



Jon A Coller

APR 24, 1942 - DEC 2, 2020



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Jon A Coller

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Jon Anthony Coller, 78, of Madeira Beach, passed away Wednesday, December 2, 2020. Originally from Springfield, Vermont. His grandparents Charles and Mary owned an Italian-American Restaurant called the Springfield Lunch (1930s-1960s) and his father Melvin was the Manager. Jon and his family moved to Florida, and he graduated from Boca Ciega High School Class of 1960. He was a member of the high school's baseball and basketball teams. From 1961-1964, he was a Shortstop for several minor league baseball teams: Tampa Tarpons, Billings Mustangs, Brunswick Cardinals, and Selma Cloverleafs. One time he played a baseball game against Pete Rose. Jon loved playing golf and was a lifelong fan of the Boston Red Socks Baseball Team, the Notre Dame College Football Team, the Boston Celtics Basketball Team, the Boston Bruins Hockey Team, and the New England Patriots.

After his professional baseball career, Jon completed the four year St. Petersburg Electrical JATC Inside Apprenticeship Program, became a licensed Journeyman Wireman/Electrician, and a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 915 (formally 308) for over 35 years. Jon was a proud union member and believed that all employees should have living wages, medical benefits, retirement benefits, and safe working conditions. During his long career, Jon worked at several casinos in Reno, Las Vegas, and Lake Tahoe. Jon completed electrical work at the Amalie Arena in Tampa, Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, FL, and several local stadiums and hotels.

He also volunteered his time and helped family and friends with electrical and handyman work. Jon encouraged his two children to be active in sports, earn high school diplomas, obtain higher education, and pursue meaningful careers. In honor of his legacy of generosity, kindness, and good sportsmanship we want to offer scholarships to one female and one male high school athlete graduating in 2021. The student must be an active member in good standing with a Boca Ciega High School sports team. Depending upon how much money we raise we will add more



Obituary

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scholarships. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the scholarship fund in Jon Anthony Coller's honor: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/jon-a-coller-memorial-athletic-scholarship>

Jon was preceded in death by his grand-parents, Charles and Mary Gaspardino; parents, Melvin L. Coller and Salena Gaspardino Coller; step-mother, Alma Coller; and sister-in-law, Joan Gelinas.

He is survived by his wife, I. Colette Coller; his children Salena and Anthony; his daughter-in-law, Carrie; his grandchildren, Joseph and Elizabeth; his brother, Charles "Chuck" and sister-in-law, Sheila; step-sister, Cindy and brother-in-law, Dennis; and his nieces, Cheryl and Annette; his nephews, Mike, Troy, and Richie; three grand-nieces, Kelly, Elisabeth and Ayanna; and two grand-nephews, Wesley and Dylan.



Events

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Visitation

Monday, January 11, 2021

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM ET

Memorial Park Funeral Home and Crematory
5750 49th Street North, St. Petersburg FL 33709



Funeral Service

Monday, January 11, 2021

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM ET

Memorial Park Funeral Home and Crematory
5750 49th Street North, St. Petersburg FL 33709

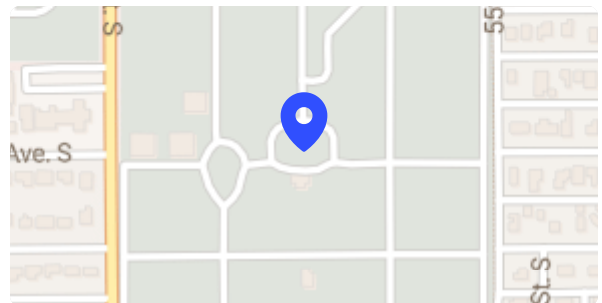


Interment

Monday, January 11, 2021

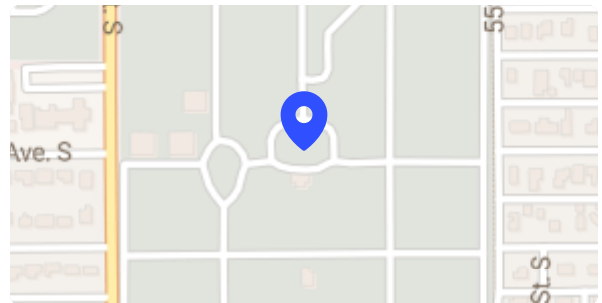
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM ET

Royal Palm Cemetery - South
101 55th Street South, St. Petersburg FL 33707



Cemetery Details

Royal Palm Cemetery - South
101 55th Street South, St. Petersburg FL 33707





Tribute Wall

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PF

Peggy Foster posted:

I met Jon here at Madeira Cove such a lovely man. He enlightened me about the importance of being in the electrical union! Admired his dedication to his sports wear. He will be missed xoxo Peggy Foster 301A

January 11 at 11:52 AM

CK

Cynthia Krager posted:

Jon was always fun to be around. I always loved it when he came for Christmas Eve because he always made me feel so good about the way I decorated, saying the house was beautiful. He always seemed to have a good time. He was a very special person and he will be missed so deeply by all who knew him!!!! Rest in peace Jon and I know you are with your dad watching all sports loved by you both! Say hi to everyone for us. Love you, Cindy, Dennis, Richie and Ayanna.

January 10 at 2:03 PM

TS

The Brunner's sent a Strength & Solace Spray to the Collier family.

January 9 at 7:13 AM



FC

From Your Friends At Madeira Cove sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Collier family.

January 6 at 9:26 AM





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JL

John J Lipa posted:

Jon was a warm, engaging personality. He was always decked out in one of his favorite teams attire. He loved all things Boston. Every conversation I had with Jon speaking Bostonian "Paak yaa caah in the Haavad Yaad. I enjoyed listening to him recount his professional sports career and relating it back to baseball today. My mother-in-law was a huge Boston Red Sox fan. She and Jon would talk about their favorite players and those hated New York Yankees. Jon would give me a wink (I am a Yankee fan). Rest in peace my friend John and Bonnie Lipa

January 5 at 11:53 AM



Mary Whitman January 11 at 8:09 AM

John was a kind and good friend. When we became Cove neighbors he welcomed us with open arms. Loved sharing our Ma roots (sports) . We took him to a Tampa / Red Sox's game he wore his favorite team shirt and told us all about how he worked on that stadium. We will miss his walks through the garage and telling us his stories . Rest In Peace Bill and Mary Whitman

LR

Larry H Roelofs posted:

My wife and I knew Jon in his later years as neighbors and friends at Madeira Cove in Madeira Beach, FL. I had many days of conversation with Jon regarding sports and his favorite teams, Notre Dame football, and all sports things Boston. I will miss joking with Jon about the results of those teams win or lose. At Madeira Cove we established a volunteer program to work all kinds of improvements around our property; Jon was one of the first to step to the plate and was a very valuable volunteer. Jon had an active electrical license and it allowed us to make many electrical improvements to our property with Jon providing us guidance to make sure all our electrical work met code. I played golf with Jon and he always provided advice whether or not I needed it (LOL)! Jon always joked that before making a putt, look at how the grass on the green was mowed so you would make a better putt. One of his favorite sayings was "keep it on the short grass", which met that while driving off the tee you don't want to go into the taller grass. Jon above all was a true gentleman of the old school; always thoughtful, polite and engaging. Rest in piece my friend, Larry and Brenda Roelofs

January 5 at 3:40 AM

BI

Bill Irwin posted:

Salena and Colettel was very sorry to hear the sad news of your loss. I will never forget the 3 years we spent together on the Boca Ciega HS baseball team. We all knew Jon was a very blessed and talented athlete but more importantly he was one of the kindest and most humble individuals that I have ever known. RIP Jon you may be gone but you will not be forgotten. Bill Irwin

January 4 at 6:53 PM



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DZ

Dave And Marti Zalewski lit a candle in honor of Jon.



January 3 at 3:52 AM

JU

Julia posted:

Dear Salena, Paper Coller will be missed! He was such a bright, generous, and warm-hearted man. He was a loving father with a great sense of humor. I knew he loved sports but not that he was such a star! Love the picture of him in his baseball best. Saying prayers for and sending hugs to you and Colette. Love, Julia

December 15 at 9:12 PM

AJ

Aj posted:

Dear Salena and Colette, We are so sorry for your loss. John ("Papa") Coller was a wonderful man with a heart of gold. He was the Italian Hemingway! He loved you both very much. We know he is watching over both of you. Sending love and prayers your way. Julia & Andrew

December 15 at 9:04 PM

AJ

Aj lit a candle in honor of Jon.



December 15 at 8:56 PM

MR

Mannee Van Duser-Rawa lit a candle in honor of Jon.



December 15 at 8:56 PM

JW

Julia White lit a candle in honor of Jon.



December 15 at 8:54 PM



Tribute Wall

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SC

Salena C. shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

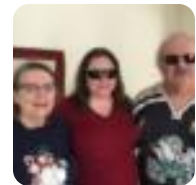
From 1961-1964, Jon Anthony Coller was a Shortstop for several minor league baseball teams: Tampa Tarpons, Billings Mustangs, Brunswick Cardinals, and Selma Cloverleaves. This picture was taken after Jon made a home run and helped win the game 5 to 4 (Selma Cloverleaves). <https://www.baseball-reference.com/register/player.fcgi?id=coller001jon>



December 14 at 9:01 PM

SC

Salena Coller shared an album called **Jon and family**.



December 11 at 11:00 AM

JW

Jc Withrow posted:

He was simply the best. A perfect gentleman, quiet, humble and oh how he loved baseball. The only thing Jon did wrong was knock out half the windows in the St John's Convent on St Pete Beach. I always thought it was the church's fault. Who builds a convent 20 feet past the right field area? I never knew how many windows those prodigious drives knocked but it was a bunch! RIP my dear old friend, thank you for teaching me the change up. Jack Withrow

December 10 at 9:23 AM



Media

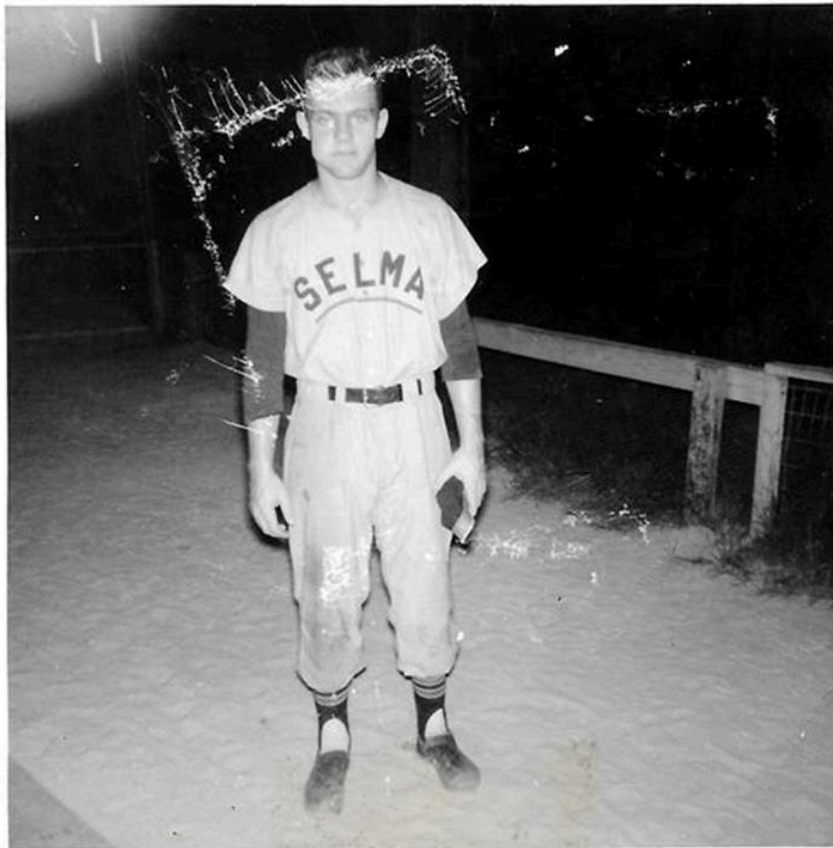
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Salena C. shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

December 14 at 9:01 PM



1961



Media

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Salena Coller shared a photo to the **Jon and family** album.

December 11 at 11:00 AM



Colette, Salena & Jon



Memories only last if you share them

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



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