



## Mrs. Lela Elvira Collins

September 30, 1930 - November 9, 2022

### Obituary

Queen Lela Elvira Collins was born on September 30, 1930 in Rusk, Texas, to the late Rev. Eli Whitney Wheeler, Sr. and Addie Mae (White) Wheeler. She grew up in rural Elm Grove, Texas, where she attended elementary and junior high school. Lela gave her life to Christ at an early age. Later on, her father accepted a pastoral leadership position, causing the family to move to the Midwest. She went on to graduate from Independence High School in Independence, Kansas class of 1949.

Elvira met the love of her life, Jeremiah A. Collins and married on October 27, 1951. Through their union, six children, 18 grandchildren, 37 great grandchildren and seven great-great grandchildren were born. As a wife and mother, she was an employee of Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Later on, she became a Data Analyst for Trans World Airlines (TWA), where she eventually retired in 1991.

She was heavily involved in her church while serving in every capacity. Elvira was a member of New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, where her brother, the late Rev. Levi Wheeler resided as pastor until his death. Additionally, she was an honorary member of Memorial Church International, under the tutelage of Apostle Larry B. and Pastor Olivia C. Q. Aiken.

At 92 years young, Elvira transitioned in her home surrounded by her earthly and heavenly family on November 9, 2022. She is reunited in love with her husband, Jeremiah "Jerry" A. Collins; her sons, Gary Collins, Sr. and Derrick "Ricky" Collins, Sr., a grandson, Arthur Jaron Collins; her parents, Rev. Eli Whitney Wheeler, Sr. and Addie Mae (White) Wheeler; six brothers, Rev. Charles "C.C." Wheeler, Rev. Marion "M.H." Wheeler, Sr., Herman DeWitt Wheeler, Rev. Eli Wheeler, Jr., Rev. Levi Wheeler, Sr. and James Wheeler, Sr.; and five sisters, Margie, Marie, Lula Mae, Reva Wade and Jean Stephens.

Lela Elvira Collins leaves her legacy of four daughters; Debra (Vance) Cobbins, Linda (Steven) Randall, Angela (Bruce) Long, and Jacquelyn Collins. Her sprinkled spirit will continue to shine through her 18 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren, 7 great-great grandchildren and many more to come. Her love is everlasting through a great host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Queen Lela Elvira Collins you may now take your final bow and sit at the feet of Jesus.

Home going celebration service will be Saturday, November 19, 2022 at 11:00am at Memorial Church International. Visitation 9:00am-11:00am at the church. Interment will be Monday, November 21, 2022 at 11:00 am in Lincoln Cemetery. Services conducted by Lawrence A. Jones & Sons Funeral Chapel. Condolences may be shared on our website.

To send flowers  
to the family or plant a tree  
in memory of Mrs. Lela Elvira Collins, please visit our floral store.

[Read More](#)

# Tribute Wall

AC

“ *A Memorial Tree was planted for Mrs. Lela Elvira Collins  
We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ the staff at Lawrence A. Jones  
& Sons Funeral Chapels-Missouri - Lawrence A. Jones & Sons  
Funeral Chapels  
Join in honoring their life - plant a memorial tree*

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**A Memorial Tree was planted for Mrs. Lela Elvira Collins** - May 25, 2023 at 11:17 AM

DH

“ *Beautiful in blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lela Elvira  
Collins by Dana's team at CommonS pirit Health. Send FlowersTo  
the family of Lela Collins,We're extremely sorry to hear of Lela's  
passing. We hope everyone is surrounded by family and love during  
this difficult time.Caring thoughts are with you.Dana's team at  
CommonS pirit Health*

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**Dana's team at CommonS pirit Health** - May 25, 2023 at 11:17 AM

LA

“ *Grandma's garden table basket was purchased for the family of  
Mrs. Lela Elvira Collins by Latrecia, Shannon, and Amanda. Send  
FlowersWe send our condolences and pray for peace and comfort  
to you and the Collins family during this time of grief.Latrecia,  
Shannon, and Amanda*

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**Latrecia, Shannon, and Amanda** - May 25, 2023 at 11:17 AM

MH

“ I thank God for blessing me with an amazing family. Little Auntie thank you for being an amazing matriarch to our family. We stand on the shoulders of GIANTS and I hope we can continue to build up the legacy of the Wheeler White family. Take your rest Auntie we love you.

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**Monique Hawkins** - November 19, 2022 at 01:45 PM

LH

“ My prayers 🙏 and condolences to Linda Angie Debra Jackie Dana Stephanie and Family in God calling Mrs. E. Collins home to be with the Lord. Please know Mrs Collins has been on my mind with intentions to call and speak with her.as I normally would. My heart is heavy and sad to hear. She was such a beautiful spirited Christian lady Who will always be loved and missed by so many .May mother Collins rest in peace in heaven. God placed another beautiful flower in the garden in heaven I pray Gods strength to all of you to hold on to God’s unchanging hands. Continue to keep the faith trust and believe God as He walks with you on this journey. The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want Psalms 23 prayerfully submitted by Lenore Hardin Calvert And family

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**Lenore Nore Hardin** - November 14, 2022 at 02:17 PM