



Hudson Clayton Collins

October 3, 1921 - January 22, 2016

Graveside services for Hudson Clayton Collins, 94, of Tyler will be held on Monday, January 25, 2016, at 10:00 AM at Tyler Memorial Park Cemetery in Tyler with Dr. Paul Powell officiating, under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Mr. Collins passed away Friday, January 22, 2016 in Tyler.

He was born October 3, 1921 in Tyler to Thomas Clayton and Mary Foshee Collins.

Attended Dixie Grammar and High Schools and graduated from Tyler High School in 1940.

Hudson joined the Army of the United States October 15, 1942, and was given an Honorable Discharge April 27, 1943 for medical reasons. He then traveled to San Antonio Air Depot, Duncan Field, Texas and completed over 1300 hours of training to become a radio mechanic. He spent the duration of WWII in San Antonio, working as a civilian on the radios in aircraft that traveled as far as China to help win the war.

After the War, he returned to Tyler and attended Tyler Commercial College and graduated with a General Radio certificate in January, 1948. On June 8, 1948, Hudson married Avinell Rose.

Hudson worked in radio repair shops and then at radio station KGKB where he and Avinell lived.

The story goes that well after the midnight sign-off one night the phone rang, waking them up. The woman on the other end announced that she had just

bought KGKB and would bring her own engineer to run the station! They discussed the time-line, Hudson thanked her for letting him know as he would need time to find another job, and went back to bed. Later that night the lady called back and said he'd been so nice she thought she'd keep him if he wanted the job! That was Lucille Buford, and a few years later she decided Hudson was going to build her a TV station – the first one in all of East Texas. When KLTV went from black and white to full color, Avinell reported that in one week he slept less than 8 hours and that was while sitting in his chair, waiting for her to prepare various meals. She also said his hair went from black to white during the black-and-white to color transition!

Hudson retired from Buford Broadcasting when he turned 65, but he only slowed down for a few days. Next was Tyler Junior College and studying computers. He also worked in construction for a while to help a friend. He never stopped working and he loved to fix things.

When told the doctors couldn't fix him, he said, "Well, I'm sorry for the mess I'm leaving . . . tell the preacher I still love the Lord." The mess was the good stuff he'd collected all his life so he'd have material to fix things. (Since everything in heaven is perfect, I wonder what he'll do.)

Hudson loved car races of all kinds, Amateur Radio, camping, fishing, playing cards and dominoes.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Avinell Collins.

He is survived by his loving family including sons, Hal Collins and wife Brenda of Arlington and Carl Collins and wife Valerie of Tyler; grandchildren, Chris Collins of Tyler, Paige Jones and husband Jonathan of Bullard and Daedra Burchfield and husband Greg of Flower Mound; great-grandchildren, Lexi, Cayley, Mason and Maggye, Hudsons' sister, Buelah Mae Fordham of Brenham and niece, Mary Sue Longhoffer and husband Eddie of Brenham. Honorary pallbearers will be Dave Baxter, Johnny Glenn, Butch Adair, James Finch, Perry Davis and Jim Brandon.

Visitation is scheduled from 4:00 to 6:00 PM on Sunday, January 24, 2016 at

Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, in Tyler.
If desired, memorials may be made to The Hospice of East Texas Foundation,
4111 University Blvd., Tyler 75701.

Cemetery Details

Tyler Memorial Park

12053 SH 64 West
Tyler, TX 75704

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 24. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Graveside Serv.

JAN 25. 10:00 AM (CT)

Tyler Memorial Park
12053 SH 64 West
Tyler, TX 75704

Tribute Wall

MP

“ *The first years of my TV career were spent at KLTN. I worked there from 1979 to 1989. I got to know Hud pretty well during my time there. We spent much time in the engineering office, which was a classroom for me. Hud educated me about TV. He spent time explaining the many aspects of the TV picture, how it's captured, how it's broadcast. He made it make sense to this novice. Along the way, he told great stories about Lucille, Jeff and Bob and made them seem human. After my retirement from TV a couple of years ago, I look back and remember great people who helped along the way. Hudson is right at the top of that list. He didn't have to help me, but he took the time to teach and befriend me along the way. Much respect, love and appreciation to one the finest men I've ever known.*

Mike (Jeff) Peacock - November 16, 2023 at 01:45 PM

PM

“ Hal worked with my husband, Ron, at KFSM in Ft. Smith, Arkansas in 1974. We had the privilege of travelling to Tyler to meet Hudson & Avinell one weekend & learned what great people they were! When Ron got transferred to Tyler in 1976, Hudson & Avinell helped us find a place to live here & even paid the utility deposits for us so we could move right in when we got here. Not to worry---we paid them back!!

They continued to support us emotionally our first years of living here. We will always remember that kindness & support!!

It was good to see you again at the graveside service on Monday---- Hal, Brenda & Carl. May God provide comfort to all your family during this time of loss.

*Ron & Pam Martin
Tyler, TX*

Pam Martin - January 27, 2016 at 12:37 PM

DT

“ I would like to send my deepest condolences to Mr. Hudson's family, I am a employee at the Burger King in West Wood shopping center and Mr. Hudson would always come by for his mustard whopper jr, he will definitely be missed by all of our staff.

Denecia Taylor - January 26, 2016 at 08:46 PM

JL

“ My sincere condolences got out to the family. May his hands never be idle and his heart always full in his final resting place.
Rest in Pease Mr. Collins.

Jack Lowden - January 26, 2016 at 05:45 PM

MM

“ One of the finest men I have ever worked with in the broadcasting business. I was at KLTV when he retired. If I recall, his retirement gift was a brand new computer.

Pray for the peace of the Lord upon his family.

*Mike Midkiff
KLTV 1985-1991*

Mike Midkiff - January 26, 2016 at 10:20 AM

ET

“ My condolences go out to the family. Hudson was chief engineer when I worked at KLTV in the early '60s. He was a very knowledgeable person with a flare for taking the complex and making it simple to understand. He will be missed but will join with others in heaven with whom he shared a common interest in electronics in earlier times. His legacy is one of service to his fellowman for those of us who knew him. May God bless his family with the comfort of the Lord at this time of remembrance of a very good man who constantly sought to be even better.

*-Ennis Trimble
Tyler*

Ennis Trimble - January 24, 2016 at 03:33 PM

JC

“ Hudson and Nell were a very big reason our time in East Texas was so great. They were the first people that took us under their wings and a wonderful friendship followed. So many memories, through good times and not so good, they were always there for us. We still play cards, taught by the masterhimself, but we never could develop a taste for buttermilk! We will miss you but take comfort in knowing you lived a long full life and were ready to reunite with Granny in a much better place. RIP K5PMW now gone Silent key. Our love and sympathy to Hal, Carl and families. Joanie and Hans Clahsen, Arizona.

Joanie Clahsen - January 24, 2016 at 03:23 PM

SW

“ Sorry to hear of Hudson's passing. He was the chief engineer at KLTW when I worked there in the late '60's.

Stanley Waghalter - January 23, 2016 at 02:34 PM