



## James Martin Collier, Jr.

November 3, 2020

James Martin Collier, Jr. 56, of Loveland, Colorado, formerly of Arkansas, passed away at home surrounded by his family on November 3, 2020 just 6 months after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He was known to some as “Jim” or “Jim Bob”.

James was born November 6th, 1963 in Searcy, Arkansas to Martin and Alice Collier. Along with his sister, Alison, he was raised in Augusta and Searcy before the family moved to Hot Springs, AR, where he attended Lake Hamilton High School. A natural athlete and track star, he received a scholarship for track to Ouachita Baptist University, where he earned his Bachelor’s degree in Communications.

He and his father opened Collier’s Finer Jewelry store in Hot Springs in 1989. At that time he also met the woman who would soon become his wife, Donna. Together they had two children, Cammi and Cody. Later he opened another store in Arkadelphia and one in Mena named The Jewelry Bank.

James always kept his love of track and field and athletics. He coached several of his son’s sports teams as well as helped coach his daughter’s track and cross country teams.

In 2006 James and Donna decided to be adventurous and move their family to Loveland, Colorado. James opened a new business in Northern Colorado that focused more on investment grade and collectible coins and precious metals. His children attended Thompson Valley High School, where he volunteer-assisted as a cross country coach. Many of his son’s and daughter’s friends still call him “coach”. His daughter Cammi ultimately followed in his footsteps, running track and cross country at a collegiate level.

When the kids left for college his passion for riding motorcycles from his youth arose again and he started accumulating many miles and many friends in the motorcycle community. James and Donna purchased a unique property in the Big Thompson Canyon where the Colorado lifestyle was a perfect fit for them. Riding motorcycles all summer, shoveling

snow in the winter, photographing bighorn sheep in the backyard, and walking the property with their dog Daisy was the norm. His faithful dog passed away shortly before he did. Both of their health declined side by side in the final weeks.

James had reached a point in his business where he was able to spend a lot more time at home and focus on family. In recent years he and Donna were able to enjoy several trips and vacations to places such as Italy, Mexico, Napa Valley, and Moab.

James and Donna came into the Catholic Church together in 2014, and within that he grew spiritually like never before. They were devout members of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Loveland. At the time of his death he had risen to the 4th Degree in the Knights of Columbus. He was very happy to merge his brotherhood in the church with his brotherhood in the biker world, when he took the position of President of the Denver Diocese of the Knights on Bikes, the motorcycle division of Knights of Columbus.

He was an avid reader and recently handed a book on Christian death to both his daughter and wife, telling each of them that it was a “quick read”. They had a chuckle when they were sitting with him on his last day and realized he had said this to both of them, but neither would have chosen the word “quick”.

His children have both remained close and regular family gatherings were a routine part of his schedule. He loved grilling steaks for everyone and putting on a great party at the house for friends and family. He enjoyed playing music for sitting around after dinner together and the hilarious conversations and dancing that would sometimes follow. He had fun rapidly switching to different genres of music so everyone was caught off guard. Anyone who witnessed him dancing to “All the single ladies” by Beyonce will never be the same! He enjoyed making people laugh and joking with them. Even after his diagnosis, he was still able to host several steak dinners, where he was always in charge of the grill. He was also able to go on a few final bike rides.

James is predeceased by his mother Alice Collier and he is survived by his father, James Martin Collier Sr; his sister, Alison Fendley and her husband Mike Fendley; his wife of 31 years, Donna Marie Collier, his daughter, Cammi Lynn Collier, his son, Cody James Collier; his daughter-in-law, Katherine Joan Collier; and his grandchildren, Starlynn Alicia Roger and Landon James Collier. Upon becoming a grandparent James began affectionately being referred to within the family as “Granda”.

He was always a strong force in the room and in any group. He leaves a big void behind. He ran the good race, and fought the good fight.

A Vigil and Rosary for James will take place at 6:30 pm, Monday, November 9, 2020 . Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 am, Tuesday, November 10, 2020 . These services will be held at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Parish in Fort Collins, Colorado, <https://seas-parish.org/>

with adherence to new county guidelines on gathering, which permit 100 people in the main sanctuary, with 75 additional attendees in the overflow space. Following the Mass, a funeral procession led by the Knights on Bikes will go to Mount Olivet Cemetery in Wheat Ridge, where there will be a brief graveside service.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation in James' memory to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

# Events

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**NOV 9** **Vigil and Rosary** 06:30PM  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church  
5450 South Lemay Avenue, Fort Collins, CO, US, 80525

**NOV 10** **Mass of Christian Burial** 10:00AM  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church  
5450 South Lemay Avenue, Fort Collins, CO, US, 80525

**NOV 10** **Interment** 01:00PM  
Mount Olivet Cemetery  
12801 W 44th Ave, Wheat Ridge, CO, US, 80033-2460

# Comments

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Cammi Collier** - November 09, 2020 at 11:18 AM

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“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



**Cody Collier** - November 08, 2020 at 02:22 PM

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“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



**Cody Collier** - November 08, 2020 at 02:08 PM

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“ Donna & family,  
I am so sorry for your loss! I had not talked to James in ages but have such fond memories of the times working for him at Colliers Jewelry way back when I was home from college in the summers. He adored you so much and it showed each and every time he spoke of you and his family. I just am so saddened to hear about his illness as he was too young to pass so soon! Many prayers to you all as you navigate through the coming days.  
Brandy Kennedy Pool

Brandy Pool - November 08, 2020 at 02:07 PM

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“ James Las Vegas



Charlie Broadbent - November 08, 2020 at 09:49 AM

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“ Family fun



Charlie Broadbent - November 08, 2020 at 09:33 AM

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“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



Cammi Collier - November 08, 2020 at 09:33 AM

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“ I thought the world of James. What an incredibly kind man. I remember him commenting that I was never too amused at his jokes, just like his daughter, and that was because they were so very similar to my own dad's jokes! What a wonderful member for St. John the Evangelist Parish and the Knights. We had been praying for him and the family since his diagnosis and I'm so very heartbroken by his passing. We will continue to pray for the repose of his soul and look forward to seeing him again someday in the company of our Lord.

**Mandi Richards** - November 07, 2020 at 10:46 PM

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**Cammi Collier** - November 07, 2020 at 08:43 PM

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**Cammi Collier** - November 07, 2020 at 08:40 PM

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**Cammi Collier** - November 07, 2020 at 08:39 PM

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**Cammi Collier** - November 07, 2020 at 08:36 PM

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**Cammi Collier** - November 07, 2020 at 08:34 PM

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**Cammi Collier** - November 07, 2020 at 08:22 PM

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“ James came into our lives at Second Baptist Church in Hot Springs when he introduced himself and stated he wanted to take my son to a Dallas Cowboys game. My momma bear dander rose up and he then explained 2 other boys were going. James became a trusted friend for a lifetime and now gone way too soon. Love you our precious friend

**Sue Lemons** - November 07, 2020 at 06:01 PM

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“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



**Angelo Chiodo** - November 07, 2020 at 05:38 PM

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“ So sorry for the loss and the void that will be left behind for many. I have several fond memories of our time together in high school track at Lake Hamilton and our brief semester together as teammates and roommates at Ouachita Baptist. Prayers and press on!

**jeff cathey** - November 07, 2020 at 05:33 PM

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“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



**Donna Collier** - November 07, 2020 at 04:53 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Donna Collier** - November 07, 2020 at 11:21 AM



“ Blessings on your final ride which undoubtedly got you straight into eternal happiness. A great loss for your family & blessings to them & your friends as well. Thank you to Salty & Theresa for allowing us to pray with & for you these last months & the honor to 'meet' someone of your integrity & joy.

**Leila** - November 08, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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“ My deepest sympathies to the Collier family. I got to know James while accompanying him on his journey advancing in the Knights. He was a man of exceptional faith. He will be missed.

**Gene Miksch** - November 07, 2020 at 10:22 AM

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“ I cannot put into words how sorry I am for your loss. You all are in my prayers. Stacy Shilling

**stacy shilling** - November 06, 2020 at 05:27 PM

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“ James came into the Catholic church the year behind my wife and myself through the RCIA.

James, like any good convert has been a Mighty example of Christian life. I have great respect for the testimony of his life. May he rest among the Saints in the presents of God!

**M.Ragsdale**

**M.Ragsdale** - November 05, 2020 at 08:36 PM

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“ My thoughts and prayers go out to James' family, my prayers for our faithfully departed brother are being given. I cherish the time I was blessed to visit with James over the recent years. He was (and still is) man whose faith was vibrant and firm.  
Ed O., K of C

**Dr. Edwin O'Shaughnessy** - November 05, 2020 at 08:04 PM

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“ He's a “special” Karaoke entertainer along with his more talented partner. More importantly he took the brave challenge and answered God's call to become Catholic. His life was never the same. We are tremendously blessed to know James, Donna and family. We continue to keep all in our prayers. Love you.



**Mary & Robert** - November 05, 2020 at 06:47 PM



“ Donna - so sorry to hear this news. We have thought of y'all often over the years. James was a sweetheart. Prayers for you and your family. Hugs, Lori & Faye (Clinton, AR)

**Lori Blagg** - November 07, 2020 at 10:44 PM