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### JOE P. COLLINS

Mr. Joe P. Collins, age 74 of Lufkin, passed away Monday, October 23, 2006 in a Lufkin Hospital after a year long battle with cancer.

Known by his immediate family as "Pa," Mr. Collins was a devoted father and grandfather. Mr. Collins was born March 29, 1932 in Lufkin to Virginia Reba (Green) and Montgomery Ward Collins, and was raised in Kennard, where he graduated from high school in 1950. Mr. Collins proudly served his country during the Korean Conflict after enlisting in the U.S. Navy. Mr. Collins then graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1959 with a degree in Chemistry. After marrying Lottie Jean Knight in 1954, he gained employment at Texas Foundries, Inc., where he served as Chief Metallurgist and Laboratory Director. Mr. Collins retired in 1996 after 38 years of loyal and dedicated service.

Mr. Collins enjoyed hunting and fishing, as well as many other hobbies, such as arrow-head hunting, coin collecting and ham radio operation. Mr. Collins closely followed NASCAR racing and counted Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt, Sr. as two of his favorites. Mr. Collins was one of the "original shade tree mechanics" and very much enjoyed working with his hands repairing vehicles, making furniture and completing other do-it-yourself projects. More than anything, he loved his family and he always took great care of them. Mr. Collins' passing has left a huge void in the lives of all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law Roman and Piper Collins, of Lufkin; daughter Amanda Jo Collins, of Longview; son and daughter-in-law Rick and Sharon Collins, of Lufkin; grandchildren Courtney Collins, Stephanie Collins, Peyton Collins, Alaira Smoczyk and Avery Smoczyk, all of Lufkin; former wife Jean Collins, of Lufkin; sister and brother-in-law Wardette Collins Harrison and Freddie Harrison, of Crockett; numerous cousins, nephews, nieces and friends.

Preceded in death by his parents Reba and Ward Collins; and brother Richard L. Collins.

Funeral services for Mr. Joe P. Collins were held Thursday, October 26, at 1:30 p.m. in the Carroway-Claybar Funeral Home Chapel with the Reverend Horace Fletcher officiating.

Private family graveside services followed in Conner Cemetery in Houston County.

Pallbearers were Tom Selman, Terry Watts, Reagan Kelsey, Mikey Lovelace, Oliver Watts and Bo Dunkin.

Honorary pallbearers were Fred Jacobs, Cary Deal, James Eddington, Freddie Harrison, Ben Triana and Bill Weeks.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice in the Pines, 116 S. Raguet St., Lufkin, Texas 75904, or the American Cancer Society, 212 Gene Samford Dr., Lufkin, Texas 75904.

**Carroway-Claybar  
Funeral Home**