



# **William R. Colbeck**

JUL 5, 1929 - MAR 16, 2013



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## **William R. Colbeck**

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**W**illiam “Russ” Colbeck Born to James and Florence Colbeck on July 5 1929 in Philadelphia PA. He joined his brothers Harry, James and a sister Helen. They lived in Haddenfield NJ. My dad was an accomplished swimmer and won many metals for his high school ,as well as setting a record in the breast stroke that only recently was broke. Dad was in the Air Force during the Korean war, but fortunately stayed state side in a base camp in the Texas panhandle. Dad attended Spartan School of Aeronautics 1953-4 and graduated with a Flight Engineer Degree to later be hired by Pan Am. Dad married Betty L. Key in Tulsa and moved to Commack NY to start their family and dad’s career was based at JFK airport. Our father was a gentle soft spoken loving man. As a family we played many board games, swimming at the beach or our pool. We camped often throughout the USA – camping at Mantauk NY at Hither Hills was probably the best camping we did- right on the beach. Dad was a self made man always wanting to learn, always stretching himself. We never had to call anyone in to fix anything- if it was broke dad could fix it, if he wanted to build anything all he did was figure the details out and build it. Dad was a detail man- perfectionism was his game, annoying at times for those around him, but that was in his DNA. He never did anything “half\_” all or nothing. If he hung a picture the ruler came out and measurements made– down to a fractional inch. Being an Engineer their was never a gray area it was black or white! Dad loved his family and always endeared us with a kiss “be careful driving”. He went to great lengths to help each of his children- whether it was to build a porch or fix a car or help in a move- Daddy was there. He loved his wife dearly and worried about her constantly! Daddy was a honest,loving,caring person and rarely had a bad word to say about people. We are thankful for God’s love in giving us Russ Colbeck to be my mom’s husband and our dad! Parkinson’s took my dad’s body slowly, but it didn’t take his spirit, sense of humor, his love. Thankful that he is no longer suffering from



## Obituary

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the effects of Parkinson, but healed enjoying the joy of a whole body with our Heavenly Father! He leaves behind: • a sister/spouse that he loved ~ Helen & Chas Stanley of Rutland VT • a loving wife Betty L Colbeck of Tulsa OK • Three Daughters/spouses Deborah & Gary Liebig of Broken Arrow OK Michele & Steve Bloomer of Columbus IN Denise & Eric Trafas of Lakewood CO • A Son/spouse Doug & Maite Colbeck of Austin TX Grandchildren: Shane (his wife Heather) Liebig, Sara & Jason Bloomer, Alex, Harrison & Will Trafas, Chandler & Noah Colbeck, step grandchildren- Traci Skinner, Ruben & Daniela Bustillos Great Grandchildren: Micah & Daryn Liebig, Jayden & Nate Skinner Many nephews/nieces and friends—especially his second home family the staff the the Claremore VA Nursing Center Donations can be made in honor of Russ Colbeck to : Fellowship Lutheran Church Tulsa Ok and/or Michael J Fox foundation for a Parkinson's cure



## Tribute Wall

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DL

**Deborah Liebig** posted:

Anthony thank you so much.... I love to remember our years living next to each other and all the fun we had and our parents! We were blessed in grow up where we did. So good to see your comment. My dad enjoyed and loved your family. Please give your parents our best. Again thank you Anthony...

March 22 at 10:31 AM

DL

**Deborah Liebig** posted:

Thank you Bart & Julie.... Dad sure loved you all and we loved it when we would go to Vermont to see you all. What fun we had.

March 22 at 10:27 AM

DL

**Deborah Liebig** posted:

Thank you Kim, Love the Colbecks

March 22 at 10:25 AM

KC

**Kim Colbeck** posted:

Betty, Doug, Debbie, Michelle, and Denise, Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you as you deal with the loss of such a beloved husband and father. Russ was a wonderful man who left behind a wonderful legacy of children and grandchildren. He was kind, funny, and a man of character. I loved him and I loved having him visit us. Even when his physical capabilities were diminished, he would still crack jokes with a twinkle in his eye. He will be missed by all! In fact, I can still never pick up a check at a restaurant without thinking of him assessing "the damages." And sometimes when I order a fancy dessert, I think of him getting that apple ("pomme de terre"? ) in Rome! I love you all very much and hope that you know you can call on me for anything you may need. I know you are comforted by the example that Russ left you all in the man that he was and by the fact that he suffers no more. In fact, he's probably looking down from heaven eating that fancy dessert...never having to worry about "the damages" again. All My Love, Kim Colbeck

March 20 at 5:26 PM



## Tribute Wall

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TB

**Tony Bernardo** posted:

Dear Mrs. Colbeck, Debbie, Michele, Denise, Doug and the entire Colbeck family, Please accept my deepest and warmest condolences for your loss. Mr Colbeck was a great man. I have always admired and respected him. Durring my impressionable years we had many conversations at the fence when I would come over to see your dog Dutchess. If more people were like him this world would be a much better place. The Bernardo family is sharing your sadness as I am sure so many others are. We miss you all greatly. Two Gehrig Street is still considered the Colbeck home to me no matter who lives there. Love, Anthony Bernardo

March 20 at 7:08 AM

SF

**Sue Frankowski** posted:

Dear Betty, Michele, Denice, Debbie, Doug (and families), I am so sad to hear about Russ (Mr Colbeck to me!). It is so hard for me to think of a once great time in my life, ticking away to a close with all the wonderful role models I had as a child leaving us. Michele was my first "best friend" and the Colbeck house was my second home. Denise, Michele and I spent many a day biking Commack, coming home when the street lights came on, only to get up and do it again every day at least during the summer. I was always welcomed into your home and grew up in a similar household with parents who loved and cared about me, as did/do yours. We had it good that way. I will always remember Russ as a warm, kind, gentle man with a smile and a good sense of humor. I seriously don't ever remember hearing him raise his voice, at least not when I was around. I remember being in awe of him- he flew those big planes! His smile that turned its way into a smirk and that little bit of twang in his voice will never leave me. Thank you all for letting me into your lives, for if you hadn't I would not have had the opportunity to know such a nice, hard working man. Please know that my love and heart is with each of you during this difficult time. I hope he meets my dad up in heaven and they say, "Hey, don't I know you from Commack???", shake hands and maybe get to know each other some. Thinking and praying for you all- Sue Frankowski PS Mom sends her love and prayers as well

March 18 at 12:00 PM



# **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring William by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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