



Mr. Joseph Dayton Collner

March 25, 1938 - January 31, 2018

Joseph Dayton (J. D.) Collner, beloved husband of Barbara Collner, went to be with the Lord on January 31, 2018. He was the father of Carolyn Collner Searcy and Richard Dayton Collner. He was preceded in death by his son Richard Dayton Collner. He was the proud grandfather of seven grandchildren and great grandfather of four great grandchildren. He was born in Dayton, OH on March 25, 1938 and raised in St. Petersburg and Winter Haven, FL. He received his General Class Amateur Radio License at age 15 and was later awarded a plaque for his outstanding contributions to the shuttle's first amateur radio operator in space. After high school, he served two years active duty with the US Navy from 1956 to 1958 as a Radioman and four years Naval Reserve.

In 1962, he graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. In July of that year, J. D. joined NASA MSC Florida Operations as AST and was proud to have worked on the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, Sky Lab, and Shuttle programs as Systems Engineer. This was a childhood dream to work in Space Travel. While working for NASA, he continued his education by earning his Master's degree in Management from Florida State University in 1981. Prior to his retirement from NASA in 1997 after 35 years, J. D. continued his work with the space programs as both Section Chief of NAVAIDS and Branch Chief of Communications and Tracking Group. Following his retirement he worked with the Brevard County School System as a Computer Technician, and also taught Consumer Math in

another private high school.

J. D. had a special love for classical and choral music and participated in as many chorale groups as possible. In years past, he was also a member of the Thanks quartet at the First United Methodist Church of Cocoa, FL and Indian River via de Cristo group since 1984. By so many of his friends and family, J. D. was considered an upstanding man of integrity and truth.

Those that worked at NASA were known to have said “we were doing what other people dreamed of.”

“I have been blessed beyond measure with a wonderful wife, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. God is good.” - J. D. Collner

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, THE FAMILY REQUESTS DONATIONS BE MADE TO THE GLORY OF GOD ANGLICAN CHURCH OF COCOA, FL IN MEMORY OF J. D. COLLNER

A memorial service will be held Saturday February, 17th at 4pm at Glory of God Anglican Church located at 3735 Indian River Drive Cocoa, FL 32926.

Cemetery Details

Cape Canaveral National Cemetery

5525 US-1
Mims, FL 32754
(321) 383-2638

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 17. 4:00 PM (ET)

Glory of God Anglican Church
Cocoa, FL

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Joseph Dayton Collner*

January 30, 2023 at 03:36 AM



“ *Three years ago, the Lord sent me to a church on Indian River Drive in Cocoa - Glory of God Anglican Church. I hadn't been to church since I was a teenager and I didn't know much about the Bible. The Lord was working in me - I had been awakened. I met JD in a Wednesday noon Bible study. He had worked at Kennedy Space Center as I had and we had an immediate connection. But JD had something that I was searching for - he had a relationship with the Lord. We became friends. JD was a big part of my Christian conversion. I learned a lot from JD - not just from words but from the way he and Barbara lived their life. JD was a great role model. He loved the Lord, his wife, his family and his country and he worked on those relationships. He was a man of deep thoughts who always left us with things to contemplate after any conversation. He was a true gentleman, always with an encouraging word and smile. I am truly blessed to have met JD and for the Lord to have given me time with a godly man as an example of a Christian. We will miss him for a time but we know the promises of God and that we will see our friend again.*

Karen Pardy - February 28, 2018 at 07:33 AM

EC

“ I was privileged to know JD since early 1959. We were members of the same fraternity, Phi Gamma Delta, at the University of Florida and became good friends. JD was a groomsman in our wedding in 1965. We have been lifetime friends ever since. It was wonderful to hear all of the tributes to JD yesterday. They were very well said! That memorial service was very special! I can also attest to JD's integrity and to his love of God and country. He loved our God and Barbara and his family, and he was a true patriot. JD did all he could to share the Gospel with others and to also preserve the freedom in America for future generations to be able to freely share the Gospel! He will be truly missed! Well done, faithful brother! Earl Claire

Earl Claire - February 18, 2018 at 04:00 PM

KG

“ Mr. Collner will be greatly missed by our family and neighborhood. He has always been a wonderful neighbor and showed his love for God, his family and his fellow man in the way he lived his life every day. He always had a kind word and friendly smile to share. Our children enjoyed looking through his telescope and learning from him over the years. We will miss him.

Kyle & Renee' Greenfield - February 16, 2018 at 07:05 PM

GS

“As much as a human being can know about another, I know that the Lord said to Him on January 31, 2018 "Job Well Done Good and Faithful Servant"

He cared about the truth, integrity and treating people fairly. He believed in Love and caring discipline and sometimes said he wished he could have done more for his son and understood his daughter a little better.

When he first got ill, I never saw any remorse or negativity. He just put a plan together and worked it hard trusting in the Lord all the way. His main concern was Barbara and that she would understand the finances and other things that he took care of. Early on he started to teach Barb what he did so she wouldn't have any difficulty. He also wanted to assure she had good transportation so He recommended Barb go pick out a new car.

I know how his family thought of him because I read the most recent texts, especially from his grandchildren. JD left a legacy that I would certainly be proud of as a parent and father proven by those texts. We should all be a family leader like JD who was a loving father that gave caring discipline. I think back when he said to me I want to do more for the Lord and I said but you are and you have. That doesn't mean everyone always agreed with him but he was "the man" and the leader of a Godly family something this world needs more of. He set a Godly example but he admitted he also loved his job and probably spent too much time at it when the children were young.

JD was a man to emulate!

"The Lord loves you and so did JD"

George Schorn

George Schorn - February 10, 2018 at 04:54 PM

TE

“ JD was a wonderful man of God. He was always ready to help anyone. Any time I had a question about anything he would quickly start looking in to it. When I saw him next he would have a load of information for me. My greatest memory is, when he found out he was sick, his biggest concern was making sure Barbara was taken care of. So unselfish. Love you JD.

Teresa - February 08, 2018 at 06:16 PM

CS

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Connie Jerry Smith - February 07, 2018 at 01:50 PM

CS

“ To a GREAT Patriot & friend! JD was always there with his calm demeanor, insightful intellect & wonderful sense of humor to guide us all, through the political battles. We will miss him, may he Rest In Peace. Love, Connie & Jerry Smith

Connie Jerry Smith - February 07, 2018 at 07:46 AM

BP

“ Wonderful gentleman in every sense of the word. Thoughts and prayers are with Barbara and family.

Bill Posey - February 06, 2018 at 09:25 AM

BP

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Bill Posey - February 06, 2018 at 08:26 AM

LA

“ With quiet confident, Uncle JD exalted humble intelligent and wisdom. I never felt negatively judged. Yet, his compassionate concerns were always well received. however, his advice was not always taken to my detriment. However, as a result his kindness, I could let my light shine no matter the circumstances of conversations.

laura - February 05, 2018 at 02:19 PM

RL

“ What I admired most about J.D. was his love for our God,his love for Barbara,and his love for his children and grandchildren,great grandchildren. That's what he talked about most when we got together for breakfast(in that order by the way), we rarely heard about his accomplishments in life. Others always came first to him. Thank you J.D. for allowing me to be a small part of your life.

Love you brother,
Ron/Sandy Lufkin



Ron Lufkin - February 04, 2018 at 05:04 PM

EP

I met J. D. and Barbara through our Tea Party activities, as we did what we could to right the US ship of state. J. D. was a true American and a great patriot.

Ed Priselac - February 17, 2018 at 07:00 AM