





Austin Winter

June 18, 1943 - February 21, 2013




Charles Austin Winter Charles Austin Winter, 69, of Houston, Texas passed away in Houston on February 18, 2013. Austin was born in Columbus, Georgia, on June 18, 1943, to Charles Coleman Winter and Jimmye (Simmons) Winter. He married the love of his life, Mary Ann Cloud on June 3, 1966 and they had two daughters, Leigh Ann Winter and Amanda Gail Winter. He graduated from Plainview High School, went on to graduate from Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas where he played football. He graduated from Dallas Institute of Funeral Service in 1968. Austin was Sales Representative for Matthews Casket, Member TFDA Sales Club and Past President of Commonwealth Inst. He was honored with Southeast Texas Funeral Directors Association Salesman of the year award in 1995-1996, SETFDA Supplier of the year award in 2005-2006, and Certificate of Recognition from Matthews for 15 years of service in 2012. Austin was a true funeral professional. He was well known and respected in the funeral industry in Texas as a man of integrity and principle. He was always eager to meet new funeral directors and encourage them. Everyone that knew him will miss his humble and genuine spirit and his laugh. It was an honor to know Austin. He enjoyed many hunting trips with friends and family and would always have great stories to tell. He always had a smile on his face and a funny story to tell that made everyone else around him smile and laugh too. Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 47 years, Mary Ann; daughters, Leigh Ann and Amanda Gail; mother, Jimmye Winter; sister, Brenda Gail (Winter)

McLaughlin; and brother, James Coleman Winter. He was preceded in death by his father, Charles Coleman Winter. Services for Austin will be held Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 2:30 p.m. in the Chapel of Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville, Texas. Austin will lie in state on Thursday prior to the service from 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Interment will be on Friday, February 22, 2013, 2:30 p.m., at Garden of Memories Cemetery, in Comanche Texas. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: National Museum of Funeral History, 415 Barren Springs Drive, Houston, Texas 77090-5916 Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at www.shmfh.com


Tribute Wall

JR “  

Juraj Mijo Rozman - October 08, 2023 at 02:52 AM

JR “  *Welcome Home My Beloved Son And Teacher*  *Vječnaja Pamjat* 

Juraj Mijo Rozman - October 04, 2023 at 04:25 PM

 “ *Austin Winter*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM

GR “ *+Where Do I even Begin To Thank You And The Teachers Of Commonwealth?The Lord Be With You And With Your Spirit.The Lord Bless You And Keep You.The Lord Let His Face Shine Upon You And Be Gracious To You.The Lord Lift Up His Countenance To You And Grant You Eternal Rest.The Faith And Trust You Extended To Me Was Priceless.An Amazing President And Teacher.+GOSPA+Pocivaj u Miru.g.michael rozman.*

g.michael rozman - November 02, 2022 at 12:12 PM

JC

“ I am way late, but just learned of your loss. I knew Austin for 40 years from Commonwealth through his sales days. Every visit was welcomed as he always had a smile and a story to share. My thoughts are with his family and my prayers are for your strength and peace.

(Commonwealth '70) and Bastrop Providence Funeral Home

Jimmie Cottle - April 16, 2013 at 05:21 PM

DC

“ Austin had been our sales rep for 20 years. He was with York Southwest in the beginning. He was a good friend and a testimony to his profession and industry; He will be deeply missed.

Diana Carter - February 26, 2013 at 11:02 AM

MH

“ Leigh Ann: I was so sorry to hear of your Dad's death. Please tell your mother and sister that they are also in our thoughts. Mary Ann Harvey, Matt Peebles's Mom.si

Mary Ann Harvey - February 25, 2013 at 11:02 PM

CA

I went to Ranger JR college with Austin. He was a great guy in college and good football player and also friend. Sad to just hear of his passing. Craig Adams. Midland Tx

craig adams - December 18, 2020 at 11:49 AM

JM

“ We were saddened by the news of your loss. I met Austin many years ago through "Billy Watson". We enjoyed many hunting, golfing and misc. adventures. (Too numerous to recount....besides, Austin always said that every time we told them they changed). It was one of my greatest privileges to have known him and share in his friendship. Austin was one of the best. I will always remember his soft spoken demeanor, great sense of humor and gentle nature.....truly a "Gentleman". The world is a lesser place with his passing.

I was not able to attend any of the services. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and the family. Please accept our deepest sympathies. God bless you, and know what a special person Austin was and how many lives he touched.

Jeff Murray

Jeff Murray - February 25, 2013 at 10:03 AM

JC

“ Mary Ann-We heard the news today of Austin's passing. We have been out of the country and are so sorry we could not be there. The last time

Jimmy saw Austin, he gave him a pie you had made for their hunting trip. He did not feel good, but wanted the others to enjoy your pie. So typical-always thinking of others His smile and sense of humor will be missed. God Bless you and the girls. love, Jimmy & Betty Crowder

Jim & Betty Crowder - February 24, 2013 at 08:33 PM

DH

“ So sorry for your loss. My most vivid memory of Austin was during the football season of 1959 we were practicing a trap play I was playing left guard he was playing linebacker. I was supposed to let him come thru the line untouched. He came thru down low and hit me in my left knee. That was the last play for me of the 1959 season. Of course it was no fault of his just the nature of the game. Again sorry for your loss.

Donald Harwood Lubbock, Texas

Donald Harwood - February 24, 2013 at 10:00 AM

DM

“ To Austin's family - My sympathy and prayers go out to you. Austin was a special person and a very important part of our Plainview High School, Class of 1961. He is part of us - we all have an unbreakable bond - he will always be with us in spirit.

Diane Bowser Madison - February 23, 2013 at 08:31 PM

AW

“ There isn't much for me to say that Kelly and Brock haven't already said, which is appropriate since most of my time with Austin was shared with one or both of them.

I will never forget all the great times I spent with uncle Austin dove hunting in Alice, playing shuffleboard at The Spot, at birthday parties, etc. My favorite thing about my time with Austin was listening to him, my dad and Joe Gregg tell stories about their good times and just watching them interact with each other. In the end, that will be the biggest thing I take away from our time together, the value of true life-long friendships. I hope one day I can teach my children the same thing.

I feel blessed to call Austin not just my dad's best friend, but my friend as well. See you on the other side, uncle Austin.

Alan Watson - February 23, 2013 at 12:38 AM

KW

“ Like Brock, I too knew Austin every day of my life. Leigh Ann and I were born merely hours apart, in the same hospital, and that began an extension of my family that will last forever. Most of the time that I got to spend with Uncle Austin through my childhood was magical. His spirit was genuine and true to what I had imagined a Texas hero to be. I would sit and listen to the old stories and dream of amazing bird hunts, funny pranks and friendships that would last a lifetime. Going to Austin's home was a treat in itself. To see the mounted animals and cowboy art, then to go see what strange animals he had in the back yard, was planting a seed in me to go and do all of those same things in my life. As I got older and was allowed to go on my first hunts with him, Joe Gregg and my father Billy, he always had advice on where to set up, what to look and listen for, and a never ending supply of home style humor; equal to any comedian. I look up to them all so much and wish I could have spent a thousand more days with Austin. One day we will, Uncle.

Kelly Watson - February 21, 2013 at 07:06 PM

CW

“ Your family is in our thoughts and prayers as Austin was a true gentleman. His passion for funeral service always showed when visiting with him. He will be truly missed by those of us whose lives he touched over the years. May God Bless and Keep You.

Charlotte Chism Waldrum - February 21, 2013 at 02:10 PM

LH

“ Austin was a wonderful man. He always was interested in you more than himself. I will always remember the fact that he made a special visit when my husband died and I really appreciated that because he was not feeling well at the time. My prayers are with the family.

Linda Nolte, Sterling Funeral Home - February 21, 2013 at 01:50 PM

RL

“ Dear Leigh Ann and family, my thoughts and prayers are with all of you. I am sorry for your loss and wish I was there to give my condolences in person.

Rose Lopez - February 21, 2013 at 11:31 AM

SG

“ My room mate(from TSU) and I were talking about these sad things. We realized that everything we said was with a smile or laugh. Rest In Peace Austin, you were a joy to know.

*Team Mates
303
Roger Smith
Sherrell Grubbs*

Sherrell Grubbs - February 21, 2013 at 10:59 AM

PK

“ I'm so sorry for your loss & pain. Please take comfort in knowing that there are tons of thoughts & prayers going out for all of you. I get the impression that Austin touched & made a difference in many lives and will be truly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you also.

Paula Kunkel - February 20, 2013 at 10:48 PM

GJ

*“ Mary Ann, we are very saddened for the loss of Austin,he was always so kind to us over the years. Austin always had a smile on his face and always had something interesting to tell. Pauletta always enjoyed his stories about his beloved Puppies and their races,he always loved to see our English Bull Dogs that come to work with us each day. We were very blessed to have known such a wonderful Man. Thank you Mary Ann for sharing him with all of us in this profession. May God be with you and your Family.Very Truly,
Gregory O. Jeter Jeter Funeral Home. Friendswood, Texas.*

Gregory O. Jeter - February 20, 2013 at 09:37 PM

LK

“ We are sorry for your loss. If we can help let us know. We have you in our prayers.

Larry and Carolyn Kunkel - February 20, 2013 at 08:58 PM

GH

“ Austin,as many have said, was a true, dedicated, passionate friend to Texas funeral directors. He helped shape the lives of so many funeral directors, both young and old. Austin will live on for generations as his passion for life and the funeral industry lives on in all those who were so lucky to have known and learned from such a true friend and teacher.

Grant & JoAnn Holt - February 20, 2013 at 07:40 PM

BS

“ Dear Family; I am sadden to hear about Austin. We go way back to Mortuary School in Dallas and a group called the "combine". I always enjoyed visiting with Austin and catching up on news around Texas and former classmates.

We all know deep down in our souls that our time will come when God wants us, not when we want to go. Always remember, that Life is hard to understanding and accept and death is even harder. The days to come will be lonely for each of you, individually and as a family. But when you get lonely ask yourself this question; If you went into a garden of roses to pick one rose, which one would you pick?

Know that God's promise is always true and that one day you will all be together again.

Bob Stokes

Bob Stokes - February 20, 2013 at 05:30 PM

MT

“ On behalf of myself and my dad, Bill Thompson we are deeply sorry for your loss. Austin has been calling on us in Southeast Texas for over 30 years. He truly loved the industry and was always glad to see his friends. he will be truly missed, he was one of a kind.

Matt Thompson and Bill Thompson

Matt Thompson - February 20, 2013 at 04:00 PM

AH

“ A true gentle giant, Austin was always kind, professional and willing to assist wherever needed! We will miss his big smile and warm heart. Via Con Dios, my friend!

Allen Hayes/Hayes Funeral Home - February 20, 2013 at 02:42 PM

JH

“ *Austin was a wonderful man and a great friend. He cared more about you and how things were going than any other sales rep. I knew. He will be deeply missed.*

Joshua McManigal Addison Funeral Home - February 20, 2013 at 02:40 PM

BD

“ *MARY ANN & GIRLS I AM SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. MY PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU IN THIS TIME OF SORROW.
BETTY*

BETTY DEBUSK - February 20, 2013 at 02:38 PM

MD

“ *Mary Ann, Amanda, Leigh Anne you are in our prayers. Take care of each other. Mike and I are here if you ever need any thing. Love to you all.*

Mike & Kay

Mike & Kay Dunn - February 20, 2013 at 01:52 PM

DW

“ *Mary Ann and girls,
In life, we are blessed to meet just a few people
who profoundly impact our lives. Austin was one of those people. In
a friendship of almost 40 years, we have shared many memorable
moments. Positive uplifting humor was his calling card.
We shared many common interest and had many long
conversations about every thing including, but
limited to family, dogs, hunting, golf, mutual
friends and retirement. In our last conversation we were trying to
determine how we could get someone to pay us to go fishing. His
visits truly
"made my day". I'll carry his memory always.*

My thoughts and prayers are with you.

*Donny Wood, Simi-Retired
Phillips & Luckey Caldwell*

Donny Wood - February 20, 2013 at 01:13 PM

JL

“ *What a loss to you Mary Ann and your family. The loss to funeral
service is also great. Austin was one of a kind and the mold was
broken. He served all of us for so many years and did it because he
loved funeral service and his many, many friends. May God put his
arms around you and be with you in these hours and days ahead.
Your friend, Jim Lucas*

Jim Lucas - February 20, 2013 at 10:32 AM

BH

“ *Mary Ann and family: Our hearts go out to you at this time and our prayers are with you.*

Austin was not a mere salesperson to us, he was part of our family. Throughout the years he has made a huge impact in the funeral industry.

I can truly say he is one of the most genuine, honest gentlemen I have ever met. Austin was a man of integrity and trust. In the 18 years I have known Austin, I never saw him without a smile on his face and a funny story to tell that made everyone else around him smile and laugh too.

My husband Roger and I have had the pleasure of dove hunting with Austin in the past 10 years and it was always a great time, whether there were doves in the field or not. His humorous stories always kept us amused and laughing. We will miss those hunts.

Our prayers are with Mary Ann and family. You will be deeply missed Austin. Rest in peace my friend.

Belinda Honea-Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - February 20, 2013 at 10:05 AM

RB

“ *May God Bless you, the Family of Austin. So many of us will miss him as you do. May the Holy Spirit give you comfort at this time and future days. Robby and Betty Bates*

Robby and Betty Bates - February 20, 2013 at 08:41 AM

RB

“ I am so sorry to learn of Austin's death. He was a true funeral director, educator, resourceful salesperson, and he deeply cared for his friends in funeral service. He was always open to meet new and young funeral directors and to encourage them. TFDA meant alot to him and he supported the state association in its endeavors through the years. SE Texas FDA was his love also and all the members there. Austin will be remembered by all of us as a true Texas funeral service icon.

God Bless you all, family, funeral and sales professionals! Robby Bates, Past President TFDA 2002-03

Robby Bates - February 20, 2013 at 08:34 AM

“ Dear family,

Uncle Austin was with me from birth and will be with me til the end. I deeply regret that i could not make it for his funeral. Without giving a long speech, i would just say this: for 46 years, Uncle Austin has been all these things to me, a cautionary tale, a hero of living life for the sake of living, an artist of humor and not taking ones self seriously, and most importantly an inspiration of how any person can rise above their humanity by sheer will power and become a positive example for the rest of us. I wish i could be there to share what he has meant to my life, so people could understand how one man can affect a whole family and beyond. In short, his transformation based on just sheer want to, from one type of person to another, is what i go to when i feel that i have not the willpower to face my greatest challenges. This to me is remarkable, and has been in my daily thoughts for a long, long time. There are few individuals whom i have ever known or even heard of with that kind of willpower, and i often relate that to my own children and strive to emulate his example, regardless of the issue. His lesson is that perserverence and fortitude can overcome common beliefs, peer pressure and every other kind of pressure if you believe hard enough. My children and probably most people of their generation cannot understand what i am talking about, because they don't know the details of his life, or what life was like in his decades of living in America. I will always feel that it is up to us in my generation, who do understand the difficulties associated with Uncle Austin's time to pass along those realities and values to our progeny. I am lucky that the last time i spent time with him was out in the field, hunting birds with the man who taught me how to actually hit the birds and not just shoot at them. We were sitting on the edge of the field and he actually missed a few before i realized that finally at his advanced age, he really could not see them anymore. This from a man that never missed a shot in my youth, and i told my own children to watch if they wanted to know how to hunt. I told him how much his story and what he did with his life really meant to me and how his transformation gave me the strength

to not only accomplish my own life's mission, but also to make sure that no matter my faults, that my children could have an example of overcoming life's difficulties, and a model of how to succeed. Of course, he demurred and self-deprecated in the face of such compliments, but i believe that in his heart, he understood and appreciated his very positive effects on my life. That is the way i will remember Uncle Austin, sitting on that five gallon bucket of his, pointing out the way the dove will fly according the weather of that particular day, but knowing in his heart that he represented the good part of life and he had a positive effect on the folks that really matter. The beautiful people, as he called them.

Brock Gregg - February 19, 2013 at 11:53 PM

SF

“ *Austin will truly be missed by all of us in the Industry. We had some great times during school (Commonwealth Class of 1974) and on the golf courses. Our thoughts and prayers will be with his family. Rest in Peace dear friend..Steve Fairchild, Midlothian Texas*

Steve Fairchild - February 19, 2013 at 10:40 PM

JM

“ *Austin was my longtime friend. I will miss him. Mary Ann our prayers are with you, the girls and family.*

Jerry Miller - February 19, 2013 at 08:36 PM

TY

“ *Austin was so gracious and had a true warmth of spirit. His laugh and smile will be missed.*

Tyra - February 19, 2013 at 07:47 PM

GH

“ Austin was more than just a salesman, he was our friend. He will be missed by everyone in the funeral industry. Our Funeral Home staff is deeply sorry for your loss.

Gary Harris / Cochran Funeral Home - February 19, 2013 at 05:08 PM

EK

“ Austin was a special person. We go back many years together in the TX Funeral Supply Sales Club and he was a fine gentleman in the truest sense. My prayers are with the family. Ed Kuny

Ed Kuny - February 19, 2013 at 04:35 PM

RM

“ My prayers and condolences go out to Austin's family. He will be missed by many.

Robyn Ming - February 19, 2013 at 04:33 PM

CT

“ Such a big loss! Austin was such a great guy. We will truly miss him calling on us. He had us laughing everytime he was here. We will always remember him as such a bright and uplifting member of our profession, but even more so as a good friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Cyndi Hoots, and the staff at Schmidt Funeral Home in Katy, Texas - February 19, 2013 at 03:41 PM

JT

“ Our industry has truly suffered a great loss in the passing of Austin. At last the back and neorapathy pain have ended for this special man. We shared these debilitating struggles together for many years and discussed them at length. It was always a special treat when Austin came to the funeral home. He was the only person that I would stop everything that I was doing to visit with and hated it when it was time for him to leave. What an amazing person! Although he represented a company that provides quality merchandise, it was because of his ethical standards and personal friendship that I purchased from him. I'm afraid that we will never again be so fortunate as to have such a wonderful person as Austin in our brotherhood. My thoughts and prayers to his wife and daughters. You have no idea the mark that this man left in our industry and how very thankful we are to you for sharing him with us. Rest in peace my friend. I will see you on the other side.

Jimmy Hardin/ Hardin Family Funeral Home, Houston, Texas - February 19, 2013 at 02:04 PM

RH

“ I will miss Austin coming by the funeral home. He took care of business in the first 5 minutes, and then would sit in the office and visit. He has showed up when we would have a service starting. He has even joined in and given us a hand. He always had interesting stories to share. He was a great inspiration to me while attending Commonwealth. He apologized over and over that he could not make my graduation. He is already missed in what is a close knit industry.

Ron White Addison Funeral Home - February 19, 2013 at 01:07 PM

JW

“ My prayers and condolences go out to Austin's family. He was a dear sweet man and will be missed by many.

Jerri Woolls - February 19, 2013 at 12:49 PM

MN

“ Austin will be greatly missed. I always enjoyed our time together when he came to call. He was a great guy and never failed to help anyone he could. My thoughts and prayers are with Austin's family. May he rest in peace.

Michelle Massey Nowak - February 19, 2013 at 12:47 PM

ME

“ I have many great memories traveling, working at York Southwest, and hunting with Austin. He was a great friend to everyone he met.

Max Eddings - February 19, 2013 at 12:16 PM

KH

“ Deepest condolences to the family. Class of 71.

Kim Cockerham/Bellmead Funeral Home - February 19, 2013 at 11:35 AM

JM

“ Autin was not only our casket sale representative, he was a very dear friend to us. He was there for us through good times and bad times. We will cherish the friendship that we shared with him forever in our hearts. I'll sure miss his voice and laugh.

*Jennifer McCauley Lewis and Barbara J. McCauley
McCauley Funeral Home, Inc.*

Jennifer Lewis and Barbara McCauley - February 19, 2013 at 11:17 AM

SM

“ We are very sadden at the new of Austin. He was such a great man and a joy to be around. I can remember when going to Dallas Institute, Austin made that long drive with us to enroll me there. He will be so missed here in Franklin and everywhere he made his presence. We loved Austin and now he in a much better place. God Bless each and every one of your family. We certainly will be praying on your behalf. Love Steven, Michelle, Gracie, Cody, Allie & Camie McCauley McCauley Funeral Home Inc. Franklin, Tx

Steven C.& Michelle McCauley - February 19, 2013 at 11:07 AM

BT

“ My condolences to Mary Ann and the family. Austin was a great guy and a great teammate at TSU.

Brent Taylor - February 19, 2013 at 10:44 AM

MA

“ Dear Mary Ann I know Austin is safe in the arms of our Lord. We talked many times about faith. He will be dearly missed by everyone that knew him. He was the only salesman I looked forward to stopping by. You and your daughters will be in our prayers.

mary appling - February 19, 2013 at 10:38 AM

TB

“ My condolences to Mary Ann and family. Austin was a great teammate and friend. I have many fond memories during our time at TSU. I will miss him greatly.

Tommy Boyd - February 19, 2013 at 10:28 AM

MS

“ Austin the pleasure has been all mine...

Malinda Sweeten - February 19, 2013 at 10:24 AM

EG

“ *Austin will be sorely missed. I enjoyed working with him these past 10 years. I will miss his phone calls and his wonderful spirit.* ”

Ellen Gildea - February 19, 2013 at 10:16 AM

BM

“ *My deepest sympathies to you and your family. Austin was a good friend from our Jr. College days at Ranger.* ”

Betty McDougal - February 19, 2013 at 10:16 AM

CU

“ *We will miss Austin at the dove hunts. He was always a pleasure to have in our home. Our condolences to your family.* ”

Chico and Rochie Underwood - February 19, 2013 at 10:02 AM

JB

“ *Words cannot begin to express my sorrow. Austin was a great friend, passionate business man and his kind heart brought warmth to everyone he touched. If there's anything I can do, please ask.* ”

Jim Benard - February 19, 2013 at 09:59 AM

BN

“ *I am so very sorry for your loss. Austin was a wonderful man. He always knew how to brighten someone's day. I am lucky to have had a chance to know him.* ”

Brian Necciai - February 19, 2013 at 09:45 AM

SF

“ WE GO WAY BACK AND HAD LOTS OF FUN. MY
CONDOLENCES TO YOU MARY ANN AND THE GIRLS.
IF YOU NEED ANYTHING AT ALL JUST LET ME KNOW.

SUZY FREEMAN - February 19, 2013 at 09:39 AM

KH

“ *Austin was a great guy and will be missed dearly.*

Kevin Young/Clayton Thompson Funeral Home - February 19, 2013 at 09:17 AM

JF

“ *Austin was always a fun guy to be around. He always had a smile
for everyone. I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers.*

Jim Flippen - February 19, 2013 at 08:38 AM

JM

“ *Austin was a great guy. We had many good times together. My
condolences.*

J Mitchell - February 18, 2013 at 09:52 PM

WF

“ *I am Deeply Sorry for your loss. Austin was a great man friend and
co-worker my heart goes out to you and your family. If there is
anything you need at anytime please call*

William (Billy) Flick - February 18, 2013 at 05:14 PM