



## Nellie D. Collins

March 23, 1913 - September 11, 2012

Nellie D. Collins, 99 of Albia, IA, who was very much looking forward to celebrating her 100th birthday in March, died on September 11, 2012, at the Monroe County Hospital & Clinics in Albia. She was born March 23, 1913 in Ottumwa, IA to Phillip Arthur "Pop" and Ethel (Harden) McSparen at St. Joseph Hospital.

Nellie married Charles Hill Cashwell and resided in Montgomery, AL. They had one daughter, Donna Jo'an. They later divorced. She then moved back to Iowa where she met and married Jay A. Collins. They had a daughter, Peggy Diane.

Nellie absolutely loved to work and hardly ever took time to sit down. She worked at several places throughout her 99 years. She worked at Turnstyle in Davenport, the Iowa Ordinance Plant in Burlington during the Vietnam War, the Firestone Store in Albia, Reed Construction Co. in the Ottumwa office, and Chamberlain's manufacturing in Albia until it closed. She also helped her friend, Viola with custodial duties at the REC in Albia. In her later life, Nellie was always ready to greet customers every Thursday morning for more than 20 years at Dues Motor Company in Albia with coffee, donuts, and conversation. Nellie enjoyed selling tickets for the Iowa High School Rodeo and the Grandstand Entertainment at the Monroe County Fair. All of her "jobs" were really just opportunities for her to interact with people, which was one of

her greatest pleasures in life.

Nellie loved all of her family and friends dearly and enjoyed spending time with them or simply chatting with them on the phone. She was always thrilled to see all of her generations of grandchildren. One of her greatest delights was entertaining friends and family in her home. She knew how to throw a party! Nellie was a regular on the bus trips to Branson, and always received birthday and Christmas cards from Branson entertainers that called her "Grandma." She made everyone feel like family and never knew a stranger. Nellie was a long-time member of the Trinity United Methodist Church in Albia where she spent many years singing hymns in the choir. She had a great love of music including old dance tunes and country. That love of music always led her to the dance floor. Nellie would dance every dance. It also kept her coming back to the Albia Restoration Days Follies year after year where she treated the whole family and lots of friends to front row seats. Those who knew Nellie well knew that she enjoyed doing what others would consider work, ironing clothes and washing windows.

Nellie is survived by her daughters, Jo'an Reed of Albia and Peggy (Richard) Love of Grand Rapids, MI; six grandchildren, Jack (Linda) Reed of Ottumwa, Debi Reed of Albia, Rob (Kathy) Reed of Ottumwa, Robin (Jan) Haselhuhn of Albia, David Love of Chicago, IL and Julie Love of Grand Rapids, MI; ten great grandchildren, Scott Reed of Port Byron, IL, Angela Grimes of Chicago, IL, Bobbi Jo Reed of Panora, IA, Ryan (Ashley) Reed of Ottumwa, Tyler Reed of Davenport, Lyndon Haselhuhn of Des Moines, Caleb Haselhuhn and Allyson Haselhuhn of Albia, Joshua and Ethan Robbins of Grand Rapids, MI; and six great-great grandchildren, Tanner, Colby, and Brady Reed of Port Byron, IL, and Layla, Lincoln, and Landon Reed of Ottumwa.

Nellie was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Jay Collins; a sister, Juanita Jameson; a son-in-law, Bob D. Reed; and a great grandson,

Jay Allen Reed.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m., Friday, September 14, 2012, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Albia with Rev. Neil Montz officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Lawn Cemetery in Ottumwa.

Visitation will be Thursday, September 13, 2012 from 2-8 p.m. at Tharp Funeral Home in Albia with the family present throughout the day.

Memorials have been established to Trinity United Methodist Church and Monroe County Health Care Foundation.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Nellie D. Collins*

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *Nellie D. Collins*

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ *Nellie, a dear special friend. I know you are happy to be in heaven, but I miss you!!! Thank you for being my friend.*

**Steve Kozera - Lansing, MI - Friend** - September 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Nellie was a very special lady, and will be missed. She always had a warm smile and a warm heart and was someone you wanted to talk to! She was a remarkable woman.*

*Kevin & Cynthia Halbmaier*

**Kevin & Cynthia Halbmaier - Albia, IA - Friends** - September 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ *Nellie was a very special and dear person. She will be missed by many. Now Nellie will be celebrating her 100th birthday in Heaven with all of the other angels. Knowing Nellie, she will be the Leader!! Jo'an and family, we extend to you peace and blessings at this sad time.*

*Your friends,  
Rita & Hugh*

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**Rita & Hugh McCoy** - September 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ *Thank you all for your kind words, thoughts, and prayers during this very difficult time! They have helped make a difficult situation easier for us!*

*Grandma was a very special lady and will be dearly missed by many! She was an angel on Earth and now has her wings in heaven.*

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**Bobbi Jo Reed - Panora, IA - Great-Granddaughter** - September 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NF

“ *Nellie was a very special, sweet person. She will be greatly missed. My sympathy to the entire family. Hugs to all, Naomi Braun*

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**Naomi Braun - albia, IA - friend** - September 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *A bright light went out on Tuesday. Nellie was a special woman who brought light and joy to so many lives. She can never be replaced. She will be greatly missed.*

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**Sharon O'Donnell - Curlew, IA - Friend** - September 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ *Heaven just got a whole lot sweeter! Nellie is up there taking care of everybody--just like she did here on earth.*

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**Ann Simms - Albia, IA - coworker** - September 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ *So much a life to be celebrated*

*A very, very special lady*

*Truly a very valued friend*

*Ed and LeahRae Duea, Mesa, Az*

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**Ed and LeahRae Duea - Mesa, AZ - Friend** - September 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KJ

“ *I was saddened to learn of Nellie's passing. It was always such a blessing to see her at church and chat for a few minutes. I'll miss seeing her there.*

*You are in my prayers during this difficult time. May you all feel God's comforting presence.*

*God Bless,*

*Kim*

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**Kim Jolly** - September 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *Nellie was a wonderfully sweet lady--a very dear person. She always had a smile and encouraging remark to share. She will be greatly missed. Our deepest sympathy goes out to all of her family.*

*Love and prayers,  
Tom and Camilla*

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**Tom and Camilla Williamson - ALBIA, IA - Friends** - September 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM