful and thoughtful he was.

One particular memory that comes to mind of Bill was early in my sophomore year of college. I was having a very hard day, and feeling sad so I stopped by the house he shared with Anna and Heidi to see Anna. Anna wasn't home. I didn't want to go home and be alone. Heidi invited me to wait for Anna. Her and Bill were watching TV and doing some sketching. I came in and sat with them, watching TV while they drew. We talked very little, it was so nice to just be with other people and be quiet together. It was always so easy to be around Bill. There was something so comforting about his presence.

While we sat there, Bill drew me a turtle. It was an incredibly thoughtful gesture as it was exactly the sort of thing I needed on that day. A random act of kindness. I have kept that turtle the past 15 years. It has hung in my room or near my desk and as I have always loved it because of the thoughtfulness and kindness it represented. To me, this was so much of who Bill was: always noticing everything, thoughtful and caring, understanding without words having to be exchanged.

My thoughts are with all of you during this difficult time.

best,
Nicole Ciomek



Nicole Ciomek - February 19, 2016 at 09:37 AM



“ Dear Norge and Collins Family -

I am utterly heartbroken over the loss of Bill, my dear friend. We do not often get to be so near blindingly bright lights of creativity and genius because brilliance like Bill's does not often come with humility. Bill's did. Bill was one of the most creatively brilliant, intelligent, funny and also most humble humans I have ever known. He was like Midas in the sense that everything he touched, the simplest item - a piece of paper, a stick - or people, our hearts, it all turned to gold. He drew out the best in everything around him and gave the best from within to the world. Bill has always been a role model for me and I will always do my best to carry his beauty in my

heart. I know that words cannot do much to help in this time, but I will do my best to share my memories of Bill here in hopes that it may bring you some solace in your time of grieving. Please forgive my wordiness, I just have a lot of love and thoughts about sweet Bill.

I met Bill in 9th grade at Lithia Spring HS in a math class and we would have many classes together over the next four years, including art. His artwork was mind blowing even at a young age. My dad came to one of our art shows in high school and saw Bill's work. He immediately sought Bill out to shake his hand saying that he wanted to be able to say that he shook Bill's hand when Bill was a famous artist. The love, respect and admiration that my dad had for Bill grew through the years as Bill and I grew our friendship. Years later, at the rehearsal dinner for my wedding, my dad would seek out Bill with the same enthusiasm as he did upon their first meeting, but this time because he just wholly loved Bill as does everyone who has had the honor to know him.

During our freshman year of college, Heidi and I were miserable and the highlight would be the letters Bill would write to us. They were full of wit and creativity. I am not easy to laugh, but the letters would have Heidi and I rolling on our tiny dorm room floor, cracking up. We would try to return the humor, but were no match for his mind. Like Heidi, I was so, so grateful that Bill was later my room mate. When I was overworked during my junior year of college, working at the campus radio station, a restaurant and doing a full course load in school, Bill would drop by the radio station and leave me funny messages. He always, always brightened my days. He always took the time to be considerate. He also had such a high emotional intelligence and high empathy that he seemed to intuitively know what people needed.

Getting the chance to be so close with Bill will forever be one of the triumphs of my life. In retrospect, I loved Bill like a brother, like my past and future. I am so sorry for your loss and I know there are no words to ease pain, but I write all of this to let you know that we are out here thinking of Bill. We will all do our best to carry Bill's gentle spirit, light and love in our hearts. I will try to pass that message on to my two young sons. I will do my best to honor his memory. I am beyond sorry that I cannot be there today to remember him. Although, I plan to donate to the Humane Society in his memory as was requested. I think that is a fitting tribute to Bill. I am hoping to find some of the artwork and photos I have to share of the time I was graced with Bill in my life and post them here.

You will all be heavy in my thoughts. Please accept my condolences for your loss.

With Tremendous Love,
Anna Zinski, Jeremy Sellers, Salinger and Langston



“ Dear Collins family,

I know that there are no words that can be said to you that can ease your pain and I know that everything must seem like a blur to you right now. I wanted to write to not only offer my sincere condolences but also to make sure that you were aware of the impact that Bill had on me and anyone else that knew him as a friend.

When Bill and I met in high school we were instant friends and Anna and I were so excited when he came to join us at UGA. It was a privilege to live with Bill and I can honestly say that Bill taught me more than any class I might have taken in college. Bill showed me how to see the beauty in every facet of this world. He taught me to pay attention to the little things in our day-to-day lives because, more often than not, it is those little things that make life joyful. He would bring home an interesting leaf or a rock he found on the way home from class and point out to me the details within it. He could pass a stranger on the street and point out how lovely their hands were as we walked by. His collections of random artifacts to possibly use in his artwork were always baffling and a true testament to his creativity and his ability to create amazing things out of seemingly simple items. As you know, Bill was an amazing artist. Creative ideas seemed to just flow out of him constantly. I was always so amazed by what he could do.

Bill had a light within him that was evident to anyone who got to know him. This light...this amazing mind that saw the world differently than most...was a gift for all of us. Bill probably would not believe my words because of his humble nature but all of his friends know that these are simply honest recollections. Bill inspired me as an artist and an educator and I am honored to have been a part of his world. I will always try my very best to pass on to my students and those I love the lessons that Bill taught me...pay attention, there is so much beauty in this world and don't ever let the little joys pass you by.

I hope that time will bring you comfort and your family are in my prayers.

Heidi Stell - February 18, 2016 at 10:37 PM



“ Bill and I had many classes together in high school. I'd only reconnected with him on Facebook last year. He seemed to be very happy and leading a full life. Bill was such a beautiful soul. Sitting in Ms. Hipp's biology class, we would all be talking and cutting up while he quietly sketched away in his notebook. You'd almost think he wasn't listening. And then he would make the wittiest comment and you'd realize not only was he listening but he was probably two steps ahead of you. I loved his smile. I feel lucky to have known him. And I am so happy that you found happiness together. My deepest sympathies to you and the rest of his family.

Chrystal Griffin - February 18, 2016 at 08:34 PM



“ I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to Bill's family and friends. I had the privilege to have Bill as a German student at UNG. His kindness and wit will be deeply missed. He was an extraordinary student and a lovely person. I'll always remember Bill very fondly.

Ana Bonfante, German Professor, Department of Modern and Classical Languages

Ana Bonfante - February 18, 2016 at 07:10 PM



“ My heart breaks for the family. I remember Bill's smile, quiet wit and serious intellect. His art has touched many and he will be missed.



Susan - February 18, 2016 at 06:49 PM



“ Bill was wonderful on our trips to Europe. He took care of my husband by staying with him and watching out for him. Bill was a great photographer with his gift for art - his pictures were amazing. He was also a great "Cookie Judge" at our Christmas parties. He will be missed by all of us.



Sara Walker - February 18, 2016 at 04:12 PM



“ 20 files added to the album New Album Name



Sara Miles - February 18, 2016 at 02:03 PM



“ Sincere condolences to Bill's family during their time of loss. May you continue to hold dear your memories of wonderful times with him. God's promises are true and sure . Rev. 21: 3,4

Sandra - February 18, 2016 at 12:42 PM



“ Bill, you are part of our family and we will always love you and remember you with good memories. You took care of Dad on trips, was our head cookie judge at the Christmas Party, always kind, always sincere, a good friend and Uncle to my kids. Sorry you left so soon.



Leah Miles - February 18, 2016 at 11:02 AM



“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Leah Miles - February 18, 2016 at 10:58 AM



“ Please accept my deepest condolences. I was privileged to know Bill as a student in two of my courses at the Department of Visual Arts. He was a very sweet person and an excellent student—always polite, thoughtful, and engaged. I will remember him very fondly.

Ana Pozzi-Harris, Lecturer, Art History, Department of Visual Arts



Ana Pozzi-Harris - February 17, 2016 at 07:09 PM



“ I meant to say "Chris dont tell everything", yet Bill is kinda appropriate, too!

Steve and Carol Collins - February 17, 2016 at 01:47 PM



“ Nancy, Steve and our family always remember the sweet young boy with the beautiful smile, doing his wonderful art at out dinning room table. Oh and the time they spent the weekend with us when we lived on Turkey Creek Plantation- soooo much fun!!! Bill, don't tell everything! Oh, it was so long ago, but we cherish the time we spent with each and every one of you and we have always loved you. May God hold you close to His Abba heart, never letting go, as He promised. Love, Steve and Carol Collins

Steve and Carol Collins - February 17, 2016 at 01:43 PM



“ To the Collins/Sullivan/extended Reid family, I pray that the God of all Peace and Comfort will give you all both peace and comfort today and in the days weeks and months ahead. I love you all. Dennis

Dennis reid - February 17, 2016 at 12:53 PM



“ I would like to send my most sincere sympathy to Bill's family and friends. As one of his professors and advisors, I knew Bill as a talented and dedicated artist. It was a pleasure having him with us. His contributions to our "family" here are much appreciated and he is remembered with great fondness.
Pam Sachant, Head, Department of Visual Arts, University of North Georgia

Pamela Sachant - February 17, 2016 at 10:42 AM



“ This has indeed been a terrible week for everyone touched by Bill's kindness, infectious smile and passion for his art. He was a dedicated student and it is clear from reading the other tributes posted here that Bill had this effect on so many of us. To his partner, family and friends: you have my most heartfelt condolences during the days and months ahead.

Paul Dunlap, Department of Visual Arts, University of North Georgia

Paul Dunlap - February 18, 2016 at 11:47 AM