



Charles Elgy Martin

March 17, 1926 - September 17, 2013

Charles Elgy Martin, beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend and colleague died peacefully on Tuesday, September 17, 2013. Born March 17, 1926 in Hamilton, North Dakota to Glen A. Martin and Anna Belle C. Martin, he was the youngest of three sons and was preceded in death by his parents, his son Sasha M. Martin and brothers JB Martin and Ray Martin. Charles is survived by his loving wife of 46 years, Cindy Y. Martin, sons Tracey W. Martin and Ian G. C. Martin. Grandchildren Christopher M. Martin, Jason S. Martin and Makai I. Martin.

Charles grew up in Hamilton, ND and eventually moved to East St. Louis, Missouri where he graduated high school. He worked for the Louisiana State Highway Department as an Instrument Man and contributed to the completion of the Lake Charles Bridge in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Charles served honorably in the U.S. Navy from November 4, 1950 to September 3, 1954 as a Weather Observer and is a Korean War Veteran. While stationed in Hawaii, Charles attended the University of Hawaii and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering. Later, he moved to Boston to attend Harvard University where he received his MBA, graduating number two in his class. The lure of the beautiful islands of Hawaii took him back to Honolulu where he worked in the commercial Real Estate market. To be closer to relatives on the "mainland", he moved his family to Houston in 1977. He joined the commercial Real Estate team of Brown and Root and retired in 2005. Always wanting to

keep busy, Charles continued to work as a Licensed Realtor in the State of Texas and held the prestigious Accredited Buyer's Representative "ABR" designation.

Charles had a great love and interest in all wildlife. He would spend hours observing the many species of birds at the back yard bird feeders, particularly in Arkansas at the family's lake house as well as in Houston. In Houston, Charles greatly enjoyed watching the Hummingbirds from his bed and would soulfully announce "Hummingbird!" each time one arrived to feed. With his fondness for birds, his house pet named Graybird, was a beautiful Cockatiel bird which he loved and the bird loved him in return. Unfortunately and coincidentally, Graybird unexplainably died the same night Charles passed away. Is there a sixth sense and could they have gone together?

If you knew Charles, you know about his passion for Dixieland Jazz. He had the largest record collection of this genre in Hawaii and hosted a weekly Dixieland Jazz radio show where he was known as "Dr. Jazz". He was a published author in The Mississippi Rag publication many times over, and enjoyed listening to his favorite musical numbers with friends and family. With a smile larger than life, he would listen intently to each instrument and say "Isn't that nice"? He will also be remembered for his hand written notes often accompanied by a newspaper clipping or article. Charles was so well read, he wanted to pay it forward by sharing nuggets of knowledge wherever and whenever he could.

Charles is remembered by all for his kind, positive, caring, soft spoken, giving, encouraging, trusting, sincere, family oriented, supportive, and most of all, loving nature. A loving Husband, a loving Father, and a loving Friend.

A private Memorial Service will be held to remember and celebrate the life of our beloved Charles Elgy Martin.

Gone but not forgotten. Rest in peace loving Husband, Father and Friend.
Sleep with the Angels until we meet again!

Tribute Wall



“ Happy Birthday my dear brother-in-law. Your wife Cindy, my sister didn't bake you a St. Patrick's Day green cake because she is there with you and Sasha. Bless you all and stay happy together. Thinking of the family. Love
Cherry

Lorna Drayton - March 18, 2024 at 10:13 PM



“ *Charles Elgy Martin*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Charles Elgy Martin*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Charles Elgy Martin*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Charles Elgy Martin*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM

CM

“ Happy Birthday to you and Happy St. Patrick's Day.

We haven't forgotten and your friend Gene called to let us know he's thinking of you on your birthday. We didn't have your favorite corned beef and cabbage dinner this year as everything seems to be going crazy with the new virus that's going around. I have been told by my doctor to stay indoors for my own protection. I guess this old age is not able to handle all the changes. The boys are all doing well and growing up really fast.

Well, I know you are happy where you are and all is well with you. God Bless!

Cindy Martin - March 17, 2020 at 11:06 PM

CM

“ *It's hard to believe that six years ago today, you quietly slipped away to the heavenly kingdom. You're not here but you are not forgotten. We think of you frequently and say your name in our conversations. We are all well and know that you are resting peacefully in paradise.*



May God continue to bless and keep you.

Cindy Martin - September 17, 2019 at 09:01 PM

CI

“ Happy Birthday and Happy St. Patrick's Day.

In your honor and in memory of you, our annual corned beef and cabbage dinner is cooking away and the aroma is yum, yum, yummy.

God Bless!



Cindy - March 17, 2019 at 04:50 PM

CI

“ Happy Birthday and Happy St. Patrick's day.

Today would have been your 92nd birthday and I bet you would have enjoyed a nice corned beef and cabbage birthday dinner as we have done so many other birthdays.

Gene called to say he remembered your birthday and was thinking of you. That was very nice of him.

We are all doing well and I imagine you are dancing in a field of shamrocks today. Enjoy and rest in peace.



Cindy - March 17, 2018 at 09:13 PM

CI

“ *Four years ago you entered into eternal rest and it seems like only yesterday. We are all doing well and speak of you regularly. Ian is fortunate to see at least one hummingbird each time he goes to the lake and he really enjoys their presence. It gives him a feeling that you are present.*



Barry called and we shared memories of you and talked about your vast collection of Dixieland Jazz. Yes, it's all where you left them.

Rest in heavenly peace.

Cindy - September 17, 2017 at 03:36 PM

CM

“ *Happy Birthday and Happy St. Patrick's Day. Although you are not here to celebrate your 91st birthday, we are all thinking of you and happy to know that you'll have many more birthdays and eternal life in your heavenly home.*



Your friend Gene called this morning as he remembered your birthday and thinks of you often.

Happy Birthday and celebrate with St. Patrick.

Cindy Martin - March 17, 2017 at 06:32 PM

CI

“ *It's been three years since you went into a sound and peaceful sleep and we speak of you and remember you as if it was yesterday.*



The hummingbirds have not been visiting but we are always looking out for them. Maybe they will return soon on their way south for the winter.

Your friend Gene stopped by a few days ago for a short visit. He always talks about the fun trips you both took, especially to October fest in Germany.

Pembina County is building a Veterans Memorial and somewhere there, they'll include individual bricks engraved with the names of the Veterans from Pembina County. Tracey and Ian have ensured that your service and memory will be included.

We pray that you are at peace and in the house of your heavenly Father. Rest in Peace!

Cindy - September 17, 2016 at 08:29 PM

CI

“ *Happy Birthday and Happy St. Patrick's Day. Today you would have been 90 years and we are all thinking of you. Your friend Gene called as he also is thinking of you on this day. I don't think we could have lit 90 candles but we sure would have had enough corned beef and cabbage to feed 90 people.*



Happy Birthday and rest in peace.

Cindy - March 17, 2016 at 01:21 PM

CI

“ *CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS!*

MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Cindy - December 26, 2015 at 04:09 PM

CI

“ *Two years ago you quietly slipped away to a place far away but you have not been forgotten. We speak of you frequently and even manage to laugh at some of our memories.*



The hummingbirds have been very active for the past week and they are so interesting to observe as they dart to and from the feeder which you enjoyed viewing from your bed. Seems like you were always aware of when they were feeding and would announce "hummingbird" with each visit.

Rest in peace and enjoy God's heavenly blessings.

Cindy - September 17, 2015 at 06:20 PM

IM

“ *Thinking of you Dad, I am at the lake and see a hummingbird on most every visit here. I know it is you saying hi to me. Not a day goes by that dont think about you.... Love, Ian*

ian martin - August 16, 2015 at 12:13 PM

CM

“ Happy Birthday and Happy St. Patrick's Day. The boys all remembered and called to talk about past corned beef and cabbage birthday dinners. Your friend Gene also called.



Cindy Y. Martin - March 17, 2015 at 11:14 PM

CI

“ Cindy lit a candle in memory of Charles Elgy Martin



Cindy - February 03, 2015 at 08:36 PM

CI

“ Hardly seems like a year since you've been gone. We're all doing well and I know you are too as you told Ian "everything will be OK".



We have lots of hummingbirds this year, sometimes three of four at a time. They are very interesting to watch and appear to have a special order as to gets to drink first. I can still hear you saying, "hummingbird". Even without your glasses, you could see them.

Sleep well in the arms of an angel.

Cindy - September 18, 2014 at 12:12 AM

CI

“ Cindy lit a candle in memory of Charles Elgy Martin



Cindy - July 23, 2014 at 03:46 PM

CI

“ Happy Birthday! Happy St. Patrick's Day!

You used to get so many birthday cards which you would display on the piano. Today there were no St. Patrick's Day Birthday cards but I'm certain you had a wonderful day. I didn't cook your favorite corned beef and cabbage dinner but you had a better birthday dinner in paradise. Ian and Makai came over and we enjoyed some cheesecake in honor of your birthday.....wish you were here.



Happy 88th birthday and sleep with the Angels.

Cindy - March 17, 2014 at 11:01 PM

IA

“ Thank you Dad for recently joining a dream of mine. I vividly recall your calm presence and the words you said to me which were, "it will all be ok". I awakened with wet eyes and knew you were letting me know that although you have left, you are not gone and for that I am grateful. Thank you Dad for your continued presence.... Love, Ian

Ian - February 17, 2014 at 10:42 AM

CI

“ *The holidays have come and gone and we are in another year. I pray that this year will be a better year for us here and that you are enjoying peace and happiness where you are.*

Cindy - January 15, 2014 at 09:50 PM

IM

“ *Ian Martin lit a candle in memory of Charles Elgy Martin*



Ian Martin - November 30, 2013 at 10:41 AM

CI

“ *Cindy lit a candle in memory of Charles Elgy Martin*



Cindy - October 31, 2013 at 11:04 PM

CI

“ It has been one month since Charles has gone ahead to be in the land of freedom and glory. Sasha is with his dad again and Charles is meeting with all his family and friends who left ahead of him. I think he is very happy now and has found a wonderful peace that is out of this world.



Today a hummingbird flew very closely to me and I could almost hear Charles softly say, "hummingbird!"

Enjoy your journey and keep counting the birds. We miss you.

Cindy - October 17, 2013 at 11:54 PM

“ Dear Cindy,

I am truly sorry for your loss of Charles, but am very happy that you did talk to (my wife) June on the phone. I am sure that she told you that I have very little hearing even though I have two cochlear implants. Charles' voice would not come through to me even under the best of circumstances. It is a bit embarrassing for me to even try to talk to a lot of folks.

About the first time I remember meeting Charles, my first cousin, was in the summer that I had just gone through my sophomore year in high school. He stopped by our house in Princeton, Missouri, on his way from Arizona (I think his mom was living there) and was hitch hiking his way back to North Dakota. He spent a day or two there and the two of us talked my folks into letting me go along with him to visit his dad Glen, my uncle, in North Dakota. I do remember that we made the trip very quick, as back then almost anyone would give a hitch hiker a lift. We did have a great time together and it was indeed a new experience for me.

While in North Dakota I recall that one of us shot a jack rabbit and we put it in the trunk of the car (Charles was driving one of his older brother's car). When we got back to the house, we opened the trunk and the rabbit had literally torn the trunk lining to shreds--it jumped out and took off. This was in the town of Hamilton, which was a wide place in the road with one store. We had a great time together during those few days up there.

I am sorry that I lost contact as to his whereabouts until he turned up over here at a jazz concert a few years ago.

I just read the obit on line and was really surprised at the many fields of study that filled his life. I had no idea that he had a civil engineering degree as well as an MBA. My own dad Neal had trained in the University of Illinois to be a civil engineer and had worked on the highway developments in southern Iowa and northern Missouri for a short time.

the best to you---George Bailey Martin--

George B. Martin - October 14, 2013 at 05:06 PM

LL

“ *Uncle Charles you are going to be missed by many! I am happy you are not in pain anymore and are in a better place! Please give Grandpa JB a big hug from me....we sure miss him lots too! Cindy, Ian and Tracy....I am so sorry for your loss! Charles was a great man! Love and hugs to you all!*

Lenaye Lauer-Ensrud - October 11, 2013 at 11:37 AM



“ *I was out listening to jazz last night downtown and returned home to receive a call from Cindy about dear Uncle Charles! I am so sad to hear the news of his passing! We lived in a small town, away from everyone it seemed and when he came to visit it was a special time! He had a quiet gentle way and we would listen carefully to everything he said!! He would also send packages arriving with gifts a country girl had never seen.! i so looked forward to them at Christmas time. After my parents passed away he continued to send them to me! Bless him! I also called him up and we had many talks over the years! I saw him at his brothers funeral(J.B) in Hamilton(last time)We cried,laughed,talked at the local bar and enjoyed every minute of our time together! I talked to him on his birthday this year and he told me the news of his health issues! He talked about his grandchildren and how smart they are! Just this past week, my granddaughter,Lila, who is 16, and in college, asked about Harvard and Uncle Charles!!!! Love to you Cindy,Ian, and Tracy and your three grandchildren! love to cousin marilyn! Tears in my eyes remembering him! Love to all, from gene Johnson mckeeper!(I will look for pictures)*

Gene McKeever - October 11, 2013 at 08:31 AM

NM

“ 3 files added to the album Martin Brothers



Neal L Martin - October 10, 2013 at 10:18 PM

CI

“ I am truly grateful for the many hours Charles and I were able to talk, especially the last few months. We talked about everything...the flowers on our deck, the types of birds at the feeder, our sons and grandsons. We laughed at the fun memories of the boys when they were young and got emotional at a not so happy time also. We wondered where the years went and thanked God that we lived long enough to see them as adults with their own sons. We joked that with three grandsons, this Martin family is going to go on forever. It pleased Charles so much to see our grandsons, Christopher and Jason pursuing their college degrees and we both enjoyed when little Makai would jump into bed with Grandpa to show him his second grade school work.



I thank God for all His blessings and pray that He will continue to guide our sons to be good fathers, good men and good stewards.

Cindy - October 10, 2013 at 12:31 AM

MS

“ Charles Martin was my special first cousin; related by our fathers, Glen and Kirby. Charles helped to create many of my lifetime happy memories, over more than 60 years. He came to NYC; handsome with his blue eyes and Navy uniform and we rode the Coney Island roller coaster. He took me to Dixieland Jazz clubs on W 54th Street. Later, more jazz in Boston when he was at Harvard Business School and I was a college student at Wellesley. After time in Hawaii, he visited my NYC parents with his beautiful Jamaican bride, Cindy and I later visited Houston to meet their children. We convened often in North Dakota to see his older brother JB, and Eleanor, Carson and Patty and other Martin family and enjoyed the Antique Car & Tractor Show. Charles drove me westward to see the edge of the Prairie and to the Icelandic Pioneer Museum. He visited NYC and my current summer home in Maine many times and we always found good music and theater. My husband Ralph shared Charles' pleasure in traditional American Jazz of the 1920s.

Charles did much to connect far-flung Martin family members who hadn't met before... One day Evelyn Posehn wrote from Sacramento, CA, asking if I wanted a blue & white quilt, hand-sewn by my father's grandmother and she sent it East... Later she visited us in Maine and saw it and she came another time; she travelled to a theatre week in NYC, too, and several times to ND... All in her mid-eighties! We wouldn't have know about each other except for Charles. Evelyn flew down to Houston for Evelyn's last birthday at her son's family home and I saw her there and got to know them, too. Charles drew me an entire Martin family tree, which is ever useful.

I last saw Charles in Bentonville, Arkansas, last year when I flew out to see the new Crystal Bridges Museum and he was there on business for his real estate properties. He said I needed to see the deer and the wild turkeys, too and we had a splendid day sightseeing the natural beauty of Arkansas, with early dinner at a delicious local chicken restaurant. We spoke on the phone many times during his last months, including hospice and he always

wanted to make sure that Ralph and I were keeping up with the Trad-Jazz events in NYC, as he always had. One winter, years back, in NYC, the Church of the Heavenly Rest on Fifth Ave held "Heavenly Jazz" live concerts on Sunday afternoons and I went with Charles a couple of times. I was impressed that Charles always knew the names of each musician and all about them; when we went up to see them after the concert, they all knew him, too! He corresponded with many Dixieband greats. When last in NYC, he visited the new Louis Armstrong museum, out in Queens. I hope Charles's photos and notes from his many musician friends can be given to a museum; maybe the Jazz Museum of Harlem, which we visited together. Charles, I will always remember you with love and admiration, especially when good Dixieband music is playing!

*With condolences and love to Cindy, Ian, Tracy and all the Martin family of Charles,
Marilyn (Martin) Saltus, NYC*

Marilyn Martin Saltus - October 06, 2013 at 10:12 PM

IM

“Dad, there isn't a moment, hour, or day that goes by that I don't think of you. I miss you so much. I remember the pain you were in and how bad that hurt me to see you like that. I know you are in a better, more peaceful place now and I take comfort in that. You were a wonderful Father, an immeasurable influence on me, and made me so proud to be your son. You truly were the smartest person I have ever known. I often described you as "a walking encyclopedia".

Thank you for all that you did and the sacrifices that you made to provide for our family and for raising me into the man that I am today. I will never forget all of your guidance and positive reinforcement along the way. I love you Dad. As I wrote that, I could hear you say "love you too".

I know I will see you again, so until then Dad, take care.

Your loving son,
Ian

Ian Martin - October 05, 2013 at 11:15 AM

LL

*Ian, I am so sorry for the loss of your dad! He was such a great man!
With much love, your cousin, Lenaye*

Lenaye Lauer-Ensrud - October 11, 2013 at 11:44 AM

CI

“Cindy lit a candle in memory of Charles Elgy Martin



Cindy - October 03, 2013 at 08:22 PM

FC

“ *We all miss you and love you so much. Enjoy the birds and animals in paradise and sleep in peace.*

Forever Cindy - October 01, 2013 at 02:02 PM

FP

“ *Charles we will dearly miss you the rest of our lives, god bless you. Gene and Rick your dear friends.*

Frrderick Parkhurst - September 28, 2013 at 12:04 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Charles Elgy Martin.*



September 26, 2013 at 12:19 PM

JR

“ *my heartfelt condolences for you in this difficult time. I remember Mr. Martin so well, first thing I thought of was his love of Jazz and his trips to Nola for the festivals. He was always so sweet to me and he will be missed.*



Jackie Ritzell - September 25, 2013 at 08:04 AM

KB

“ I am Al Brumitt's wife, Katie. I just wanted to add my condolences. I am so very sorry to hear the sad news about Charlie (The "Boys", Norm and Al, always called him Charlie). I met him a few times when we were visiting Norm and Bernice and enjoyed visiting with him. He was such a gentleman, and a gentle man. Yes, he certainly loved his jazz and he always carried tapes with him so he could play them wherever he was. I've always enjoyed hearing the tales they told about their school days and the things they got up to. I called them the Three Musketeers, or The Big Three. He will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him, especially Norm and Al. God Bless...Katie Brumitt

Katie Brumitt - September 23, 2013 at 06:13 PM

AB

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Al Brumitt - September 23, 2013 at 05:48 PM

AB

“ I first met Charlie"was never able to call him Charles" in 1939 or 1940 when he moved to East St. Louis, Illinois from North Dakota. We hit it off right away and he became one of our group and we were referred to as the BIG 5. Although 2 of that group have passed along some years ago the remaining 3 of us have stayed in touch. There are so many memories and laughs. The war years separated us for a while but we always remained close friends and came from different parts of the country for a get together and relive our earlier and wonderful times together. He was truly a gentle man and will be missed by me and many others. Good Bye Charlie-- Al Brumitt

Al Brumitt - September 23, 2013 at 05:43 PM

JW

“*Mr. Martin had seen Louis Armstrong 5 times in his life. Five times! I remember being completely struck by that fact as a kid. While I certainly was not a jazz aficionado in my teen years, I knew that it was significant to see someone pursue his passion with Mr. Martin's zeal. His energy and affection for music became the model and inspiration for my own love of music today. For that, I will forever be grateful. Thank you Charles.*

More than that, I have always been moved and inspired Mr. Martin's kindness and generosity. Reflecting back, I can say assuredly that there was not a mean or spiteful bone in this man's body. No matter what trouble we were stirring up, he always treated me with grace and kindness. After a long day of riding bikes, or skating, (or who knows what else!), there would always be a seat at the Martins' table for me. I was very lucky to have Mr. Martin as a model of generosity and wisdom that I can only aspire to. Had I not known Mr. Martin and his family, I have no doubt that my life would be on a very different trajectory. You can be sure I have shared many memories of Mr. Martin with my own children.

My sincere condolences to Mrs. Martin, Tracey, and Ian and the rest of the family. I hope you can have some rest and comfort during this difficult time. My love and prayers will be with all of you.

*Sincerely,
Jason Waters*

Jason Waters - September 22, 2013 at 04:12 PM

TS

“ You were the smartest man I've ever known & will be so missed.
Rest in peace Mr. Martin.

Love your daughter in law-
Debbie

tanner sinclair - September 22, 2013 at 10:50 AM