



John F. "Jack" Collins, III

July 27, 1940 - April 13, 2026

TOWNSEND: John F. "Jack" Collins, 85, of Townsend, died Monday, April 13, 2026 at Southern New Hampshire Medical Center, Nashua, NH.

Jack was born in Fitchburg, July 27, 1940, the eldest of three sons born to John F. Collins, Jr. and Mary L. (Burns) Schriver and grew up in Ashby.

Jack was a 1958 graduate of Ashby High School. Following his graduation from high school, Jack enlisted in the United States Air Force where he proudly served with the 41 30th Heavy Bomb Wing at Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin, Texas. He was assigned to a B- 52 ground crew and, after reaching the position of Assistant Crew Chief, he flew many missions with the Strategic Air Command.

While stationed with the Air Force in Texas, Jack rode bulls and competed as an amateur rodeo rider.

Following his honorable discharge from the armed forces, Jack worked briefly for the Independent Lock Company in Fitchburg before accepting a position with New England Telephone, where he remained for 33 years, retiring in 1995.

In 1980 Jack returned to school where he received an Associate's Degree in

Fire Science from Mt. Wachusett Community College, Gardner.

For nearly twenty-five years Jack faithfully served on the fire departments of his communities, beginning in Ashby as a member of the fire department there for three years. In 1968 he joined the Townsend Fire Department where he served nineteen years before retiring in 1987 at the rank of Assistant Chief.

In 2003 Jack was appointed to be Chief of Department for the Townsend Fire Department, a position he held until 2005.

He was a member of the American Legion Post and for 19 years was a member of its Firing Squad. He enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson Motorcycle, was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed fishing at his home at Lake Winnepesaukee. Jack held a professional racing license and enjoyed drag racing at the Epping Raceway in Epping, NH.

Jack leaves his wife of 61 years, Carole M. (Sexton) Collins; two daughters, Jennifer K. Creighton, and her husband, Duane, of Townsend, Jodi L. Collins and her wife, Elizabeth Lindsey of Boylston; his granddaughter, Olivia Creighton and her fiancée, Daigan Robichaud of Rindge, NH; two brothers and sisters in law, Peter K. and Kathryn Collins of Greenville, SC, Dennis and Melinda Collins of Fitchburg; two brothers in law, James P. Sexton and his wife, Blair, of Wilmington, NC, Thomas G. Sexton of Nags Head, NC; his sister in law Patricia Drummond of Taylors, SC; four nephews and five nieces.

Jack's family will receive relatives and friends at calling hours from 2- 5 PM Sunday, April 19, 2026 at the Anderson Funeral Home, 250 Main Street (Rte 119) Townsend Center.

Jack's Funeral Mass will be celebrated 10:30 AM Monday, April 20, 2026 at St. John's Church, 1 School Street, Townsend.

Interment will follow at Hillside Cemetery, Townsend.

Cemetery Details

Hillside Cemetery

Highland Street
Townsend, MA

Previous Events

Calling Hours

APR **19**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Anderson Funeral Home - Townsend
250 Main Street ~ Route 119
Townsend, MA 01469
(978) 597-2692

Funeral Mass

APR **20**. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
1 School Street
Townsend, MA 01469

Tribute Wall

JP

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Jack's passing. I have fond memories of him visiting my Dad's shop, always made me laugh since I was a little kid. Even when Jody was babysitting me and he would crack me up. Always called me "grease monkey" and "snack time" well into my adult years. My heart goes out to all of his wonderful family, Carol, Jody, and Jenn, etc. ❤️ Jess Poitras

Jessica Poitras - May 23 at 11:31 AM

SH

“ I worked with Jack at Harbor Auto Body. He was a nice man; may he rest in peace.

shelley - April 25 at 08:34 PM

BG

“ I am Carole's cousin Barbara. I have known Jack for many many years of course. We always had so much fun at the gatherings with all of the family At the house on the hill in Ashby. I remember walking my daughter Sara when she was a baby In Nashua And finding Jack on a telephone pole down the street. He came down the pole to see Sara who was just a baby. I know the family will miss him something terrible and you are all in my prayers. Wish I could be there For you and with you. Much love, Barbara



Barbara Goudtault - April 19 at 11:12 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John F. "Jack" Collins, III.

April 18 at 03:18 PM

MM

“ Rest in Peace Jack, you will be missed. 🙏

Maureen Melnicki - April 18 at 12:50 PM

KO

“ Jenna and family, I am so sorry for your loss. May his memory be a blessing.

You are in my thoughts,
Kate O'Neill

Kate O'Neill - April 18 at 11:58 AM

KO

“ Kate O. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John F. "Jack" Collins, III.

Kate O. - April 17 at 10:49 PM

LL

“ Lynn L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John F. "Jack" Collins, III.

Lynn L. - April 17 at 02:57 PM

NV

“ NE RBCC Verizon purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John F. "Jack" Collins, III.



NE RBCC Verizon - April 17 at 11:14 AM

RC

“ I knew Jack through my mom and dad, Bob & Barbara Tumber. My dad and Jack were members of VFW. I attended every Memorial Day parade through the years. Jack was very nice man to know. My condolences to the family, friends, and community. RIP Jack. Ruth (Tumber) Coole

Ruth Coole - April 17 at 10:40 AM

JT

“ John J. Truitt purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of John F. "Jack" Collins, III.



John J. Truitt - April 16 at 10:37 PM

PT

“ Peter Collins Jr/CHEF360 Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John F. "Jack" Collins, III.

Peter Collins Jr/CHEF360 Team - April 16 at 11:54 AM

PT

“ Peter Collins Jr/CHEF360 Team purchased the Rays of Light Spray for the family of John F. "Jack" Collins, III.



Peter Collins Jr/CHEF360 Team - April 16 at 11:54 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John F. "Jack" Collins, III.



April 16 at 09:21 AM



“ Mark and Dawn (Holohan) Roy (With deepest sympathy) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John F. "Jack" Collins, III.

Mark and Dawn (Holohan) Roy (With deepest sympathy) - April 16 at 09:13 AM



“ Sad to see this....Jack was a great guy. Very personable. He was really friendly with my father way back in the 70s and always see them chatting downtown or at events on the common. Remember as kids a couple of us were getting sandpaper and spray paint from Apple Meadow Hardware when it had just started in the cellar next to the Bell Telephone building. And we asked what went on inside if they're were operators. Jack said it was all automated now and took us in showing us where our phone relay connection was in this mass of clicking phone relays that filled the building. That'd the sort of nice personable guy he was always. Just a great guy all around. My sympathies go out to his whole family.

R.I.P. Jack 🙏🙏🙏

David Freeman - April 16 at 08:44 AM

RK

“ Carol, Jen and Jodi I, am so sorry for your loss. Jack is a man that was respected and loved by many. I will never forget him. Ronnie Knox

Ronnie Knox - April 16 at 08:29 AM

BF

“ Brian O'Connor and family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of John F. "Jack" Collins, III.



Brian O'Connor and family - April 15 at 06:59 PM

BF

“ Brian O'Connor and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John F. "Jack" Collins, III.

Brian O'Connor and family - April 15 at 06:59 PM

MP

“ Jenna, Jodi and Carole, my heart goes out to you and your family. Jack was a wonderful father and friend. I will miss him greatly. Love to you all

mike Parent - April 15 at 05:43 PM

MW

“ Marlette W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John F. "Jack" Collins, III.

Marlette W. - April 15 at 02:43 PM

EE

“ Ellen and Evan purchased the Sweet Liberty for the family of John F. "Jack" Collins, III.



Ellen and Evan - April 15 at 02:15 PM

EE

“ Ellen and Evan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John F. "Jack" Collins, III.

Ellen and Evan - April 15 at 02:15 PM