



## Kenneth Mark Martin

August 17, 1939 - July 20, 2017

Kenneth M Martin, Captain US Navy, died 20 July 2017. Born 17 August 1939 and raised as a son of Texas to Stanley and Myrtle Martin. Captain Martin now stands watch over his wife, Rachelle of Spring Lake NC, and children, Kara Martin and Kelly Melanson of Virginia Beach, Va, and their mother Joy. He also leaves his adored grandchildren, Kaylie and Emma, his sister Jan and brother Jay and four loving nieces, as well as a family dynasty in Carrizo Springs, Texas headed by his honored uncle, Wallace Martin. His service is being arranged with military honors at the Arlington National Cemetery in Washington DC. Captain Martin was commissioned in Oct 1964 and won his wings as a Naval Flight Officer in Oct 1965. He served with distinction during 12 separate tours including AntiSubmarine and Composite squadrons, Recruiting Command Flag staff and various Recruiting Districts and Areas. Over his career he was the Commanding Officer at the US Naval Facility Antigua, West Indies, Fleet Composite Squadron SIX, NAS Norfolk, Navy Recruiting District

New Jersey, Navy

Recruiting District Detroit, Inspector General for the Recruiting Command, and Commodore of

Recruiting Area EIGHT. Captain Martin was awarded four Meritorious Service Medals, two

Navy Commendation Medals, two Navy Achievement Medals, and four Meritorious Unit

Commendations.

Ken was an outsized personality that immediately attracted the friendship of all that he met. His

constant smile and outlandish tales (some of which were true) entertained a widely diverse

group of friends that ranged from British Colonial personnel, cowboys, girls of all ages and sizes

and even President Bill Clinton. Never for a loss of words, always encouraging the very best

from those who worked for him and/or loved him, Ken would have been a record holder of the

number of Facebook friends had he not despaired the medium and saved its use for only his family and very closest of friends. His kindness, genuineness and manifest humor will continue

to live beyond his passing, enriching all who had the great good fortune to know him.

In lieu of flowers, his wish was that a donation in his name be made to the Wounded Warrior

Family Support organization at [www.wwfs.org](http://www.wwfs.org).

# Tribute Wall

KU

“ He was my first "Skipper" after joining the Navy at VC 6. A great leader and wonderful man. I served under him in his Admin Department as one of his Yeoman. I will cherish my memories of him always. RIP Skipper. ❤️

Kelly Harrell, retired U.S.Navy - March 09, 2018 at 09:51 PM

KE

“ dad, 5 months have almost gone by and i miss you so much everyday. i love you to the moon and back.

kelly - December 18, 2017 at 11:26 PM



“ I miss you so much. <3

kara martin - August 06, 2017 at 12:15 AM



“ Kara Martin lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Mark Martin



kara martin - August 05, 2017 at 10:30 PM



“ I am so sad to come home from a short vacation trip to read that one of my running buddy's in high school has left us. My condolences to the Martin family.

*Jerry Wilson*

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**Jerry Wilson** - August 02, 2017 at 05:15 PM



“ *Claire Morrison was added to the Family Tree.*

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**Kaylie Melanson** - July 29, 2017 at 12:53 AM



“ *Travis Morrison was added to the Family Tree.*

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**Kaylie Melanson** - July 29, 2017 at 12:52 AM



“ *Jack Morrison was added to the Family Tree.*

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**Kaylie Melanson** - July 29, 2017 at 12:52 AM



“ The last time I saw my Grandpa, it was around Christmas time. Him, myself, my sister, my mom, and Grandma all went to 3 Amigos to have Mexican for dinner. He knew I liked driving his cars, so he let me drive his new Audi. It was just us. He asked me what I wanted to do after college, and I told him I wanted to go to PA school, but in order to do that I was going to take a year off so that I could get enough medical volunteer hours in to apply. I swear when he heard "gap year" he just about had a heart attack. You should have seen the look on his face. However, deep down he knew I loved college and how much my education meant to me. You also should have seen the look on his face at dinner when he saw my newest tattoo. I should also probably mention that the time before this when I saw him at his house in New Bern, he sat me down to have a "serious talk" about how my tattoos are going to possibly classify me as a "trouble maker" and I won't be able to get a job. I loved hearing the "serious talks" from him because he always said them with a smile and then would slide me some cash and always reminded me, "You're a good kid, Kiddo. I love ya to death".

Every time my sister and I would go to New Bern to visit, him and Rachelle always had plans for us. Whether it was go to the beach, go kayaking, tennis lessons, shopping, go to the exchange, get some ice cream, or go swimming, a Thanksgiving Turkey Trot 5K, an Easter lunch, a "cheat day" at Dairy Queen, or a visit to downtown New Bern to see some museums, the day always ended with amazing memories and a smile...followed by some dessert and a movie. He would always drive us around and play The Eagles and say, "who's the best band in the world???" and Emma and I would say "THE EAGLES!!!" because 1. He would keep telling us they were the best until we gave in and 2. They do truly have great music. Then he would tell us we just had to go along with it and when we got our own cars we could play our own music, but in his car we had to listen to his. Little does he know that in my own car I DO listen to The Eagles pretty often.

When I got my first car, he always said, "Drive like I am in the back

*seat". Needless to say, after totaling my first car and getting into a few mini accidents, I have now learned that I should have listened to him. Grandpa always knew best, and he still does because I can hear his voice repeating all of these things in my head. When I bought my second car, I got a Jeep Cherokee. He really tried his best to convince me to get a Mazda, but I wouldn't budge. He co-signed a loan with me so that I could do my first adult thing ever. I wouldn't have a new car, straight teeth, a sense of humor, a passionate sense of love for those around me, and amazing memories if it weren't for him. I think about him every day, but I know he's watching us from Heaven and that makes me happy. I miss you Gramps. <3*

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**Kaylie Melanson** - July 29, 2017 at 12:50 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**kara martin** - July 28, 2017 at 08:03 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Military Memories*



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**kara martin** - July 28, 2017 at 08:00 PM

JK

“ Condolences to Rachelle and the entire family. I am saddened by this news. Sharing a memory: In 1999 I was standing on my vacant lot that I just purchased at Taberna Country Club in New Bern, NC and along came Ken walking down the street. He stopped and we introduced our selves. He had just recently purchased at lot here. We then realized that he was the first person I met and I was the first person he met here in Taberna. He being from Texas, me from New Jersey, we chatted for a while. We became friends and played some golf. Will miss you.  
Joe Kelly

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**Joseph Kelly** - July 26, 2017 at 09:44 PM

AS

“ Ken was such a great friend to many, and he will be missed. How fortunate I am to be able to share fun times with him in high school and college years. I pray for his family as they grieve the loss of his smile, his wit, his presence. Rest in peace, Ken.



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**Anne Herdman Sundquist** - July 26, 2017 at 05:54 PM

KM

“ Kelly Melanson lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Mark Martin



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**Kelly Melanson** - July 26, 2017 at 04:28 PM

JT

“ we are so sorry for your loss. We have found memories of our time spent with you and Ken. Jack & Jean Trabucco

Jean Trabucco - July 26, 2017 at 07:23 AM

Laura Day

“ Laura Day lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Mark Martin



Laura Day - July 26, 2017 at 06:16 AM

AB

“ Alyssa Brown lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Mark Martin



Alyssa Brown - July 25, 2017 at 05:46 PM

JK

“ John Kiny lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Mark Martin



John Kiny - July 25, 2017 at 03:53 PM

LB

“ *Lisa Berry lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Mark Martin*



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**Lisa Berry** - July 25, 2017 at 05:59 AM

DL

“ *So sorry for your loss. He sounds like a great man! Ray, Debbie and Sabrina*



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**Debbie Leger** - July 25, 2017 at 04:29 AM

EM

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Emma Melanson** - July 25, 2017 at 12:12 AM

EM

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Emma Melanson** - July 25, 2017 at 12:11 AM

EM

“ I miss my grandpas big big hugs. Holding my hand walking around in public and telling me I can accomplish anything I set my mind to and that he would be there every step of the way.

Emma Melanson - July 25, 2017 at 12:09 AM

KM

he always will be

Kelly Melanson - July 26, 2017 at 04:26 PM



He'll always be in that back seat, don't ever forget that! :)

kara martin - July 28, 2017 at 08:04 PM



“ Kara Martin lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Mark Martin



kara martin - July 24, 2017 at 10:52 PM

NM

“ Ken was base commander in Antigua and we all went down to visit. Kara and Kelly were little tots at the time. One evening, we went on base (I think that's where we were). We walked past a group of sailors who were loud and crude. Ken calmly walked over to them and calmly, quietly said, "I have my family with me. Hold it down." And that was the end of it.

Nancy Martin - July 22, 2017 at 09:01 PM

KM

love ❤️

Kelly Melanson - July 26, 2017 at 04:27 PM

NM

“ So Ken was a Navy recruiter in San Antonio. He was in uniform in the U.S. Navy car and, for some reason, coming to Carrizo to see us. On his way through Dilley (a wide spot in the road), he accidentally found himself in the middle of a parade. So he just smiled and waved and acted like he was supposed to be there.

Nancy Martin - July 22, 2017 at 08:54 PM

NM

“ I'll never forget the time they came down to hunt and Kenny ended up in the ER with his face peppered with buckshot. I was a little kid. I think he was a teenager. I remember thinking he looked like Frankenstein. It's a story that we re-told often. It will live on in infamy.

Nancy Martin - July 22, 2017 at 08:29 AM



“ Uncle Ken always called Casey Obringer and I "kiddo" (as I'm sure he has others) so even though we were his nieces that "kiddo" eventually turned into more than just a nickname. Or... let's be honest - there were 6 granddaughters on that side and only 2 were his daughters - he may have just forgot the rest of our names and just went with "kiddo" to keep it easy! Ha! But, seriously - he carried his father's good-natured humor alongside a dry wit from his mother that we all loved yet he was serious and fair when he needed to be. Y'all - he called me out in Grandmom's kitchen once - for real! And frankly I deserved it but he still showed me that he cared about me before, during and after that verbal set-down! (Story to be provided on an as-asked-for, in-person, and we-better-have-seen-each-other-half-naked-in-our-childhood-years-'cause-we-are-family basis!) We're a wacky family - I wouldn't have it any other way - and Uncle Ken helped to lead that charge! Love and hugs to all who were a part of Uncle Ken's world!

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**Wendi Bauer** - July 21, 2017 at 03:35 PM

JA

“ Which memory do I recount? The one where he took me to my college dance. Or, the one where we drove 15 plus hours to Jay and Rita’s wedding and he somehow finagled and finessed the situation so that my turn to drive came in the middle of the night, both ways! How about his warding off guys that he didn’t think should be around me when I was in high school? Or, our disagreements about who mother loved the best, or who had the best memory/recall (me). They are all intertwined together.

So, here’s a story. When he was in high school he did something that mom had told him not to do. Mom and I were in the kitchen getting supper ready when he walked in. Mom starting in on him for whatever the infraction was. I guess she didn’t like his attitude so she grabbed a metal spatula and went after him. Ken ran into the back yard and she followed. I’ll never forget mom standing with the screen door open, holding the spatula, as Ken stood in the backyard with a big grin on his face yelling over and over, “Don’t hit me mother, I promise I won’t do it again.” Mom kept telling him to stop as the neighbors were going to hear him. He grinned from ear to ear while yelling and pleading not to be hit. Mom kept telling him to hush even as a grin started spreading on her face. After a few more minutes we were all laughing.  
He used humor to express his love.  
He made me laugh, he made me feel secure.

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jan alford - July 21, 2017 at 03:10 PM



We love you Mom <3

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Wendi Bauer - July 21, 2017 at 03:36 PM



I'm smiling now just reading this!

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kara martin - July 21, 2017 at 11:50 PM

NM

*He was such a toot!*

Nancy Martin - July 22, 2017 at 08:32 AM

LI

*Love you, Aunt Jan!*

Lindsay - July 24, 2017 at 12:03 PM



“ Jay Martin was added to the Family Tree.

kara martin - July 21, 2017 at 02:46 PM



“ Rachelle Martin was added to the Family Tree.

kara martin - July 21, 2017 at 02:45 PM



“ Joy Frances (cook) Martin was added to the Family Tree.

kara martin - July 21, 2017 at 02:42 PM



“ Joy Cook Martin was added to the Family Tree.

kara martin - July 21, 2017 at 02:37 PM



“ Kelly Martin Melanson was added to the Family Tree.

kara martin - July 21, 2017 at 02:34 PM



“ *Kara Lynn Martin was added to the Family Tree.*

kara martin - July 21, 2017 at 02:20 PM



“ *quote from dad:*

*" Kelly, Kara, Kaylie, Emma Am I Blessed and Lucky - YES!"*

Kelly Melanson - July 21, 2017 at 11:37 AM



*We we blessed right back! I can't imagine any other man other than this guy as our dad.*

kara martin - July 21, 2017 at 02:10 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Kelly Melanson - July 21, 2017 at 10:55 AM



*This was how we rolled in pictures. So silly!*

kara martin - July 21, 2017 at 02:11 PM

RR

“ On 7 June the day after I had major surgery I received this note from Kenny:

*"We are mostly glad you are doing so great - the only thing is that I will have to put up with YOU in the future -someday!*

*Bravo Zulu on the day - navy term - look it up."*

*We exchanged so many good natured barbs over the years. I will miss that greatly...COI (Ret) Robert Redfick*

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**R Reddick** - July 21, 2017 at 10:23 AM

KM

“ *My grandpa would always take my sister and I out to Dairy Queen when we would go out and shop because he wasn't normally allowed to eat their food. He loved icecream. Whenever I would visit him, he always rented the best movies to watch every night! He gave the best hugs and always kissed my forehead.*

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**kaylie melanson** - July 21, 2017 at 09:35 AM



“ I'm a Flight Attendant, but have my own Etsy.com shop on the side where I made custom cross stitches for customers. It's called Hey Clementine, named after the childhood nickname my father had given me.

Anyhow, on my site it says that I will make anything, as long as it isn't racist, homophobic, or just plain hateful. Other than that, I'll pretty much stitch all things. I've made someone the most outrageous things, very comical!

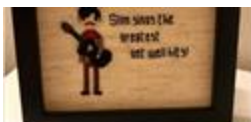
One day my dad had been looking over my Hey Clementine shop Facebook page & said "Geez, kid. What are these people thinking?!" I said I don't ask questions, they pay the money, I stitch the goods.

He said, "He about something wholesome like Slim Whitman? I think I'd like a Slim Whitman!"

So I made him just that, a little Slim! As the note attached under the picture of the finished piece, you can see, he loved it.

I'd stitch 100 more Lil Slims for just one more day!

I love you daddy, to the moon & back!



Thank you, thank you for the Slim - I go to sleep each night knowing he's near I Love You more than you will ever know

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**kara martin** - July 21, 2017 at 09:29 AM



Sorry about the typo, I was typing through tears. "Pretty much stitch all things" not prey.

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**kara martin** - July 21, 2017 at 09:31 AM



*Footnote: The nickname Clementine actually came from my mother. It started with my father who began calling me "Clem" because of my initials, KLM, my mom added the "tine" to it making it a much more lovely nickname for a girl! <3*

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**kara martin** - July 22, 2017 at 07:22 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Family



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**kara martin** - July 21, 2017 at 09:19 AM

KM

“ *I will miss dads voice mails he left me. He always said "Hey!! its your father, call me ok?..ok! " When i did talk to him he would listen to me and then tell me the reasons i was wrong about something and then follow up with his "unwanted advice" to which i would say "ok dad" and he would end the call by telling me how proud he was of me and how I raised his grandchildren and how much he loved me. I would give everything to have him call me with his "unwanted advice" right now.*

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**Kelly Melanson** - July 21, 2017 at 09:07 AM

JE

“ It would be impossible to come up with just one memory. How do you sum up 61+ years of loving and knowing "Kenny?" (We never could call him his adult name.) From taking Nancy and me to the Navy Relief Festival in Corpus so many years ago to our present adulthood, we always looked forward to his visits. He always snuck in an extra enchilada and tamale before heading home to his healthier diet. His quick wit and laid back, loving spirit made him one-of-a-kind. Looks like we will have to reschedule that dove hunt for when we all meet at the pearly gates. We know you'll be waiting for us and I will be greeted with your "Hey kiddo!" I am sure you are already hosting poker night and golf. Until we meet again....Jeanie

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jeanie - July 21, 2017 at 07:16 AM

KM

*i will miss his "hey kiddo"*

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Kelly Melanson - July 21, 2017 at 07:29 AM

LI

“ Big K had the biggest heart. I've never known a man who held so much love. It must be why he was so tall - all that love just kept on pushing him upward. He had an infectious smile and laugh and gave the biggest bear hugs. He's always whisper into our ears, "You're my favorite". He made me feel so special. He was one of my most favorite people. I can remember hearing him and Dad laughing and cracking terrible dad jokes. And waking up at Grandmom's house to find her making sausage gravy and biscuits and both Dad and him at the table with their coffee and newspaper, quietly grumbling about Commis, Liberals, and hippies. His love will never leave us.

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Lindsay - July 21, 2017 at 01:19 AM

KM

“ I remember when dad and i would drive on to the base when I was younger and I would watch the guard sort of nonchalantly wave the cars through the gate. When dad would pull up and the guard saw that Capt. sticker they would straighten up and give him a salute that he deserved. I always felt so proud. Those moments made me realize that I had the coolest dad ever. Years later i still think that. I love you to the moon and back dad. Always.

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**Kelly Melanson** - July 20, 2017 at 09:31 PM



*I loved that too. He was a rockstar!*

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**kara martin** - July 21, 2017 at 08:47 AM

EM

“ There was never a visit that went by that he didn't ask Kaylie and I what the best band in the world was. No questions asked, we HAD to say The Eagles. It put the biggest smile on his face while he said "atta girls"

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**Emma Melanson** - July 20, 2017 at 09:05 PM