



Henry Lee Colbert

December 25, 1955 - April 23, 2020

Henry Lee Colbert, age 64, died on Wednesday, April 23, 2020, after suffering a month-long illness. Henry was born in St. Joseph, Missouri to Henry George and Fannie Frances (Smith) Colbert on December 25, 1955. Henry was the 5th of seven children. At an early age, Henry loved sports and continued this love throughout his adult life. He played baseball, football, and basketball in elementary and high school. As an adult, he participated in and attended many sports events particularly those of his family, be it basketball, soccer, wrestling, gymnastics, dance, or football. One could look up and hear Henry in the stands in or out of town cheering either his son, grandchildren, son-in-law, niece, nephew, or friend. However, basketball seemed to be his game of choice. When basketball season starts, Henry is always at a game or watching tv with remote in hand. Anyone who knows Henry is aware that he attended all March Madness games regardless of what city with either his son, granddaughter, sister, friend, or alone. Everyone knew where he would be when March Madness rolled around ----at a game.

Henry married Brenda Kay Reed on September 2, 1978. They met and fell in love while both attended Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. To this union was born two children: Krystal Frances (Colbert) Prater and Henry Reed Colbert. Henry lost his wife of 23 years in 2002 after a battle with cancer and was thrust into the role of a single parent. As a husband and a father, he worked hard to provide for his family. After graduating from the

university, he began his professional career as a software development specialist with Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. He continued working in this capacity through all of the mergers, company acquisitions, buy-outs, and transitions from Southwestern Bell to AT&T to Amdocs up through his passing. Henry was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Fannie Colbert; wife, Brenda; two brothers, Howard E. Colbert and Joseph L. Colbert.

Living to mourn his passing are: daughter, Krystal F. Prater (Amond); son, Henry R. Colbert; two granddaughters, Aryn and Anaya Prater; one brother, Jewell D. Colbert (Vickie); three sisters, Cordelia F. Whitley, Georgia L. Lee (Allan), and Lurlean M. Hayes (Travis); several nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Henry touched many lives and will be forever remembered as a spiritual, loving, caring man who loved his family, friends, church, and sports. He accepted Christ at an early age. He was a devoted member of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church where he was a deacon and financial secretary.

Private farewell services and public live streaming on Monday, April 27, 2020, at Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, St. Louis, Missouri at 12:00 p.m. The graveside services will be held at Laurel Hill Memorial Gardens, Page Dale, Missouri with his parents and grandparents, whom he missed very much.

Cemetery Details

Laurel Hill

2000 Pennsylvania Ave
St Louis, MO 63133

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 27. 12:00 PM (CT)

Eddie Randle & Sons Funeral Home
4600 Natural Bridge Ave,
St. Louis, MO 63115
(314) 381-2400
<https://www.randlefuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall

DD

“ I just found out that my dear friend, Henry, passed a year ago last April! I'm devastated and so very sorry for Henry Jr & Sis. I moved to Texas in 1995 and only spoke with Henry once a year. I'm knew something was up when I didn't hear from him. Henry was the warmest person I knew & always able to make me laugh. He will be missed!

Delores Duke - October 17, 2021 at 10:13 AM

BW

“ My sympathy to Krystal and family, Henry, Jr and the entire Colbert family. May God continue to keep you and give you peace. As Henry told me - be sure to pray so your prayers (at least!) get above the ceiling. So I will keep you all lifted high in prayer. Now what can I say about Mr. Henry. Unbelievable.

Henry was Unbelievably kind. Unbelievably funny. Unbelievably generous and then some. I knew him for many years in many different roles - as close friend, co-worker who kept me out of trouble, last minute fixer, one who would correct me with utmost respect and love - because he was always right...cuz he said so. Yet I would say he was one of the most humble men I knew. He was a great coach & friend to my own children, right when they needed one the most; so understanding. He had an uncanny ability to bring pure joy in the world. His smile alone could lift your spirits. If not - he had jokes too. I have not seen many people live out the fruit of the Spirit - day in and day out like him. His faith throughout his trials was amazing and inspiring. He loved the Lord and his family and yet made friends feel just as uplifted. Someone who brought light and salt to this world will be missed so very much. Yet I believe Henry left us all something...cards, smiles, deeds, high fives, "Henry-isms" (his quotes) or something. We will always remember and never forget such a gentle, loving, kind, man. He's also Irreplaceable yet I'm sure he will be forever in our hearts and minds. Unforgettable for sure.

And having known my buddy through it all has made me, and all of us, UNBELIEVABLY BLESSED.

To the Colbert Family - May God bless you and keep you. And give you Peace.

Bretta Williams

Bretta Williams - May 02, 2020 at 01:45 AM

JR

What a beautiful obituary.

Jeanett Riley - February 09, 2021 at 11:54 AM

MF

“ *Maria Fox lit a candle in memory of Henry Lee Colbert*



Maria Fox - April 29, 2020 at 12:52 PM

SM

“ *Henry volunteered with the Mentor St. Louis at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis for awhile. He was always ready to support and impact the little minds of our students at every session. Everyone knew him as Mr. Henry and the kids adored him. He will be truly missed!*

Syerra Meadows-Haynes - April 29, 2020 at 11:45 AM

LB

My heart is heavy after hearing this news. Henry was a volunteer at Jefferson Elementary School, someone you could always count on to support our scholars. Our school community will truly miss you!

Leslie Bonner - May 20, 2020 at 12:52 PM

MW

“ *I'm a former AT&T employee who participated in sports with Henry in the 1980s. We moved from St. Louis to TX in 1995, but I still have fond memories of this great man. Blessings to the entire family.*

Marty Webb

Marty Webb - April 28, 2020 at 01:25 PM



“ *Condolences and all God's blessings to Krystal and her family, Henry Jr. and all of the Colbert family! Henry and I worked together at SBC. We went to many sporting events together and played many softball games too. Henry was as fine a man as I have ever known. Decent, kind, smart, funny, reliable... The list goes on and on! We would talk about many things and you always came away with a smile and oftentimes some wisdom. A quote from St. Francis of Assisi fits Henry. "Preach the gospel always! Use words when necessary." Henry knew the scriptures and he could preach it but more importantly he lived it. Always! He loved Brenda, and he loved his family. He loved his friends and he certainly loved Jesus. His family will miss him terribly. His friends too but I know Henry is now with Jesus and Brenda and that as great as he was things are now even greater. God bless you! I can't see a high five without remembering Henry,*

Dave Kralemann - April 28, 2020 at 12:18 PM



“ *Remembering Henry from elementary school in St.joe very kind and a serious kid ! Rest in peace Henry.*

Sharon Minor

Sharon Minor - April 28, 2020 at 10:51 AM

TH

“ Krystal and Henry,

I worked with your dad for several years at AT&T. He was always very helpful and loving. I don't know how much you knew about his work, but for a long time, whenever something had to get done (sometimes critical jobs), Henry was the person you had to go through to get the jobs to run. Then he would check out our work and implement the job. As you probably knew, he could get calls any time day or night. And he never complained about it, he just did his job and did it well.

I also enjoy sports, and I would frequently talk to your dad about the Cardinals or the Mizzou or SLU or even high school basketball teams.

Sometimes he would talk about the two of you. He would tell me about how Krystal was doing in nursing school or about Henry's basketball team. He was very proud of you both.

I'm very sorry for your loss. You dad was a good man.

*Tom Huck
Tehuck@att.net*

Tom Huck - April 27, 2020 at 11:05 PM