



Melissa Collins

March 11, 1963 - February 22, 2019

Melissa Collins, 55, of Bluffton, passed away early Friday morning, February 22, 2019, at Signature Health Care in Bluffton.

Melissa was born on March 11, 1963 in Bluffton to William K. "Bill" & Sharon E. (Gregg) Gentis. She graduated from Bluffton High School with the class of 1981 and in 2015, received an A.S. of Science degree in Biblical Studies from The Bluffton Bible College.

She worked for BKM Real Estate and owned/operated Designer Drapes, where she made drapery for many years. Melissa also owned/operated Cute As A Button, a daycare facility in Bluffton for 10 years, retiring in 2017. A member of First Church of Christ, she was also very active in the Women's ministries in the church.

On September 12, 1992 in Bluffton, Melissa married Joseph L. "Joe" Collins. Survivors include her husband Joe of Bluffton and children; Josh (Jenny) Collins of Bluffton, Alan (Sadie) Elliott of Leo, Andrea (Michael) Balkcom of Cameron, NC, Abby (Joe) Holloway and Maria (Jackson) Bates, both of Bluffton.

She was a loving grandma to 9 grandchildren; Cole and Connor Collins, Olivia & Evan Elliott, Kameron, Gunner & Hunter Holloway, Raleigh & Evie Bates. Melissa is also survived by her parents, Bill & Sharon Gentis of Bluffton and siblings; Kurt (Susie) Gentis, Sheila (Dave) Herdman, Kelly (Robin) Gentis and Kerry (Michelle) Gentis, and a brother-in-law, Dan Dunwiddie, all of Bluffton.

Melissa is preceded in death by a sister, Ann Dunwiddie in 2017, and two nieces; Jaime Gentis and Grace Rinn.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Monday (February 25, 2019) at the First Church of Christ in Bluffton, with calling for one hour prior to the service. Rev. Arley Higginbotham and Pastor Brandon Kelley will officiate.

Burial will follow at Six Mile Cemetery in Bluffton.

Calling hours will be held from 12 Noon to 6 on Sunday, (February 24, 2019) at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Memorials may be made in Melissa's memory to Friends Who Care Cancer Relief Foundation.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

Six Mile Cemetery

4795 SE State Road 116
Bluffton, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **24**. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
<http://www.thomarich.com>

Visitation

FEB **25**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

First Church of Christ
909 W Spring St
Bluffton, IN

Service

FEB **25**. 10:30 AM (ET)

First Church of Christ
909 W Spring St
Bluffton, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Melissa Collins*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - February 24, 2019 at 12:03 PM



You lived this life with grace and taught us how to do the same. We have the memory of your smile that lit up a room and made us feel loved. We will meet again in heaven.

Christina Williams - February 24, 2019 at 06:24 PM



“ *Melissa Collins*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *BJGray sent a virtual gift in memory of Melissa Collins*



BJGray - March 07, 2019 at 11:24 PM

BK

“ *Billy Kreigh lit a candle in memory of Melissa Collins*



Billy Kreigh - March 01, 2019 at 01:39 PM

CD

“ *We remember sweet Melssa (Missy) ever since she was in high school youth group at FCC. She will be greatly missed but we all know she is so much better off now than we are. Please find comfort and peace in your loving memories of her.*

Cindy and Jerry Dillon - February 27, 2019 at 08:57 PM

TM

“ *Teresa Moser lit a candle in memory of Melissa Collins*



Teresa Moser - February 25, 2019 at 03:08 PM

JT

“ *Julia Tobias lit a candle in memory of Melissa Collins*



Julia Tobias - February 24, 2019 at 08:44 PM

HF

“ Please accept my condolences and know you are all in my prayers.

Henerietta & David Fraysier - February 23, 2019 at 07:00 PM

DH

“ God bless your family as you mourn the loss of Melissa,



Dan and Christine Hunt - February 23, 2019 at 04:12 PM

CL

“ To Bill and Sharon Gentis: So sorry to hear of your daughters passing. A life cut short so soon, no more pain or suffering will she endure.. Her memory will live in your hearts and all the wonderful things that she did while she was here. So you will know who is sending this Sharon you I know will remember my mother Halcyon R. from FCC. Prayers for you and all your family. Sincerely Carol Lochtefeld



Carol Lochtefeld - February 23, 2019 at 03:55 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Melissa Collins.



February 23, 2019 at 12:32 PM

MS

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Joe and the Collins family and the Gentis families as you celebrate Melissa's life...may she rest in peace and may peace be with the whole immediate and extended family. Makaye and Howard Vaughn and Norma Stout

Makaye & Howard Vaughn and Norma Stout - February 23, 2019 at 12:26 PM

PG

“ Sorry to hear about your loss. Prayers are sent. George and Penny Gehrett

Penny Gehrett - February 23, 2019 at 12:24 PM

BS

“ Sending much love and many prayers to all of you. You'll all continue to be in our prayers.
Greg & Bonnie Simmons

Bonnie Simmons - February 22, 2019 at 07:01 PM

SK

“ Hugs and prayers to everyone!

Sue and Chuck Kristek - February 22, 2019 at 06:59 PM

 Mike Reynolds

“ Alan, Andrea and Abby- my sincere condolences to you and the entire family. I'll always have the fondest memories of Aunt Missy. I remember her always being so nice and fun to be around as a kid. I'll never forget the great big hug she gave me even after not seeing her for several years. I pray you all find peace and joy as you celebrate the life of your wonderful loving Mom. God bless you all.
Love, Mike Reynolds

Mike Reynolds - February 22, 2019 at 06:02 PM

RO

“ *Rose lit a candle in memory of Melissa Collins*



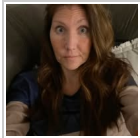
Rose - February 22, 2019 at 05:08 PM

JD

“ *My sympathy to Joe and the family of Melissa. She was a dear person and will be missed by all of her many friends and family.*
Judy Delamotte



Judy Delamotte - February 22, 2019 at 04:09 PM



“ *Melissa was such an amazing woman whom will be missed and loved by so many!!! She was more then a daycare provider for my children she was a friend and had a beautiful soul. Love you lady rest in peace!*

April Hinshaw - February 22, 2019 at 04:00 PM

AE

“ *My sincere sympathy to Melissa's family. Melissa was a lady, blessed with many talents.*
Melissa loved her family and they love her.
HER CHILDREN RISE UP AND CALL HER BLESSED. HER HUSBAND ALSO, AND HE PRAISES HER. Proverbs 31:28.
Sincerely, Joan Elliott

Arlene " Joan" Elliott - February 22, 2019 at 03:22 PM

Sherry
Peters
Wafford

“ *Fond and happy memories of Missy. My deepest sympathy for your loss to Joe and the whole family.* ”



Sherry Peters Wafford - February 22, 2019 at 02:57 PM

KF

“ *Ken And Jeannie Flowers lit a candle in memory of Melissa Collins* ”



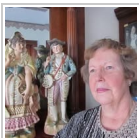
ken and jeannie flowers - February 22, 2019 at 02:43 PM

DG

“ *Sorry to learn of Melissa's passing. She was a lovely and caring person. Our prayers to Joe and the Gentis family. Dan and Darlene Gerdom* ”



Dan Gerdom - February 22, 2019 at 09:17 AM



“ *God speed Melissa. You are home.* ”

Kathy Gardner - February 22, 2019 at 09:13 AM

KJ

“ *Kurt & Lisa Jack lit a candle in memory of
Melissa Collins*



Kurt & Lisa Jack - February 22, 2019 at 09:13 AM