

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 66

In Memory
of
William Collins Jr.

WHEREAS, Family and friends will long cherish their memories of William Bernard Collins Jr. of Gilmer, who passed away on August 7, 2025, at the age of 93; and

WHEREAS, The son of William Bernard Collins Sr. and Louise Pearl MacGregor Collins, Bill Collins was born in Branchville, Maryland, on May 19, 1932, and he grew up with the companionship of four siblings, Robert, Nathaniel, Norma, and Glen; after moving with his family to Texas when he was a teenager, he attended Galena Park High School, where he played football and baseball; in 1950, he enlisted in the United States Navy and served his country during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Collins subsequently embarked on a career as a mechanical maintenance technician at Crown Cork & Seal Company in Houston; he later transferred to Longview and settled in the rural area of Gilmer, where he took pleasure in raising farm animals and gardening; active in his community, he was a longtime member of Lions Clubs International; he held many leadership roles at the local and district levels of the organization, and he received the prestigious Melvin Jones Fellowship; he also served on the board of the Texas Lions Camp in Kerrville for several years, and he was a member of Bethesda Lodge No. 142 in Gilmer; and

WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Collins benefited from the love and support of his wife, the former Lena Mae Mayo, with whom he shared a rewarding marriage that spanned seven decades; together, the couple raised two children, Debra and Terry, who preceded his father in death, and with the passage of time, they welcomed two grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; after retiring, Mr. Collins enjoyed traveling the country with his wife in their RV and working at several national parks; he was passionate about researching genealogy and collecting programs from the many church and school events that his grandchildren participated in; and

WHEREAS, While the passing of Bill Collins brings immeasurable sorrow to his family and friends, he leaves behind a legacy that will forever be treasured by all those who held him dear; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of William Bernard Collins Jr. and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife, Lena Collins; to his daughter, Debra Lynn Collins Staggs, and her husband, Larry; to his granddaughters, Stephanie Baskin and her husband, Buck, and

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Danielle Watson and her husband, Stephen; to his great-grandchildren, Hallie, Harper, and Hope Watson and James, Niki, Selah, and Elijah Baskin; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Bill Collins.

Hughes

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on September 4, 2025, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate