



Teresa Collins

February 18, 2022

Teresa Mary Collins (nee O'Rourke), 80, of Spring Lake Heights, died Friday, February 18, 2022, at Specialty Hospital of Central Jersey. Teresa, affectionately known as Terry, was born to James and Veronica O'Rourke on August 23, 1941, in Union City, NJ.

Among Terry's greatest pleasures were reading and travel. She was an avid reader, reading a book per week, and loved browsing the shelves at local libraries. She and her husband Paul shared a love of life and spontaneous adventure which led to travels all over Europe and the U.S. where they marveled at the beauty of a sunset or full moon rising over the ocean. Terry also remained active throughout her life, enjoying aquacise at the pool club with her husband and taking walks on the boardwalk in Spring Lake and Sea Girt. Possessing a sharp wit, she most especially loved having laughs with family and friends. Terry remained close with her lifelong friends, "The Golden Girls," from St. Michael's High School with whom she attended many Broadway musicals and fun dinners. She was a graduate of Katharine Gibbs school and after raising four children continued her education earning both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Terry worked at Tenafly Board of Education as the head of personnel for over 25 years.

Terry was predeceased by her parents and older siblings, Jack O'Rourke and Patricia Murray. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Paul, and her children Brian, Kevin, Suzanne, Michael and wife Connie. Terry is also survived by her only grandchild, Emma, whom she adored. After raising their

children in Dumont, Terry and Paul split their time between Hoboken and Spring Lake Heights.

Visitation will be Tuesday, February 22, 2022, from 3-7 pm at the Barrett Leber Funeral Home in Tenafly, NJ. Funeral Mass will be Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 10 am at St. Therese of Lisieux in Cresskill, NJ. Burial will follow in George Washington Memorial Park, Paramus, NJ. For more information or to send condolences please visit <https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/>

Cemetery Details

George Washington Memorial Park

234 Paramus Road
Paramus, NJ 07652

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **22**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Barrett Leber Funeral Home
148 Dean Dr
Tenafly, NJ 07670
(201) 568-8043
<https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Mass

FEB **23**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Saint Therese of Liseux Church
120 Monroe Avenue
Cresskill, NJ 07626

Tribute Wall

SS

“ I worked with Paul, Terry's Husband at the River Dell school system. Paul was always a true professional with a kind heart and a great human being. I am so sorry for your family's loss. I am sure you had a wonderful life with Terry. May God bless you and your family.....my deepest condolences....S. David Schoenfeld

S. David Schoenfeld - February 26, 2022 at 06:50 PM

JF

“ I spent six years in Tenafly as the Superintendent of Schools, where I had the pleasure of working with Terry. I could always rely on her knowledge, work ethic, and professionalism.

More importantly, she was a true and rusted colleague, always with a ready smile. Terry made life in the central office so much easier. Terry Collins and Dorothy Collins, who was my secretary were a great team and affectionately known as the "Collin Sisters." We worked hard and laughed a lot -- we were a great team.

I spent many years in education and encountered hundreds of skilled people, Terry was truly one of the best. May her family take solace in knowing that her spirit lives on in all who knew and loved her.

With deepest sympathy,

John Fitzsimons

John Fitzsimons - February 24, 2022 at 09:45 PM

AF

“ *Annette, Peter, Sharon and Aileen Finan purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Teresa Collins.*



Annette, Peter, Sharon and Aileen Finan - February 22, 2022
at 07:36 PM

GX

“ *My memory of Terry is of a compassionate and loving woman who also knew how to cheer someone up. I was fortunate to call her my classmate and dear friend. You will be missed by so many! My sincere condolences and prayers for her husband and family in this very sad time.*



Gloria Ulrich Xiques - February 22, 2022 at 07:08 PM

GD

“ *Dear Paul and Family,
My deepest sympathies for your loss of such a lovely lady. Keep the memories you shared close to your hearts and she will always be with you.
Sending thoughts and prayers,
Genny DiTrani*

Genny DiTrani - February 22, 2022 at 06:45 PM

AG

Dear Paul and family My deepest condolences on the loss of Terry. You will be in my thoughts and prayers. Anne Garrity

Anne Garrity - February 22, 2022 at 11:13 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Teresa Collins.*



February 22, 2022 at 02:14 PM



“ *We will always remember Terry's endearing wit as she retold early childhood comments of her 4 children. Her very own 'kids say the funniest things' episodes. As the perfect soulmate for the very fortunate Paul, she lovingly shared her gentle nurturing with their children.*

We are saddened by this news however Terry had a life well lived!

Our Condolences,

Nora and Lou Giglio

lou - February 22, 2022 at 11:39 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Teresa Collins.*



February 22, 2022 at 11:30 AM

SF

“ *Sevasti & Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Teresa Collins.*



Sevasti & Family - February 22, 2022 at 09:33 AM

LJ

“ *Love, Trisha, Jill, James and Jennifer purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Teresa Collins.*



Love, Trisha, Jill, James and Jennifer - February 21, 2022 at 06:29 PM

DD

“ *Dear Paul & family,
I'm so sad to hear the news of Terry's passing. I don't remember how long ago it was when I first met her (& Paul) in the pool at the Atlantic Club but from the start I felt her warmth & kindness & considered her to be a special friend. We laughed a lot and worked hard together in the last lane. I was so impressed by the love that shone through in Paul & Terry's relationship. Paul, she will be with you in your heart forever.
RIP my dear friend Terry.
Diane Donlin*

Diane Donlin - February 21, 2022 at 04:23 PM

PM

“ I never left Terry without a smile or a laugh. We shared lunch very often at a nearby restaurant with our third amigo Anne. Terry had such a bright spirit and a knowledgeable mind on many subjects. I learned so much from her. I am saddened by her death and send my deepest sympathies to Paul and her children and granddaughter. Sincerely, Peg Mondello

peg Mondello - February 21, 2022 at 04:12 PM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Teresa Collins.



February 21, 2022 at 10:51 AM



“ Bright and Beautiful Spray was purchased for the family of Teresa Collins.



February 21, 2022 at 10:42 AM

MC

“ Michael C. purchased the Touching Tribute Spray for the family of Teresa Collins.



Michael C. - February 21, 2022 at 10:35 AM

MC

“ *Michael C. purchased the Rose Garden Heart for the family of Teresa Collins.*



Michael C. - February 21, 2022 at 10:29 AM



“ *Purity and Peace Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Teresa Collins.*



February 21, 2022 at 10:21 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Teresa Collins.*

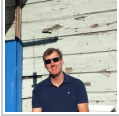


February 21, 2022 at 10:10 AM

DD

“ *I will forever be grateful to Teri and honored to have been passed the Human Resources torch. My sincerest condolences to the family. Danielle J.S. Diaz*

Danielle Diaz - February 20, 2022 at 06:09 PM



Danielle, thank you so much for posting here. She loved Tenafly school system and all the great people that have worked there and continue to work there. We miss her a great deal.

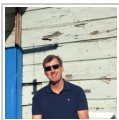
Kevin Collins - February 20, 2022 at 10:26 PM

DS

“ I’ve known Terry less than two years and as soon as you met her, she became your friend. Always caring, upbeat and witty. A group of us from Atlantic Club will miss her on Friday nights for pizza and wine.

Dottie Smyth

Dorothy Smyth - February 20, 2022 at 06:05 PM



Dorothy, thank you so much for writing nice thoughts about my mom. She enjoyed her new friends at the Atlantic Club so much. Thank you for taking her in to the pool club family.

Kevin Collins - February 20, 2022 at 10:24 PM

LH

“ My sincerest sympathy to Terry’s family for the loss of a beautiful soul. When you were with Terry you had her full attention and walked away with a smile or new funny story to share. Her caring heart was always present. Heaven will shine a little brighter with Terry’s spirit, one that will always be remembered by those who knew her.

Sending my love at this very sad time, Lauren

Lauren Haight - February 20, 2022 at 05:50 PM



Lauren, Thank you for your kind words. I am her son, Kevin and we miss her so much already.

Kevin Collins - February 20, 2022 at 10:22 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Teresa Collins.*



February 20, 2022 at 02:04 PM



“ *Jojo Barker lit a candle in memory of Teresa Collins*



Jojo Barker - February 20, 2022 at 01:59 PM



“ *Suzanne and Family
With heartfelt condolences, and my deepest sympathy.
Those who we love don't go away,
they walked besides every day, unseen, unheard, but always near,
still loved.
still missed and very dear.
May God Bless you and comfort you.
xo jojo*

Jojo Barker - February 20, 2022 at 01:50 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of
Teresa Collins.



February 20, 2022 at 12:33 PM



“ *I will miss this beautiful lady. It was always a pleasure to see her at reunions and parties with the St. Michael's 59ers. Rest in peace.*
Fred Seeber

Fred Seeber - February 20, 2022 at 12:32 PM