



Russell Neil Collins

December 1, 1930 - July 29, 2020

Russell Neil Collins, born December 1, 1930 in Umatilla, Florida, deceased July 29, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

Upon completion of Umatilla High school in 1949, Russell served one year in the U.S. Marine Corps. Then, he served 19 years in the U.S. Air Force. His job in the Air Force was that of a Radio Intercept Supervisor. Some of his assignments while in the Air Force were Germany, Southern Italy, Pahokee, Florida, Reno, Nevada, American Embassy in Helsinki, Finland, and Fort Meade, Maryland. He spent six and a half years with the National Security Agency and at one time went on a top secret mission with Johnny Cash, the country singer.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1969, he was employed at the Electron Machine Corporation in Umatilla for 15 years.

Upon retiring from the Electron Machine Corporation, he raised citrus and pecans. He then dabbled in business and traveled with his wife. He and his wife, Wynell, traveled a lot seeing the country and on one occasion, traveled to Europe for seventeen days. In later life, he and his wife spent much time at their beach house in Port Orange, Florida where he loved to fish.

Russell was a 62-year Mason (joined in 1957) with Umatilla Lodge 65 and

was a past Worshipful Master of his Lodge. He was also a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 8087. Also, a member of the American Veterans Post 1992. He was also a member of the Umatilla Museum society.

Russell is survived by two sons Anthony (Tammy) Collins and Keith Collins, grandchildren Curtis Collins, Erika Collins, Katrina Collins, and two great-grandchildren Amilia and Cowen.

Services will be held on Tuesday, August 11 at Glendale Cemetery, at 10:30 a.m. COVID-19 protocols will be observed. Interment will follow at Glendale Cemetery. Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory, Umatilla was entrusted with arrangements.