



Dr. Wendell F. Colen

May 23, 1958 - July 31, 2024

Dr. Colen passed peacefully from this life on July 31, 2024, after a gradual decline in his health. He was surrounded by his loved ones and caregivers of Baptist Health ICU in Little Rock, Arkansas.

He was born to Mary Ella (Simpson) Colen Hanson and Clarence Oliver Colen on May 23rd, 1958, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. He spent his childhood in Emerson, Arkansas and graduated from Emerson High School in 1976. He graduated with his Bachelor's Degree from Louisiana Tech, where he pledged Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He went on to earn his Master's and Doctorate Degrees.

On June 2nd, 1979, he married Mary Ann Hanson, which was his ride or die partner through good and bad times. To this union was born two beautiful children and three wonderful grandchildren who lovingly called him DOC. He had no problem telling everyone how proud he was of them. Dr. Colen was the epitome of a servant leader. He was a mentor and prayer warrior to so many throughout his life. No matter how he felt, he would always respond with "kicking high" when asked how he was doing.

He worked at Amfuel for years. It was there that he realized the lack of African American males in the school system, so he became an educator and administrator. He first served as a pastor of Hickory Ridge Missionary Baptist

Church in Chidester, Arkansas for five years. He served as a pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, in Magnolia, Arkansas for almost 32 years.

He was preceded in death by paternal grandparents, Mary and Tom Simpson; his father, Clarence Colen; his brother, Tyrone Colen; and his brother, Thomas Colen (Jennifer).

He is survived by his loving wife, Mary Ann; his daughter, Beth; his son, Tony; his three grandchildren, KJ, Jada, and Alex. He is also survived by his mother, Mary Ella Hanson of Emerson; his sister, Ye Juanda Sargent of Magnolia; his brother, Michael Riggins of Little Rock, and a host of family and friends.

Ceremonial Cremation services will be held Friday, August 9th, 2024, at the Columbia District Auditorium in Magnolia, Arkansas at 10:00 a.m., under the direction of R.L. Reed Funeral Home, LLC. Minister George Barnes, Eulogist.

A visitation will be held Thursday {Aug. 8th}, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., at R.L. Reed Funeral Home in Magnolia.

“For precaution due to the COVID-19, Masks are Encouraged but Not Required While Attending the Services and During Visitation Hours. However, wearing masks ensures safety for you and others. Thank you.”

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 8. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

R.L. Reed Funeral Home
100 Hwy 79 North
Magnolia, AR 71753
(870) 901-3536

Celebration of Life

AUG 9. 10:00 AM (CT)

Columbia District Auditorium
611 S. Madison St.
Magnolia, AR 71753

Tribute Wall

PB

“ Pamela Bonner lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Pamela Bonner - August 12, 2024 at 11:56 PM

EG

“ SENDING PRAYERS UP FOR THE FAMILY IN JESUS NAME



Evelyn glover - August 09, 2024 at 01:33 PM

LI

“ Lisa Irvin-Sanders lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Lisa Irvin-Sanders - August 09, 2024 at 12:03 PM

NH

“ Nina Hamilton sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Nina Hamilton - August 09, 2024 at 08:24 AM

JW

“ *Joyce Ward lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Joyce Ward - August 09, 2024 at 02:10 AM

JW

Very beautiful spirited person. You're with your homeys Wendell, tell all of them I Love you all..My brother, Cedric, Jarvis, Tommy, all of you if the lord day the same we will see each other again. The Laughter and the love for each other we all shared will be forevet

Joyce Ward - August 09, 2024 at 02:15 AM

JW

Love you guys

Joyce Ward - August 09, 2024 at 02:18 AM

BW

“ *Betty Wright lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Betty Wright - August 09, 2024 at 01:46 AM

MS

“ *Mary Shaw lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Mary Shaw - August 09, 2024 at 12:34 AM

AW

“ *Sending our love, prayers, sympathy, and condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Wendell F. Colen. John and Annie Witcher*

Annie Witcher - August 08, 2024 at 09:42 PM

K-

“ *Kathryn & Son's Bernard Jr, Alton, & Craig Devereaux*



Kathryn S Devereaux -Todd - August 08, 2024 at 04:22 PM

K-

My you rest on the arms of The Lord. Love and prayers to the family 🙏

Kathryn S Devereaux -Todd - August 08, 2024 at 04:24 PM

KC

“ All these tributes to Wendell speak to the kind of person he was: smart, devout, caring, funny, the list goes on and on. Wendell and I were classmates at Emerson. At our last class reunion, as many of us were sharing stories, I reminded Wendell how he was usually the instigator in many of the classroom pranks, but never seemed to be the one the teachers singled out as a "troublemaker". It brings a smile to my face when I think of some of the things he said and did, he was a funny guy for sure! I could tell through visiting with him over the years how much he loved Mary and how he cherished his family. He was a remarkable man, and he will be missed my many. My condolences to his family, his church members and all those who called him friend, teacher, pastor, co-worker. Rest in Peace Wendell, you have left a lasting impression on each of us. You have walked a good walk, you have kept the faith, rejoice in your new Heavenly home.

Kathy Camp - August 08, 2024 at 10:39 AM

GS

“ Peace, prayers and blessings to the family of Dr. Colen. His infectious smile will always be remembered. Sincere condolences.
Love,
The Scoggin , Toney and Holliman Families

Gloria Scoggin - August 08, 2024 at 10:14 AM

TY

“ Tiffany Young lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Tiffany Young - August 08, 2024 at 08:06 AM

RH

“ We are praying for the family of Dr. Wendell Colen during your bereavement.



Robert & Debbie Newborn Harper - August 07, 2024 at 08:43 PM

GF

“ Georgia Odom and family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Dr. Wendell F. Colen.



Georgia Odom and family - August 07, 2024 at 06:47 PM

SG

“ Pastor Colen will be greatly missed. He was an awesome pastor as well as a friend to me. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Mary Ann and family.

Sylvia Grant - August 07, 2024 at 03:09 PM

NE

Doc. Colen was my boss for a little while in my home town of Strong, Ar. He was a man of God, which showed naturally on him daily! His staff loved and cared for him! He was that warrior 🙏 Doc you will be missed!

Nadine James Elliott

Nadine James Elliott - August 07, 2024 at 04:12 PM

SM

“ *Sharron Martin lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Sharron Martin - August 07, 2024 at 01:25 PM

LS

“ *Heartfelt condolences and prayers for the family*



Laverne Shaw - August 07, 2024 at 12:56 PM

RH

“ *Rosalind Howell sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Rosalind Howell - August 07, 2024 at 06:53 AM

WF

“ *Willie & Gailyn Parrish Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Wendell F. Colen.*



Willie & Gailyn Parrish Family - August 06, 2024 at 02:00 PM

DB

“ *Deloris Blackmon lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Deloris Blackmon - August 06, 2024 at 01:54 PM



“ *Dianne Williamson sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Dianne Williamson - August 06, 2024 at 05:18 AM



“ *Bountiful Rose Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Wendell F. Colen.*



August 05, 2024 at 04:59 PM

LR

“ *Love, LaQuasha Rosson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Wendell F. Colen.*

Love, LaQuasha Rosson - August 05, 2024 at 04:59 PM

DF

“ *Dianne Fields lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Dianne Fields - August 05, 2024 at 04:47 PM

MP

“ *Hold on to your memories. They'll get you through this difficult time. We're praying for you.*



Mary S. Pickings - August 05, 2024 at 04:02 PM

TP

“ *Tonya Porchia lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Tonya Porchia - August 05, 2024 at 10:28 AM

MH

“ *Sending My Condolences To Family* 🙏



Marilyn Burdette Hardeman - August 05, 2024 at 10:07 AM

NS

“ *Norrissa Sharp sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Norrissa Sharp - August 05, 2024 at 08:26 AM

GM

“ *Gwendolyn McGee lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Gwendolyn McGee - August 05, 2024 at 12:39 AM

MS

“ *Maurice Strong sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Maurice Strong - August 04, 2024 at 11:53 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Wendell F. Colen.*



August 04, 2024 at 05:29 PM

GC

“ Condolences and prayers to the family of Dr. Wendell Colen. He wore many hats and he excelled at each one. He was a pillar of too many communities and organizations to name. Take your rest. You will be missed but never forgotten.



Gwen Carter - August 04, 2024 at 03:13 PM

PG

“ Patricia Bryant Glover lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Patricia Bryant Glover - August 04, 2024 at 01:25 PM

MM

“ Melva May lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Melva May - August 04, 2024 at 01:30 AM

JW

“ Joann Radford Whitaker sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Joann Radford Whitaker - August 03, 2024 at 10:44 PM

JD

“ Jerry And Danielle Dority lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Jerry and Danielle Dority - August 03, 2024 at 04:33 PM



“ Mr. & Mrs. Nathaniel Easter Jr.



TJ Easter - August 03, 2024 at 03:39 PM

AP

“ Angelia Parker lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Angelia Parker - August 03, 2024 at 01:35 PM

MM

“ Melvin Madison lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Melvin Madison - August 03, 2024 at 11:12 AM

AW

“ My heartfelt condolences and prayers go out to the Colen family and church family. Dr. Wendell Colen was a great friend to all who knew him. His memories will live on in our hearts.



Angela Williams - August 03, 2024 at 11:12 AM

LT

“ Lora Thomas sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Lora Thomas - August 03, 2024 at 07:29 AM

GJ

“ Gladys Talley Jones lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Gladys Talley Jones - August 03, 2024 at 03:47 AM

JW

“ Joyce Ward lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Joyce Ward - August 03, 2024 at 12:47 AM

JW

My homey, Wendell lots of memories in school. Laughing

Joyce Ward - August 03, 2024 at 12:49 AM

JF

“ *Jennifer & Family lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Jennifer & Family - August 03, 2024 at 12:26 AM

KJ

“ *Kenny Johnson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Kenny Johnson - August 02, 2024 at 10:32 PM

LB

“ *God is a very present help in times of trouble. Praying that God provide his family and Church Family with comfort, love and understanding during these trying times*



Liza Beasley - August 02, 2024 at 10:21 PM

LG

“ *My prayers to his family his wife Mary and children and grands. His mother and siblings. Also his church family as well. God bless the Rev. Wendell Colen family. Byron & Lethesa Goode*

Lethesa Goode - August 02, 2024 at 07:54 PM

JJ

“ James Jefferson Jr lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



James Jefferson Jr - August 02, 2024 at 07:25 PM

TS

“ Terry Scott-Hill sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Terry Scott-Hill - August 02, 2024 at 06:31 PM

TS

“ Prayers and Condolences during your time of Bereavement. May God continue to Bless and Comfort You.
Terry Scott-Hill

Terry Scott-Hill - August 02, 2024 at 06:27 PM

KG

“ Kelly Gentry lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



kelly Gentry - August 02, 2024 at 06:15 PM

KD

“ Kendall Dismuke sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Kendall Dismuke - August 02, 2024 at 05:29 PM

JS

“ My heartfelt condolences to the Colen family. Wendell was my friend and classmate at Emerson High School. I will always remember him as kind, smart, outgoing and most of all, for his wonderful sense of humor. I laughed a lot when I was around Wendell.

Jimmy Sanders - August 02, 2024 at 04:06 PM

BW

“ We extend our deepest condolences to the family of Dr. Wendell Colen. Dr. Colen was such a friendly and outgoing man of God. He never met a stranger and had a wonderful way of delivering the word of God. He had a way of keepng the congregation CAPTIVATED. He will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him. May God richly bless his family. Much love,
Billy and Patricia Williams



Billy and Patricia Williams - August 02, 2024 at 03:40 PM

JT

“ Jennifer Thomas lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Jennifer Thomas - August 02, 2024 at 03:10 PM

CB

“ My deepest condolences to the family and church members of the Late Dr. Wendell F. Colen.



Carolyn Briggs - August 02, 2024 at 02:26 PM

PH

“ My condolences to Mary and the family. Wendell and were in the same graduating class at Emerson. He was wonderful friend and I am blessed to have known him. Paul Hines

Paul Hines - August 02, 2024 at 10:54 AM

DH

“ DEARLEAN HUGHES sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



DEARLEAN HUGHES - August 02, 2024 at 09:16 AM

BH

“ *Bonnie Hardwell lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Bonnie Hardwell - August 02, 2024 at 09:03 AM

HF

“ *Hazel Smith & Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Hazel Smith & Family - August 02, 2024 at 08:52 AM

HF

“ *Hazel Smith & Family lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Hazel Smith & Family - August 02, 2024 at 08:51 AM



“ *Pamela Shaw sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Pamela Shaw - August 02, 2024 at 05:24 AM



“ *Mary Ann you & your family has my deepest sympathy and my Condolences!!*

Pamela Shaw - August 02, 2024 at 05:23 AM



“ *Pamela Shaw sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Pamela Shaw - August 02, 2024 at 05:21 AM



“ *Pamela Shaw lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Pamela Shaw - August 02, 2024 at 02:50 AM



“ *Sending our condolences and prayers to the family of our friend and former co-worker, Rev. Wendell Colen. ❤️ The Ford Family*



Sharon Ford - August 02, 2024 at 02:02 AM



“ *Dianne Williamson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Dianne Williamson - August 02, 2024 at 12:12 AM



“ *Gracie W Tucker sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Gracie W Tucker - August 01, 2024 at 11:22 PM



Proverbs 28:20 " A faithful man shall abound with blessings." A great man in all that God bestowed upon him. Remembering with you the many hats worn by Reverend Colen during his years of servanthood. We hold so many memories dear to us and to you, his beloved family. As you prepare to celebrate a wonderful life, just remember we share in your grief and celebration. Hold fast to God's unchanging hand. We are not saying goodbye but see you later. Rest from your labor in peace Rev. Colen, assignment stamped complete.

Gracie W Tucker - August 01, 2024 at 11:38 PM



“ *Vera Weaver-Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Vera Weaver-Williams - August 01, 2024 at 10:54 PM

IR

“ IreneSmith lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



IreneSmith - August 01, 2024 at 10:45 PM

ER

“ Etta Rankin sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Etta Rankin - August 01, 2024 at 10:44 PM

CM

“ You have our prayers and condolences during this time



Cassandra Moss - August 01, 2024 at 10:24 PM

KJ

“ You taught me, us, so much!!! I ll never forget you. Oh, i ll keep an eye on Beth fa u, we kno she’s a daddy’s girl. R.I.L Rev. Colen



Kaysha Johnson - August 01, 2024 at 10:19 PM

JM

“ Jennie Martin lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Jennie Martin - August 01, 2024 at 09:31 PM

VJ

“ Vevelyn Jackson sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



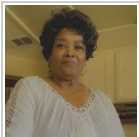
Vevelyn Jackson - August 01, 2024 at 08:33 PM

MB

“ Margie Burnell lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Margie Burnell - August 01, 2024 at 08:14 PM



“ Linda Taylor lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Linda Taylor - August 01, 2024 at 07:57 PM

BW

“ *To the Colen Family:
I pray God will bless you all with strength to get through this difficult time. You all are in my thoughts and prayers. He will certainly be missed by many. Remember to trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path.
Love you all!!!
Bama Williams*

Bama Williams - August 01, 2024 at 07:39 PM

EM

“ *Esther Murray lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Esther Murray - August 01, 2024 at 07:39 PM

MM

“ *R.I.P MY FRIEND AND BROTHER YOUR BE GREATLY MISSED FOR THE KIND SPIRIT YOUR SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE SCRIPTURES SLEEP ON UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN*

M. McGraw - August 01, 2024 at 06:29 PM

EG

“ *Eva Gilbert sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Eva Gilbert - August 01, 2024 at 06:09 PM

JE

“ *My condolences prayer to the family.*



Jackie Easter - August 01, 2024 at 05:51 PM

LC

“ *Lisa Clark lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Lisa Clark - August 01, 2024 at 05:51 PM

TG

“ *Trudy Glover lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Trudy Glover - August 01, 2024 at 05:41 PM

LF

“ *Lyndell Franklin lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Lyndell Franklin - August 01, 2024 at 05:25 PM

LM

“ Loretta Milner lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Loretta Milner - August 01, 2024 at 05:22 PM

GH

“ Gwen Hardwell lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Gwen Hardwell - August 01, 2024 at 04:47 PM

AS

“ Angela Stevens sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Angela Stevens - August 01, 2024 at 03:45 PM

RF

“ Ramona Fears sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Ramona Fears - August 01, 2024 at 03:42 PM

RF

“ *Ramona Fears lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Ramona Fears - August 01, 2024 at 03:42 PM

CT

“ *Carol Tyson sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Carol Tyson - August 01, 2024 at 03:31 PM

SG

“ *Shirley Grigsby lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Shirley Grigsby - August 01, 2024 at 02:46 PM

SM

“ *Shundra Miles lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Shundra Miles - August 01, 2024 at 01:27 PM

LH

“ Lee & Amanda Henderson sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Lee & Amanda Henderson - August 01, 2024 at 01:13 PM

LH

“ Lee & Amanda Henderson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Lee & Amanda Henderson - August 01, 2024 at 01:12 PM

VC

“ Vernon And Linette Curry lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Vernon and Linette Curry - August 01, 2024 at 01:08 PM

SC

“ Sharon Cole sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Sharon Cole - August 01, 2024 at 12:58 PM

RC

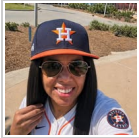
“ Dr. Wendell F. Colen was a Great Co-Worker. Who always making YOU laugh. A Very Good person he was I'm really gonna miss YOU. Praying for the family.from Mrs. Velma Cole

Reenee Cole - August 01, 2024 at 12:56 PM

CS

“ ❤️ to Aunt Mary Ann, Beth, KJ, Tony, Jada & Alex! Love is forever...
🌟

Cledis & Ebonee' Stuart - August 01, 2024 at 11:46 AM



“ Aunt Mary, Beth, & Tony me and mama love you all and praying for you
Love Alexis & Liz

Alexis Smith - August 01, 2024 at 11:40 AM

SB

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family during this great loss. I will miss my dear friend, Dr. Colen. Wherever we crossed paths, we would laugh and talk forever. I always enjoyed my fellowship with him, even during our college days. Rest in love until we meet again.
Love and prayers,
Shawn Bean



Shawn Bean - August 01, 2024 at 11:33 AM

SD

“ *Sandra Daniels sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Sandra Daniels - August 01, 2024 at 11:23 AM

BD

“ *My sincerest condolences to the Colen family. You are in my thoughts and prayers. May God grant you peace and comfort during your time of mourning. Dr Colen will be greatly missed.*
Bonnie Daniels

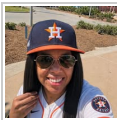
Bonnie Daniel - August 01, 2024 at 11:13 AM

MS

“ *Dr Colen you will truly be missed my family has learned a whole lot from your teachings and preaching Mt. Zion will never be the same without you get your rest pastor aka Doc*



Mary Strickland - August 01, 2024 at 11:13 AM



I have too he will truly be missed praying for his family and mt Zion

Alexis Smith - August 01, 2024 at 11:41 AM

AE

“ Arnetta Easter sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Arnetta Easter - August 01, 2024 at 11:12 AM

WR

“ Wendell/Barbara Russ lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Wendell/Barbara Russ - August 01, 2024 at 11:00 AM

SA

“ Praying for the family



Shavone Aubrey - August 01, 2024 at 11:00 AM

JF

“ Joann Glasgow And Family lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen



Joann Glasgow and family - August 01, 2024 at 10:55 AM

NH

“ *Nina Hamilton sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Nina Hamilton - August 01, 2024 at 10:39 AM

NH

Praying for the family I worked with him for years at Amfuel I'm so sorry to hear of his passing he was a great person kind man to everyone he meet continue to rest in paradise u will truly be missed

Nina Hamilton - August 01, 2024 at 10:42 AM

LE

“ *Linda Easter lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wendell F. Colen*



Linda Easter - August 01, 2024 at 10:26 AM