



Karen J Collins

June 2, 1945 - March 24, 2026

Karen J. Collins passed away surrounded by her family on the evening of March 24, 2026, in Morris, Oklahoma. She was born to John York and Rachel (Thomas) York on June 2, 1945, in McAlester, Oklahoma.

She attended and graduated from Indianola High School.

Karen met Buddy Collins in Indianola, Oklahoma, in a very unlikely place—in the middle of an onion patch—a story she loved to share. The couple married on September 7, 1963, in Indianola, Oklahoma. In 1973, they purchased land and made their home in Morris, where they raised their family and built a life together.

After her two boys were older, Karen returned to school and earned both her Bachelor of Science and Master's degrees from Northeastern State University. She went on to teach for several years in Okmulgee Public Schools before retiring in 2009.

Karen was musically inclined; she loved to sing and was exceptional at playing the piano and organ for the churches she attended. She also taught piano to many students over the years. Karen was a very social lady and enjoyed being active in her community. She was a member of PEO Chapter ER, Sesame Club, Okmulgee Education Foundation, and served as a

caretaker for the Choate Prairie Cemetery for a time.

Karen loved to garden and took great pride in the flower beds surrounding her home. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Morris before later moving her membership to First Baptist Church of Okmulgee.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John York and Rachel Mangrum, and her brother, John Eddie York.

Karen is survived by her loving husband, Buddy Collins; her children, Tim Collins and wife Tracy, and Chris Collins and Tabetha Boss; Shelly Mcfarlin Stephens daughter in love; her grandchildren, Erica Vinson, Chase Collins, and Kristin Denise Collins; and her beloved dog, Penny.

Friends may visit the funeral home on Sunday from 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

A funeral service will be held 11:00 AM, Monday, March 30, 2026 at the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home Chapel with Dr. Dennis Taylor officiating. Interment will follow in the Choate Prairie Cemetery near Indianola.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home of Okmulgee, Oklahoma. Memories, condolences, photos and videos may be shared with the family on Karen's Tribute Page of our website. www.mcclendon-winters.com

Previous Events

Viewing

MAR **29**. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

McClendon-Winters Funeral Home - Okmulgee

303 E. 7th Street

Okmulgee, OK 74447

(918) 756-1677

info@mcclendon-winters.com

<https://www.mcclendon-winters.com>

Funeral Service

MAR **30**. 11:00 AM (CT)

McClendon-Winters Funeral Home Chapel

303 E. 7th Street

Okmulgee, OK

Tribute Wall

KH

“ Oh Mrs. Collins one of my favorite teachers of all time. You were a light in SO many lives and you will be missed dearly! Prayers for the whole family. Sending love to you Kristin 💜
💜



kayla hurn - April 01 at 06:16 PM

BK

“ A kind hearted lady who gave her all for her family, her church and her community. We've loved her for 60 years and will miss her terribly.
Bob and Judy K

Bob Kashwer - March 28 at 08:11 PM



“ Chris I am so sorry for the loss of your Mom. She was always kind to me when I was around her. Prayers for you and your Dad and brother. Love you buddy❤️

Susan Cooper - March 27 at 06:29 AM

DM

“ Tim & co., just want to say sorry. She did a great job with you & mugtown. Hugs, y'all.



David Miller - March 27 at 12:40 AM

MJ

“ *My prayers and thoughts are with the family. Karen was one of a kind. First met her as a teacher for all three of my children. She loved teaching and giving to others. Worked with her for many years in the Okmulgee School system. One of the best and touched so many lives.*



Marilyn Jackson - March 26 at 03:47 PM

DM

Thanks for y'all service. Rip.

David Miller - March 27 at 12:36 AM



“ *Linda Siegenthaler Chambers lit a candle in memory of Karen J Collins*



Linda Siegenthaler Chambers - March 26 at 08:36 AM