



## Billy Don Martin

February 12, 1945 - April 18, 2020

Billy Don Martin died on Saturday, April 18, 2020 in Rosenberg, Texas. He was born on February 12, 1945, in Victoria, Texas, to Clytus Wilburn Martin and Alta Louise (Meek) Martin. He graduated from Industrial High School in 1964. During the Vietnam War, he served in the Air Force as an enlisted man and jet engine mechanic and was stationed primarily at Clark Air Base in the Philippines, while also spending time in Thailand. He graduated from Texas A&I University with a Bachelors of Arts (1976) and a Masters of Arts (1978), both in Education with an emphasis in Industrial Arts.

Upon graduation he taught industrial arts briefly at Carroll High School in Corpus Christi, Texas, and then at his Alma Mater, Texas A&I University in Kingsville, Texas. Thereafter he moved to Rosenberg, Texas, where he taught technology for decades at George Junior High School.

Not long after moving to Rosenberg, he met Barbara Ann (Howell), whom he married on July 23, 1983 at the Graeber Road Church of Christ. Don and Barbara enjoyed 30 loving years of marriage together until her death on July 21, 2013.

During his tenure at George Junior High, Don led teams annually to the Texas State Technology Contest, taking home numerous team and individual state

champion titles every year. In his final year of competition, he led a state champion team to the inaugural nationals technology competition in Nashville, Tennessee, where the team took third place. In 1979, the Texas Industrial Arts Association recognized him as the Outstanding Regional Association Industrial Arts Teacher. In 2002, the Association of Texas Technology Education awarded him the statewide Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award, the highest honor in his field, at Texas A&M University. In 2010, the Gulf Coast Technology Education Association bestowed upon him their inaugural Honorary Lifetime Membership.

Don was a beloved member of the Graeber Road Church of Christ. He had a large number of friends there, whom he considered family. He especially enjoyed hunting with the “Stump Bubbas” and getting coffee with the “R.O.M.E.O.’s” (Retired Old Men Eating Out), both groups of friends from his church. He was a gifted singer who performed frequently at weddings and other social events. He was also a gifted storyteller, having authored the book, *Little Stories: A Legacy of Learning, Laughing, and Loving*.

Don was preceded in death by his loving wife, Barbara, and his grandson, Caleb Martin. He is survived by two sons, Michael and Clay; his stepdaughter, Ericka Craven; his daughter-in-law, Joanna Martin; his brother, Kenneth Martin; his grandchildren, Faith, Jenna, and Audrey Martin; J.H. Martin; and Chris and Jacob Craven; numerous beloved extended family members; and his Christian family at Graeber Road and elsewhere. He lived a good life.

# Cemetery Details

## Greenlawn Memorial Park

3900 B.F. Terry Blvd.  
Rosenberg, TX 77471

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 28. 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Davis Greenlawn Funeral Chapels and Cemeteries  
3900 B.F. Terry Blvd.  
Rosenberg, TX 77471  
(281) 341-8800

## Burial

APR 28. 10:00 AM (CT)

Greenlawn Memorial Park  
3900 B.F. Terry Blvd.  
Rosenberg, TX 77471

# Tribute Wall

DD

“ *Mr. Martin was my shop teacher in 7th grade at at George Junior High. He was a great teacher and a great man. He was giving us life lessons every day. I remember when a kid in class beat a table with the claw side of a hammer trying to be funny, and Don had him spend the rest of the year sanding that table every day until it was smoothed out. He could have sent him to the office, but opted to teach him something about accountability and responsibility. Best teacher I ever had. My folks had that picnic table we built in class many years even after I was long gone in the army. I ran into Don at carters country in 2012 and I just wanted to give him a big hug. We talked about black powder guns and hunting. What a great guy he was. Hey Don, thanks for letting me play the flight simulator when I finished my work early in class. My condolences to the family.*

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**Danny Dobbs** - July 10, 2024 at 11:11 PM



“ *I remember Don Martin as part of the Camp Bandina staff. A truly good man. Deep condolences to his family & church family.*

*Suzy Spargo*

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**Becky Spargo** - April 29, 2020 at 05:28 PM

JG

“ *I was so lucky to have had Mr.Martin as my Woodshop Teacher in 1987 George Jr High, I still have my board with my name on it... he was a great teacher.*

*May you rest in peace Mr. Martin.  
Jennifer Garcia*

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**jennifr garcia** - April 29, 2020 at 02:22 PM

AH

“ My husband and I were both fortunate enough to work with Don for many years at George Jr. High, and grew to love him as an excellent teacher, consummate gentleman, witty story teller, and very dear and loyal Friend!! Don made the World a better place and was a true blessing to everyone lucky enough to have known him!! We loved him very much, and will miss him terribly, but know that he will live forever in our hearts!! Rest In Peace, dear Don!! We send our sincerest condolences and prayers to Don’s family. 🙏🙏🙏  
Otto and Alane Haardt

Alane Haardt - April 27, 2020 at 08:26 PM



“ He was my Great Uncle and I had the pleasure of going to Junior High with him as one of my teachers. I didn't even take shop class, but he still took the time with me before and after school to teach me different things. So many other memories with Uncle Don. Love you all and praying for peace during this time.

Josh Vaughn - April 27, 2020 at 08:21 AM

BL

“ I taught school with Don at George Jr. High. He was always smiling and such a sweet man! He had a great sense of humor and was a wonderful teacher. He had a beautiful voice which he shared at many events. Prayers for comfort and peace for his family.

Betty Ann Lane

Betty Lane - April 25, 2020 at 01:27 PM

RK

“ Sympathy and prayers on your loss. I got to know Mr.Martin when I worked at George Jr. High many years ago. What a joy it was to know him always had something funny to say and had a smile on his face.

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**Robbie Kelley** - April 24, 2020 at 04:54 PM

BG

“ My deepest sympathies on your loss. I really appreciated his friendship and his visits to my office at LCISD. He will be missed.

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**Becky Guntle** - April 24, 2020 at 11:41 AM

JM

“ Great man! Great teacher! Heaven has another great person.

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**Jim Moran** - April 21, 2020 at 08:53 AM

DC

“ I will miss this dear man who came into my life in 1963 and eventually became a member of my father. His children played with my children. I don't know how many meals we shared together, and entertainment was Don Singing with his guitar. We attended church with each other.for many years I've never seen a more devoted and loving father and later we cried on each other's shoulders and leaned on each other when our marriages ended. He will always be in my hearts and I will never forget my memories of him and be so glad he was in my life. Donna Chapman

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**Donna Chapman** - April 20, 2020 at 02:38 PM