



Samuel Martinez

February 8, 1933 - September 27, 2018

Samuel Martinez was the 3rd son of 6 children born to Jose & Zenobia Martinez of Huntsville Texas. He passed away peacefully at his home at 11:15pm on Thursday night. Samuel was born in the sawmill quarters at Boettcher's mill on February 8th, 1933. After graduating from Huntsville High School in 1953. He attended Sam Houston State University and at the end of the first semester he was drafted into the United States Army serving 17 months and 14 days in Germany. During his last few weeks of service he and some friends went to France and England to site see and what a site he found. It was a beautiful Irish girl named Marie at a train station that he walked up to and introduced himself as her future husband. Three weeks later he returned home and wrote back to her for a year before sending a one way ticket to Texas. They married on April 14th, 1957 at First Baptist Church in Huntsville Texas bearing four children. Sam was an athlete at Huntsville High in both track and football and grew up around the saw mill working summers at the mill for his dad and hauling hay and ice. His father went blind with cataracts when he was young so at age 12 he delivered ice on a route with his brothers before school to help make ends meet. After returning from the army Sam and his brother Joe went into business in Huntsville selling tires, service, and gas. They dabbled in circle track racing during the 1950's and 60's and later on ran the concession business at the old Huntsville race track. Shortly thereafter he went to work at Sam Houston State University in the "Garbology" department as he liked to put it. He also ran a shipping business as a short

haul carrier Railway Express. In 1970 he and his younger brother Manual partnered in a restaurant business in Groveton Texas called Casa Martinez Restaurant making the 3rd of three restaurants to have the family name. While in Groveton he was asked to be the acting Mayor pro tem and was featured on the front page making the first transatlantic call to London England from Groveton. He called his mother in-law on that call which once again proved his devotion to family. The restaurant business was tough and the building was sold and he returned to Huntsville in 1974 to begin his career with Texas Department of Criminal justice. He was on the job less than 6 months when the Carrasco siege happened and was promoted to Sargent during this time. A few years later in 1976 he was promoted to Captain and moved his family to the Goree unit in Huntsville. Sam retired from the Texas Department of Criminal justice and both he and his wife enjoyed life beyond measure as volunteers with St. Thomas the apostle Catholic church, the HEARTS Veteran's museum, and catering various fundraisers for anyone ever in need. A life of service and a reputation for honesty and integrity are things he will always be remembered for by his family and friends. He was totally devoted to his family and visited his father and mother each morning before going to work while they were alive. He loved telling stories of his time in the military and different stunts he pulled as a young man. Many people came to him for advice because he thought clearly and would always tell you the truth if you were willing to listen. The value of his knowledge and kind spirit lives on with his memory.

Sam is preceded in death by his parents and five siblings as well as his daughter Cheril who passed away in 2014. He is survived by his wife Marie of 61 years and three children, Steven Martinez of Seattle Washington and partner Dale Gideon, Pamela and Bruce Baggett of Huntsville, & Don & Deborah Martinez of Huntsville with grandchildren Seth Lewis, Brandon Martinez, Jantz Martinez, Zane Baggett, Brys Baggett, Lexus Baggett, Forbes Baggett, and Byrne Baggett. He and Marie have five great grandchildren with extended family of nieces, nephews, and cousins stretching across the globe

from The United States, Mexico, and the United Kingdom.

We wish to extend a special thank you to each person who called and came by to visit dad the last few years. His smile, stories, funny faces, and humor will be greatly missed by all that truly knew him.

Funeral services will be at 2:00pm Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home. Visitation will be Tuesday October 2, 2018 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Interment will be at Brooke Cemetery, Huntsville, Texas.

Cemetery Details

Brooke Cemetery

672 FM 980
Huntsville, TX 77320

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 2. 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-7300
belinda@shmfmh.com

Funeral Service

OCT 3. 2:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-7300
belinda@shmfmh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Samuel Martinez*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Samuel Martinez.*



October 03, 2018 at 08:43 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Samuel Martinez.*



October 03, 2018 at 06:14 AM



“ *I always loved sharing stories with Sam . Going to be missed. Sending hugs and prayers for y'all love. Michael and Teresa Lawson.*



Teresa Lawson - October 02, 2018 at 11:18 PM

CC

“ Carolina Creek Christian Camps purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Samuel Martinez.



Carolina Creek Christian Camps - October 01, 2018 at 10:45 AM

JJ

“ Marie, Art would join me in prayer for you and your family. Sam was much loved by many.

Jeannine Jacoby - October 01, 2018 at 09:14 AM


Charlotte Efird

“ Charlotte Efird lit a candle in memory of Samuel Martinez



Charlotte Efird - September 30, 2018 at 04:00 PM

JJ

“ Jimmy M. Jones lit a candle in memory of Samuel Martinez



Jimmy M. Jones - September 30, 2018 at 03:11 PM

TM

“ *The David Martinez Family, Linda, Esther Raquel & Mike purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Samuel Martinez.*



The David Martinez Family, Linda, Esther Raquel & Mike -
September 30, 2018 at 02:14 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Samuel Martinez.*



September 30, 2018 at 09:54 AM

MH

“ *M. Hyvl lit a candle in memory of Samuel Martinez*



M. Hyvl - September 30, 2018 at 12:50 AM

JM

“ *Huntsville and HEARTS has lost someone! The dedication and service given to others has been an example for the rest of us. I am so sorry to learn of Mr. Sam's death and pray God will give you strength and comfort.*

So sorry I am unable to attend his service, but I will be with you in spirit. (I will always associate you and homemade cookies for soldiers far away!)

Janet McMillan - September 29, 2018 at 11:13 PM



“ *I’m so sorry to hear of your loss. He will be greatly missed. Prayed for your family.* ”



Mellicent Wiley - September 28, 2018 at 09:31 PM

SC

“ *Shana And Bill Cross lit a candle in memory of Samuel Martinez* ”



Shana and Bill Cross - September 28, 2018 at 07:53 PM

CB

“ *Carolyn G Baker lit a candle in memory of Samuel Martinez* ”



Carolyn G Baker - September 28, 2018 at 07:30 PM

DP

“ *Marie, Steven, Pam, Don and family’s,
We are so sorry for the loss of Sam.
His smile and kindness will be greatly missed.
The Knights of Columbus will most definitely miss Sam... he was a great cook.
We are sending loving thoughts and prayers to you all.* ”



Don & Penny - September 28, 2018 at 07:21 PM

MG

“ Steve, Pam, Don and families, Larry and I are so sorry for the loss of your dad. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. Much love to you all.



Martha Grisham - September 28, 2018 at 06:52 PM

PH

Gary McClain, my brother, became good friends with Sam, Marie, and Pam when they had the restaurant in Groveton. I'm sure the two of them are in Heaven reliving times in Groveton.
Peggy Haggard

Peggy Haggard - September 28, 2018 at 07:33 PM

SB

I remember Sam from the years I worked with his brother, Moses, in the 1950s. It was thru Moses that I learned of Sam's life, what a loving person he was. My prayers are for the family at this time.

Sara Barteo - September 29, 2018 at 12:41 AM

MS

While Goree was still a Women's TDC Unit in the late 1970's, Captain Martinez brought his whole family to live in employee housing. He and Mrs. Marie were nearly the same age as my parents, Mrs. Marie strongly resembled my Mother, and their children were the same ages as my brothers and sisters, whom I had left behind in Pennsylvania. At the same time, his parents became my landlords--and they took me under their wing as though I was family. Add to that, I would frequently see them in Church, and Mrs. Marie in the SHSU Library (I was a library bum!). Captain Martinez, as Chief Steward at Goree, would always see to it that 800 Inmates and more than 100 hungry Correctional Officers and Staff Members were fed three times a day, 24/7, 365. At each pre-shift meal, he would come out to the staff dining room and visit with all of us, making the next eight hour shift (although we all loved working there), a lot easier to face, and a little more bearable. God love you, Captain Martinez, God Bless You, and may you Rest in Peace. Marcia A. (Marcy) Steinour

Marcia A. Steinour - September 30, 2018 at 10:02 PM

LE

Sending you all my prayers at this very sad time, although we have never met ,family is a strong bond, reading all theses messages your Dad was loved by all who met him, what wonderful memories you will me able to think back on.

*Love and best wishes to you and all your family
Lorraine, Ian & family*

lorraine evans - October 03, 2018 at 12:40 AM