

Buddy Martin

July 18, 1935 - September 9, 2021

John Edward “Buddy” Martin, 86, passed away on Thursday, September 9, 2021. Funeral services will be held at 11 AM on Monday, September 13, 2021 in the Chapel of Williams Funeral Home with Elder Craig DeLoach officiating. Interment will be at 3:00 PM on Monday, September 13, 2021 in the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church Cemetery in Cary, GA. The family will receive friends on Sunday, September 12, 2021 in Williams Funeral Home from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM. The family requests that all attending please wear masks.

Buddy was born in Milledgeville on July 18, 1935. He was the son of the late Willie Edward and Lillie Mae Martin. He was a 1952 graduate of Midway High School, and 1954 graduate of Georgia Military College. He earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from the University of Georgia in 1956 where he was a member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity. He was commissioned as a 2nd LT. Buddy served in the Army Reserves for 10 ½ years and retired as Captain of the US Army.

Buddy was in the grocery business most of his life. He became a partner with his father in 1959 at Martin’s Store, which was at the time a third-generation business since opening in 1937. Buddy eventually took over the business, enlarged it and it became Martin’s Foodlane and later Martin’s IGA. Buddy was named Small Business Owner of the Year in 1986.

Buddy loved his community. He served as a member of the Milledgeville/Baldwin County Recreation Board from 1965-1979. Due to his accomplishments on the board, Mayor James Baugh declared March 10, 1980, as "Buddy Martin Day" in the city of Milledgeville. Buddy served as a city councilman and represented the council on the GMC Board of Trustees. He served on the Board of Trustees at John Milledge Academy. He served as a Director for Century Bank for many years.

Buddy was a great man of faith. He was a devoted deacon and charter member of Hardwick Primitive Baptist Church for 77 years. He taught Sunday School many of those years, was a choir member, song leader, and also a lay speaker for the church when he was needed. He served as Chairman of the Southern States Bible Conference for 15 years and Vice Chairman of the Primitive Baptist Foundation.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Barbara Martin; son, Michael Martin and his wife Tonya; daughter, Suzanne Ratliff and her husband Jeff; grandchildren, Blake Martin, Braeden Martin, Ava Kate Martin and Bailey Ratliff; sister, Betty Jones-Williams and nephew, Ken Jones and his wife Laura.

The family has asked that those who wish, make Memorial contributions to The Primitive Baptist Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 595, Roswell, GA 30077-0595.

The family would like to thank Serenity Hospice and all his caregivers.

Condolences may be expressed online at: www.williamsfuneral.net

Williams Funeral Home and Crematory of Milledgeville is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church Cemetery

Abney Road
Cochran, GA

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **12**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Williams Funeral Home & Crematory - Milledgeville
1670 N. Jefferson St.
Milledgeville, GA 31061
(478) 452-2148
staff@williamsfuneralhome.net
<https://www.williamsfuneralhome.net>

Funeral Services

SEP **13**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Williams Funeral Home & Crematory - Milledgeville
1670 N. Jefferson St.
Milledgeville, GA 31061
(478) 452-2148
staff@williamsfuneralhome.net
<https://www.williamsfuneralhome.net>

Graveside Services

SEP **13**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church Cemetery
Abney Road
Cochran, GA

Tribute Wall



“ Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory created a Webcast will start approximately 10 minutes before the service in memory of Buddy Martin



Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory - September 13, 2021 at 10:17 AM

VB

Please accept our condolences and prayers from the Allen side of the family in Delaware and Virginia. We were saddened by this news, But know that we will all be United in the future. May the peace of the Lord be with you all.

Valerie E Allen Buckholdt - September 13, 2021 at 11:39 AM

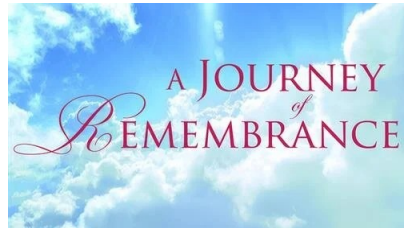
PT

Mrs Barbara and family . You are all in our prayers . Mr Buddy was a wonderful and respected man that I have always admired . He will be missed by many . Her service was beautifully done .

Patsy Thomas - September 13, 2021 at 01:51 PM



“ Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Buddy Martin



Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory - September 10, 2021 at 05:34 PM

AB

Sweet memories.

Angelia Burgamy - September 10, 2021 at 07:50 PM

LE

A few of these brought back so many memories. Loved all the photos

Linda Elliott - September 11, 2021 at 08:28 AM

KB

I remember mr Martin well from going in IGA so much. He was such a sweet man. Prayers for the family.

kathy butler - September 11, 2021 at 01:34 PM

FD

Buddy was a good man and very likable. He will be missed by his family, children, daughter-in-law and son-in-law, and grand children. ❤️



Freddie and Sue Drake - September 11, 2021 at 08:09 PM

LR

Barbara,

Buddy was the epitome of a true southern gentleman! You were blessed to have been married for many, many years. May the memories sustain you in the days to come and may the Lord grant you reconciling grace at this time.

Hope to see you Monday in Cary.

*Love and prayers,
Lynn Wheat Register*

Lynn Wheat Register - September 11, 2021 at 09:51 PM

RA

“*Mr. Buddy was a great man. I will forever be thankful for the opportunities he gave me in the workforce! I send my condolences to the family. He will always be remembered as the great man that he was! I am grateful for every opportunity he extended to me in contributing to the success of my career. May his family be at peace knowing that he is with God. Prayers for the family!*

*Love,
Rashanda Lango Havior*

Rashanda - September 14, 2021 at 04:39 PM

CS

“*Mr. Martin was a wonderful person. May God comfort the family during this time.*

Charles and Joycelyn Samuels

Charles and Joycelyn Samuels - September 13, 2021 at 05:43 PM

PN

“ My and our condolences to the family of such a good, faithful Christian and Servant of GOD. I first met him when a Licentiate and was most encouraged by his supportive words and still am. His faithful support of the Primitive Baptist Church will be sorely missed. May GOD's Sustaining Grace uplift, strengthen, comfort and keep the family/loved ones of Bro Buddy !!
This note sent by Pastor TC Norris and on behalf of Grace Community Chapel, Valdosta, Ga.

Pastor TC Norris - September 11, 2021 at 12:37 PM

WF

“ We are sorry to about your loss. May God give you peace and comfort . We are praying for you.



The Watts and Peeples family

Watts and Peeples family - September 11, 2021 at 11:12 AM

WS

“ Barbara and family we are so sad to hear about the passing of Buddy. Both of my sons and my daughter in law worked at Martin's IGA when they were young. They both would say Mr. Buddy nice and kind. When I would go in the store if Buddy was there he would greet me with a smile. Buddy loved God and his church. Fly high Buddy. You will be missed. With Sympathy Marie and Wayne Snow.

Wayne and Marie Snow - September 11, 2021 at 10:25 AM

LJ

“ *A Tribute to Our Uncle Buddy By: Laura Jones*

A kinder man was never known – than that of Buddy, with a heart that shone!

He was a Christian, through and through and loved his church – this everyone knew!

Of his family, he was proud – and would always protect them – this he vowed!

He gave his service to Milledgeville and could be seen in banks, schools, and the grocery aisle!

Braves, Dawgs and golf were his passion but none supreme as his compassion!

Now, chocolate.....this was his pleasure - We are sure that GOD greeted him with a treasure!

Uncle Buddy, you will be missed - we'll see you again one day and can't wait to be kissed!

Laura Jones - September 11, 2021 at 09:07 AM

HV

“ *Suzanne and family,
Harvey and I wanted you to know how sorry we are to hear about your dad. He was such a great man and he will certainly be missed. We are sending prayers for peace and comfort to all of you.
Harvey and Cathy Vinson*

Harvey and Cathy Vinson - September 10, 2021 at 09:39 PM



“ *Raymond Woodall lit a candle in memory of Buddy Martin*



Raymond Woodall - September 10, 2021 at 09:04 PM

DF

“ *Barbara and family,
I am so sorry to learn of Buddy's passing. I have very fond memories of my time working in the meat market with Buddy. You and your family will be in my prayers.
Donna Walton Findley*

Donna Findley - September 10, 2021 at 08:40 PM

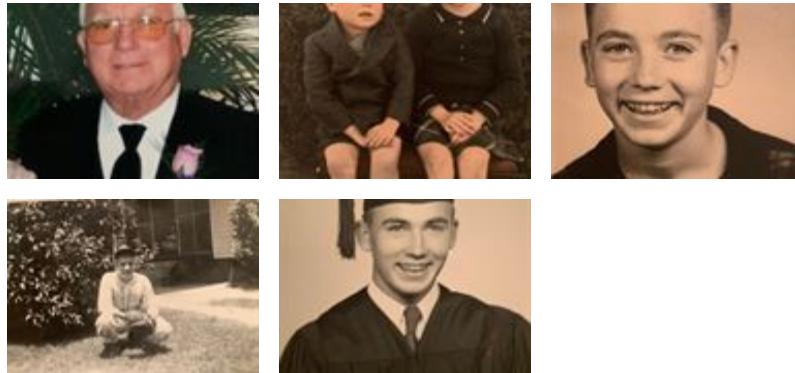
GS

“ *Barbara, Michael, and Suzanne, we were so sad when my sister Chris Wall told us of Buddy's passing. I've lived near Buddy, have known Him for most of my life and have always had the utmost respect for him. A man of integrity. We pray that you are being comforted by God's Holy Spirit, giving you strength and wisdom and a "peace that passes all understanding."*

George and Carolyn Morgan Smith - September 10, 2021 at 08:28 PM



“ 186 files added to the album LifeTributes



Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory - September 10, 2021 at 05:23 PM

HS

“ Barbara, please accept our deepest sympathy. We will keep you and your family in our prayers. If there is anything we can do, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.
Your Neighbors
Hal & Bev Sims



Hal Sims - September 10, 2021 at 04:36 PM

KN

“ So sorry for your loss of your Father. He was a great man. Your family will be in our prayers.

Carolyn, Kathy, Karen Nolan



Kathy Nolan - September 10, 2021 at 03:40 PM

DH

“Buddy and I served for many years on the Executive Committee of the Primitive Baptist Foundation, as well as the Ministers Retirement Plan. Buddy was always a gentle and wise voice, always looking out for the best interest of our churches and ministers. I am so sad to hear of his passing.
Darryl Harris

Darryl Harris - September 10, 2021 at 02:30 PM

WJ

“Wright Banks Jr. lit a candle in memory of Buddy Martin



Wright Banks Jr. - September 10, 2021 at 12:18 PM

LM

“Our thoughts and prayers are with you. for every special memory, this brings a wish for peace. Luther and Berta and Friends at Johnnie McDade Grocery.



LUTHER G MINOR - September 10, 2021 at 11:03 AM

VF

“Barbara, you and Buddy were an inspiration to Harvey and me. May God comfort you as you walk through the coming days.

Vicki Bauer Howell Fletcher - September 10, 2021 at 10:23 AM

MF

“ *Barbara and family, so sad to hear about Buddy. My thoughts and prayers to you.*

Mullis Faye - September 10, 2021 at 09:28 AM

DB

“ *As a first-grader, I recall visiting the Martin's Grocery on Allen's Memorial Drive in Hardwick, where my family shopped weekly. Brothers Bill and Emory operated the retail store. I remember Buddy as a friendly and energetic boy who was popular at school and highly successful at work. In fact, I was told that following his college career, Kroger wanted to retain him as they recognized his strong leadership qualities.*



Yet, Buddy returned to Milledgeville and worked with his dad. Upon his father's death, he moved up the road to launch his own IGA grocery, where he served the local community for many years. When I learned that his store sold frozen corn processed by the Mennonites, I dropped by and bought some and returned to my home in Tennessee to enjoy it. And of course, my mother was proud of the fact that Buddy married a girl from Cochran (since she, too, was a product of that area).

To his surviving wife and children, I offer my sincere prayers that the grace of God will sustain all in this time of grief. Please know that Buddy's life was a bright light that shined in darkness and made the way much better for many persons. Sincerely, The Rev. Dr. Charles W. Brown (aka as CW).

Dr. Charles W. Brown - September 10, 2021 at 09:07 AM

KB

“ *Suzanne, Mike, and family sorry for your loss. Mr. Buddy was a good guy. He will be missed. You all are in our thoughts and prayers.* ”

Karen and Kenny Babb - September 09, 2021 at 06:06 PM

JH

“ *I'm so very sorry for your loss. I worked at IGA in high school and Mr. Martin was so nice and he was so well respected by all his employees and customers.* ”

Jennifer Herring - September 09, 2021 at 05:12 PM

EC

“ *We are so sorry to hear about Buddy. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of you during this difficult time in your lives. Steve and Elaine Carnes* ”



Elaine C. Carnes - September 09, 2021 at 04:42 PM

CS

“ *Mr. Buddy Martin gave me and many others in our community my first job at Martin's IGA. He will always hold a special place in my heart. Rest in peace Mr. Buddy.* ”



Cindy Brooks Snow - September 09, 2021 at 03:47 PM

JP

“ We are in prayer for all of you. Mrs. Barbara, I have so many memories of you and Buddy from when I was growing up. I know he loved you, Michael, and Suzanne with his whole heart.

I appreciate so much the help he gave to my family by allowing me to work at the store at a young age, That money helped out in more ways than I have ever talked about publicly. He was not one to make public what he was doing, but even at that age, I knew it. I remember how caring he was when I injured myself pretty seriously while at work, and how he made sure I was taken care of.

I mentioned to Michael this morning that as a young man, I didn't always understand why he did what he did; age has allowed me to gain some insight and appreciation of his heart. He helped shape me into the man I am today. Thank you, Buddy, for everything you did for me and my family.

Sending all of our love to all of you.

Joe Pearce - September 09, 2021 at 02:54 PM

WE

“ Wendi Elliott lit a candle in memory of Buddy Martin



Wendi Elliott - September 09, 2021 at 02:19 PM