

Larry Dean Martin

October 1, 1948 - December 12, 2020

On December 12th, 2020, Larry Dean Martin passed away at Freeman West Hospital, from complications of COVID-19.

He was born on October 1st, 1948. The eighth child of Ernest and Naomi Martin in Joplin, MO. Larry graduated from Joplin High School in 1966.



He honorably served his Country in the United States Army from May 1967, where he was in active duty for two years earning the coveted Expert Sharpshooter; fighting the war against terrorism. He served eight years in the Army Reserves. He was honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant on May 19th, 1977.

Larry owned and operated Martin Drywall, Inc. in Oklahoma City, OK, for 25 years. He returned to Joplin, MO, in July 2004. The last eight years he had resided at Spring River Christian Village Assisted Living Center.

Larry married Helen Anderson in 1968 and divorced in 1977. To this union, three children were loved. Son, Shannon Rantz and wife, Dena; their children, Kelly, Klayton and Karlee. Daughter, Lori Allen and husband, Mike; their children, Zachary, Brittainy, Eli and Dylan. Daughter, Gindy and husband, John; their children, John and Ethan. Larry was also Papa to five great-grandchildren. Larry was preceded in death by both parents and two brothers, John and Don Martin. He is survived by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, whom he loved with all his heart. His remaining siblings include: Lorraine Copeland, Lloyd Martin and wife, Sandra, Leonard Martin and wife, Evelyn, Louise Carden and husband, Don, Joyce Newman and husband, Cal, Nancy Martin, and Debra Amos and husband, Terry. Numerous nieces and nephews and cousins, whom were special to him.

Larry also had a great friend since they were in the third grade together who was his bonus brother, Larry Stirwalt.

Larry was a member of Church of God, Webb City, MO. He will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved him for his gentle heart, soul and kindness to others.

But above all, he heard our Lord say "Enter in my faithful servant, job well done!", as the angels were greeting him in heaven and as he was made whole again, standing on two strong legs.

Larry has been cremated and his ashes will be buried at the foot of his father's grave at Ozark Memorial Park Cemetery. A private graveside service with full military honors will be held at a later date.

In lieu of customary remembrances, the family requests with gratitude, contributions in Larry's name to Watered Gardens Christian Outreach, 531 Kentucky Ave. Joplin, MO 64801.