



## Elmer "Red" Martin

July 17, 1930 - December 24, 2023

Red grew up at Buckeye Lake, and was a graduate of Hebron HS where he was captain of his teams and Valedictorian. He had a magical childhood growing up near Buckeye Lake. He worked at the Crystal Ball Room where he got to see all the top bands of the day, meet musical greats like Stan Kenton, Tommy Dorsey (even shook hands with Harry James), and where he met his wife, Flouise, of 67 years. He was extremely proud to serve his country in the United States Air Force, where he was stationed in London, England, at Mather Air Force Base, and in California. He loved playing and following golf. He played at most of the very famous golf courses, and his only regret in life was not playing in Scotland. He attended The Ohio State University studying Engineering. He hitch-hiked to school during his first year. A prominent education was always meaningful to him, in which he greatly encouraged his children and grandchildren.

Red was preceded in death by his son, Scott Alan Martin; parents, Albert and Bessie Martin; sisters, Gladys (Danny) Watchinsky, Minnie (Robert) McDonald, Eileen (Gerald) Wilson, Ruth Ellen (William) Eades; and brother, Earl Martin.

Red is survived by his beloved wife, Florence "Flouise" Martin; daughter, Barbara Martin Free; grandchildren, Emily and Keegan Free; and great-grandchild, Neena Free.

He worked for 22 years at Burgess and Niple right after he got out of school, which allowed his family to live in Coronado, California, Peoria, Illinois, and Virginia, near the capitol, but Grove City is where he raised his family. He was an avid Buckeye, proud GCHS Band Booster, member of GCUM Church. He was then promoted to President of Garden State Water Company, where he worked for 3 years before his retirement in 1991.

He loved to travel all over the USA with his young family and later he and Flouise traveled all over the globe, seeing the most fascinating places. Later wintering in Florida and Arizona to enjoy golf and good weather.

He had an amazing 93 years enjoying his two children, even bike riding to Bridgeport, Ohio in 1976 where they would visit grandparents. He was always up for spending time with his family, especially his beloved grandchildren and great granddaughter. He was a very generous man, always sharing the best of everything with his family and friends. He always taught important life lessons and expected honesty and integrity from his children and grandchildren, which was prominent to his character. Red loved to be outdoors, favored exercise, and appreciated the complex sounds of classical and "Big Band" music. In his later years, he developed a deep admiration for country-western music, and listened to stars such as Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, Kris Kristofferson, and Waylon Jennings often. Red will always live on in the family through memories, lessons and his music.

Services will be at Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell Sunday, January 7, 2023. Visitation will be from 1 to 3 PM with a Memorial Service at 3 PM.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 7. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell  
450 West Olentangy Street  
Powell, OH 43065  
(614) 792-1471  
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

## Memorial Service

JAN 7. 3:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell  
450 West Olentangy Street  
Powell, OH 43065  
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# Tribute Wall

BS

“ I was too young to really know Red Martin, but not too young to remember his name and his actions which represented Red's character. My late father, Harold Speelman, worked with Red in the 1960's at Burgess & Niple out on W 5th. Avenue in Marble Cliff OH. From time to time Red and other Burgess engineers and draftsmen would be at our house on Westwood Rd in Clintonville for a Friday night poker game. My father and Red also played on the Burgess & Niple softball team where I have my most distinct memory of Red. While Harold & Red were playing a game at the old Olentangy River Rd (before 315) Big Bear softball fields, my brother and two sisters were on the adjoining field playing our game of softball where unfortunately, I was accidentally hit in the head above my eye with a baseball bat. Naturally, I ran screaming and crying to my dad and to the horror of everyone, blood everywhere. My dad immediately took his shirt off, wrapped it around my head and picked me up running to the car. Without hesitation, Red runs along and tells Harold he will drive our car to the hospital as my dad held me. That was the type of person Red was; no hesitation to help someone in need. Red's obituary speaks of that same person from so many years ago. A full life rich in honesty, integrity and respected by all. Condolences to the Martin family.  
Brian Speelman

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**Brian Speelman** - January 07, 2024 at 05:00 PM

DS

“ Red has been my friend for a long time and wise beyond measure. He will truly be missed and I'll miss all the stories he tells. (all of them good) Red had a smile that would radiate a room. Truly a loving husband, father, grandfather and patriot. He would be out and about and just pop in and stay for a while. Red was always concerned about something. His rewards in eternity will be great. What a true friend.

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**Donald Shepard** - January 04, 2024 at 11:10 AM

RR

“ Red and I have been the best of friends for more than sixty years. Most of that time was at Burgess and Niple. I did not share his skill at golf but we played together many times. One time we were in San Diego both living on Coronado. We had a tee time at Balboa Park, which were hard to come by, I was driving and was late. At that time you had to take a Ferry to SD from Coronado and Red didn't think we could make the 10 o'clock. I raced down Orange Ave. The gate attendant saw us coming pulled it back open and we screeched to a stop on the deck. Red's expression went from panic to a big grin. We had many, many good times over the years. I will miss him, and I am so sorry that Mary and I will not be able to attend the service. Dick and Mary Riethmiller, Pagosa Springs, Colorado

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**richard w riethmiller** - January 03, 2024 at 11:33 AM

BN

“ Is this the Red Martin of York Seniors. He played with the Snrs for many years. Always had a word to add. He was a decent golfer and served on some committees and graded score cards before (technicolgy). Computers took over.

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**bob nevel** - January 02, 2024 at 05:12 PM

CP

“ Dear Mrs. Martin and family, On behalf of our parents Bob and Ellen Griffin, the Griffin “kids” extend our condolences. Mom and Dad enjoyed being your neighbors in their first home in Columbus, and we older kids remember you and Mr. Red as being so kind to us. Mom and Dad enjoyed reconnecting with you after many years. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Bob, Connie, Carol, Dan, and Joe

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**Carol Pierce** - January 02, 2024 at 02:15 PM



“ Garden Accent - "Gone yet not forgotten..." was purchased for the family of Elmer "Red" Martin.



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December 29, 2023 at 03:12 PM

CM

“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,  
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,*

*May your memories of Elmer Martin, give you peace, comfort and strength...*

*Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete.  
I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.*

*My thoughts  
and prayers to the family of ....*

*US Veteran, Elmer Martin, is “A True American Hero” God Bless†*

*† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †*

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**Cheryl J Skinner Tri-State Military Muse** - December 29, 2023 at 07:28 AM