



Thomas Martin

June 1, 1939 - March 14, 2010

Obituary of Thomas Martin

Thomas Alexander Martin, born June 1, 1939, went home to be with the Lord March 14, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Norita of Summerfield, Florida. He also leaves five daughters: Christie Heaton of Puyallup, Washington; Kerri Tracht of Jacksonville, Florida; Lisa Rucks of Seattle, Washington; Dana Ross of Puyallup, Washington; and Bonnie Wiklund of Eastonville, Washington. Other survivors include 12 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; his mother, Blondell Martin of Charlotte, North Carolina; his sister, Jo Anne Newell, Charlotte, North Carolina; his brother, Jerry Martin of Matthews, North Carolina; and innumerable friends from coast to coast.

Whether you knew him as Marty, Tommy, Daddy, or Granddaddy, you knew him as a man who loved life, music, the outdoors, animals and children. He never met a stranger and was forever bringing home strays. He will be missed and is leaving a hole that cannot be filled by anyone else. But Heaven is better today for a new voice is in the choir, and he is singing the loudest of all.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Hospice of Marion County would be appreciated, (Hospice of Marion County Inc., 3231 SW 43rd Ave., Ocala, FL

34474). Celebration of Life service will be held at Beyers Funeral Home, Lady Lake, FL on Saturday, March 20, 2010 at 3:00 PM

Services

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Memorial Donations

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Tribute Wall

SA

“ Granddaddy~ I will never forget you coming to see us after my baby boy was born. You singing at my wedding....I miss you always and love you very much. Alex says he will see you in heaven, and he loves his Great Granddaddy very much. Norita~ Thank you for being there for Granddaddy these past years. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. We love you!

Sara and baby Alexander - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Hello to all of the family. We are so sad to think of Tommy not being with us. But he is now our guardian angel. remember that girls... we love you all and will keep in touch.... Aunt Helen died Nov. 15, 2009, and you can know she is thrilled to have him in heaven with her. Norita, you are so special and it's apparent that you two had a special love.... And God will give you the strength to go on... We love youPraying for you and for all of your family as they come to you in florida. See you soon. DeAnne & Don

DeAnne & Don McCorkle - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ My Man! peace

Lea & Ricky Tolbert - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ Dear Norita, For once in my life, I am at a loss of words. My selfish heart is bursting with your sorrow as well as all of us, who were Blessed by knowing Marty. Yet I am so very Thankful that he is with God at peace. I can just feel him smiling down at me and saying "you can do whatever you want." He graced so many lives as a Soldier, family man, husband, and friend. I was honored to know him and you and become a part of your lives. I am sure he will soon be in Commad again. I love you Pa and will always remember the love and power of your words.

Carol - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

VG

“ To Norita and family Great neighbor who perked up many a day for me. Wish to all healing, strength and blessings. Velma

Velma Goldhagen - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ How beautiful! Lets all hope we will meet again. A great tribute to a wonderful man who will be greatly missed. My love and prayers be with all of you.

Eileen Smith - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ Norita you are a special person who has shown great strength and love to not only Tommy but to our entire family and in particular Blon. Tommy was not only a cousin to me he was also a hero and an example of what a son, father and patriot should be. Rest in peace Big Guy till we all meet together again. Love You, Michael

Michael Lockwood - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Norita - I'm glad I was able to spend the last 2 days with you. You will always be my Grandma and I love you dearly! You brought so many smiles to my Granddaddy's face and I know you loved him and always will. Granddaddy - You will be SO missed. I'm so glad I had you in my life, the memories, the laughs, and the special times. I'm glad my two kids got to be around you. Madison still talks about her Granddaddy. I know you loved them and I will tell them all about you! I'll see you in Heaven someday!!! Until then, keep singing with Jesus!

Amber Rolli & Family - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ Gramma Norita, I wish I could be there right now. I'm so very thankful I had the chance to spend time with you and Marty last year. I won't forget our drives and getting caught taking pictures of the old barn. And his singing! Oh, he reminded me how much I love choral music. Thank you, Marty, for taking me to hear you sing! And thank you for being my grandfather and for loving my Gram so much. I miss you. Gram, I love you. I'm sending you long-distance hugs... Trula

Trula - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ Norita, So sorry for your loss. We just wanted you to know we are thinking of you and all the extended family.

Bettye and Tom - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BO

“ although Marty has passed on, he will always be remembered by those who knew him and served with him.

Bob O'Keefe - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

J1

“ Marty will be remembered by us as a true warrior, eager to mix it up and also to share his enthusiasm. We remember the song he wrote for our company (51st is Passing By) as the motivator to pull together. Special Forces combat veteran, Office and Gentleman, Singer, Mentor, Family Man, Christian. What a life this man led! We salute you!

Jim McLain, OCS 10-70 - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ Rest in peace. . . Your home !!!!! Praise the Lord.

Debbie White - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Those of us who were in Fort Benning Officer Candidate School at the end of 1969 until May 1970 remember Marty as the vigorous man he was in those months all of our lives crossed at the end of the decade now 40 years ago. And in our memories so will he always be-never changing, the standard setter, mature, experienced, knowledgeable. It is a fine legacy. Mark Busby OC class 10-70

Mark Busby - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ Norita, Thank you for giving him 10 wonderful, happy years and holding his hand to the end. He was loved and loved. Our family circle is complete, thanks so much. I'm so glad that you are a part of it, and will always be a part of it. You are a wonderful woman and my prayers for your comforting and strength go up daily. I love you. Kerri

Kerri Tracht - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ *It's beginning to settle in on my heart and this brings it ever closer. He's not here, He's with Jesus and that's the only bright spot. love you today Norita...Jerry*

Jerry - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TK

“ *I am so sorry for the passing of Marty. I graduated OCS in 1970 with him. I also saw him in 2005 at Ft Benning, Ga for our 35th reunion. He was always so full of life and fun to be with. I am a pastor in Lewisburg, WV. We will be praying for the family and friends for comfort. May Jesus bless you. Terry L Koon.*

Terry L Koon - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Martin family in the loss of Tommy. Knowing that he is in a better place and no longer in pain - gives us hope. He now joins other Martin's around the table of our Lord..indeed, he is in great company of those who love him! My prayer is that your wonderful memories of Tommy will soon replace the sadness in your hearts. Love all of you!!*

Sam McCord - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ *Dear Christie, Kerri, Lisa, Dana, Bonnie, Blon, JoAnne, Jerry, Mom and Johnny, Our hearts are heavy over your loss. May your memories bring you some solace in your time of sorrow. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Pat and Barb - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Granddaddy you will forever be in my heart and one day we will be together. I am so sad you did not get to meet Cameron, but I have so many great memories to share with him. He will always have stories. I love you forever and always.

Joni (Heaton) Westerdahl - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ To Marty's Family Our hearts are heavy with sadness at Marty's passing. Our faith in God acknowledges Marty is in a better place but we are left with an emptiness in our lives. Mark and I will always remember the love he shared with us. There was never a dull moment when Marty was around. He had wonderful stories to share, lively conversations were a given and his singing was a gift he gave to all of us. Thankyou Marty for the love you gave to Mom, allowing us to be a part of your life and for your service to our country. Mom, I love you. Chris Marty, I will always remain impressed by the many hats you have worn in this lifetime. Of the many happy times we shared I will always hold a special place for the quiet evenings we shared at Daytona after the race day activities. I appreciated the chance to share past expiriences, recall high points and acknowledge failings. Our talks about faith and meaning informed and challenged me. I'm sure some of the questions we had about the nature of our God are now known to you. Though I will miss you I will be comforted by the company of our time together. Thank you. Till we meet again. Love, Mark

Chris Jellum - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ Norita, we are so sorry to hear of Marty's death. We hope you find some comfort from family & friends, & from Gods word, that you will see him again. Our thoughts & prayers are with you. Love in Christs name.

Tom & Carrol - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ I have not seen nor heard from Marty since we graduated those many years ago, but like the men in the book and movie, *Band of Brothers*, I feel our lives were connected at a deep and spiritual level. Our collective lights have all dimmed with his passing, but we also know he has gone on to bigger and better things. God speed Marty.

Johnnie Miller, OCS - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Norita, you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. We loved Marty with all our heart and he will be missed. We love you to and hope that you will stay in touch. We will hold a place for you and Marty at the upcoming Officer Candidate Reunion and know that his spirit and your thoughts will be with us. On behalf of OCS Class 10-70, we give Marty a final salute.

Johnnie & Elsie Richardson - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Thomas Martin

October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Norita- thank you for being so good to my granddaddy. You are an amazing women with a great big heart. I love and miss you Granddaddy. I know that you are singing your heart out in heaven and looking down on all of the people that love you dearly. You will live on in our memories.

michelle rucks - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

HL

“ *My heart breaks but i know he is in a better place. I love you Daddy.*

His Daughter Lisa - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *Norita, I am so sorry for your loss, I know it's been a difficult time and we all thank you for taking care of him. What a handsome picture, how great we look in our youth, very admirable. I am very grateful for Daddy and Mother for making a family for me and bringing me to be with my sisters. I still remember the airplane ride from North Carolina. I know he will rest in peace and is in a better place. Thank you for being such an incredible part of his life. Dana*

Dana Martin-Ross - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ It is heartbreaking to hear the news of Marty's departure from us. It wasn't 6 months ago that I was able to see him over an internet webcam and talk with him as if he were in the room. He seemed to be in good spirits and was witty as always. Because of his loss I took some a moment to think of the time we had spent together over the last few years. As always, I don't think I was able to spend as much time as needed to really get to know the man that unequivocally loved and cared for my grandmother. We did have some time a number of years ago, before grandma and Marty moved to Florida, to spend with one another. When I first met Marty, he owned a small Volkswagen Fox that was in somewhat ill condition. One day Marty called and asked if I wanted to help work on the Fox at a friend's shop. I didn't have much going on and still didn't really know Marty well, so I told him that I would enjoy that. While watching his friend work on the Fox, Marty and I decided that food and refreshments were needed and headed to the store. While on the way to the store, Marty stated that he was hungry for a Corn Dog and a Diet Pepsi. Not realizing what I was getting myself into, I instinctively told him that I had never, in my 21 years of living, eaten a Corn Dog. This statement triggered a response from Marty to the effect of, "Son, you have got to be kidding me... You have never had a Corn Dog??? Well... we are going to have to fix that". By the end of the day, the Fox was still not in running order, but I had, not only my first Corn Dog ever, but my second Corn Dog as well. I must say, I was missing out - Thanks Marty

Josh Schafer - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Well you finally got the last word Marty and Norita you are a saint. Only a saint could have lived with Marty who never lost an argument, fight or a debate. He was not perfect he was of the flesh as we all are but now he is 6'2" 230 lbs of lean muscle standing with the Lord, healthy, strong, tough, stubborn and not afraid of anything as he lived his life. His intentions were always the best his results were human. He was a warrior, teacher, singer, songwriter, cowboy, baseball coach, mentor, husband, father, brother and son, I am sure if he could he would of told me I forgot something. Marty and I spent 35 years getting to know the Old Goat as I called him what he called me can only be left to your imagination. I loved him unconditionally as he did me. He actually gave me a compliment once and told me he thanked God I married his daughter or maybe it was he wondered why God let me marry his daughter Christie I forget haha. He would not want everyone to be sad or mourn his passing he would want you all to know it is time to move on live life and learn from this--spend time with the people you love, it is that simple. Over our 35 year father and son relationship we shared it all most of which would have all of you saying I cant believe it well believe it. As Marty and I used to say leave it all on the field and you will never have any regrets---he left it all on the field. I am sad for you Norita and thank God he found you but I will not be sad for Marty cause he would just tell me to man up and move on. Love you forever, Rich, Christie, Jeremy, Joni, Juli and JT.

Richard Heaton / His daughter Christie's Husband - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Dear Norita, We are so deeply saddened by the news of Marty's passing. I know that he will be greatly missed by you, your family and all his friends, especially all of us OCS classmates. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Sincerely yours, Miguel A. Rivera & Barbara Rivera Infantry OCS Class 10-70

Miguel & Barbara Rivera - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JA

“*"Marty" and I were best friends in high school and I am truly blessed that I got to renew my friendship with him before his death. Norita is solid gold in my book and has done everything in her power to make his last days the best. I miss him terribly and my prayers are with his family. Will see you in Charlotte. My love, Jane*

Jane Allgaier - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AM

“*Tommy was a friend from high school and we had a great class. We are so glad to have celebrated our "50th" with him. Our thoughts and prayers are with Norita and family at this time. Love to all.*

Anne Jenkins Miller - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GD

“*Norite, I had the privilege of growing up with Tommy. He always had a kind heart and a helping hand. I was so thrilled to see him at our 50th reunion. Praise God for a life so lived that it honored his God, his country, and his family. It was a blessing for me to know him. My prayers are with you and your family. Gail Conder Dings*

Gail Conder Dings - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Granddaddy-Its hard to come to terms with the fact that your gone. Everyone always says "one more day, one more moment" and of course Im saying, wishing, thinking... If he only could have met my son Brody-The countless calls to my mother about "I cant wait to get back to see my baby boys-Cameron and Brody" . I keep thinking about that. Its harder then I thought it would be. I know we will meet up again. I just wish it would have been a little later-ya know! I can only imagine what my mom is going through-Her sisters-Your wife-Grandmother... My heart hurts for you all. I love you deeply and dearly and wish Brody could have met his great granddaddy. You are and always will be my granddaddy, and I will always be your puddleduck. Thank you for the wedding visits, the horseback rides, the hugs, the kisses, the baseball trips, the embarassing puddleduck stories. I have been blessed to have you in my life. I will miss you deeply. Brody loves you too. Chris said thank you for the fathers day wish. His 1st Fathers day-you were the only one who called. You will never know how much that meant. We love you.
Chris, Juli, and Brody

Juli Heaton-Bahr - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ I am very saddened to hear of Tommy's passing. I remember the vivacious young boy in high school. He never met a stranger and was friendly with everyone. My prayers are with you and your family.
Sincerely, Barbara Ford Lands

Barbara Ford Lands - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ It was my pleasure and priviledge to know Marty and Norita and provide them with assistance in his VA situation. Soldiers like him do not come into our lives very often, he will be sorely missed!

Tony Curtis - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ Granddaddy, we miss you so, so much! I miss your smile, your laugh, your bear hugs, your stories. I miss hearing you say you are proud of me. Well I am proud of you. I was proud to introduce you to my in-laws as my one and only Granddaddy and I am proud to reflect today on the man that you were. No one will ever fill the hole you have left in our hearts. I just wish I could tell you I love you one more time face to face. You made this world a brighter place to live and now heaven is brighter because of your presence. Thank you for loving me so much and believing in me. I love you with all of my heart and I can not wait to see you again. I know you will give me a big bear hug and we will go sing together again. I love you Granddaddy. Norita, Thank you so much for making my Granddaddy so happy. You are one of the most amazing women I have ever met and am proud to call you my grandma. Thank you for loving him as only you could. I know he was happy all the way to the end and I know he is only happier now. We love you and we always will GG.

Adam and Lauren Tracht - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ To the man I call Uncle Marty, Thank you so much for the chance you gave me back in 1996 when my world came crashing down all around me, You called me and gave me a second chance on a new life. Only a few know the whole story, So for those few know well that Marty is in Heaven with our holy Father. We lost a dear friend, loved one, Daddy, Granddaddy but know that we all gained an Angle in heaven to help watch over us all. Norita I love you with all my heart, Thank you for all you did for Marty, You were his world and I know you know that. Christy, Kerry, Lisa, Bonny, Dana thank you all for sharing your daddy with us all. You all will be in my prayers. But most of all I want to thank God our Father for letting us all have time to share with Marty, He brought smiles to all our faces all the time. Thank You Jesus for our time with Marty. God bless you all. Steve and Irene Newell

Steve Newell - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ *Marty was my heart! Life was such a joy to him and I loved sharing it with him. We packed a lot into nine short years. He also gave me a wonderful extended family. He could not pass a small child without stopping to administer and ruffel their hair. He was kind and caring about everyone. We had a wonderful marriage and a great love. Thank all of you who took the time to share your thought's with us. God bless you always !*

Norita Martin - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ *Norita, It was with a very HEAVY heart that I left you yesterday to come back to Washington. I cannot seem to get my head around this. My heart is breaking. There is one thing that I know for certain and it's that he loved you and you were his godsend. Our family could not have chosen a better wife, companion and caregiver than you. I'm so sorry that you only had 9 years and not 30, you both deserved more time. He found a peace and happiness with you he had not known for a very long time. You will forever be part of our family and we love you.*

Christie Heaton/Daughter - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM