



Daniel Thomas Martin

January 19, 1953 - April 29, 2020

Daniel Thomas Martin, 67, beloved husband of Antoinette (Duran) Martin, left this world on April 29, 2020, to join his dearly loved parents in the Lord's House. He was born January 19, 1953 in Detroit, Michigan, later growing up in nearby Livonia. A graduate of Churchill High School, Dan also graduated from Eastern Michigan University, where he earned a degree in English. For most of Dan's professional career, he worked in printing and graphics, progressing to the position of Sales Manager prior to retiring in 2018. He continued to enjoy later work on a number of local Chamber of Commerce annual publications. To know Dan was to love Dan. With his keen wit, quick sense of humor, and an inescapable tendency to capture funny words and phrases, (known to his many friends as "Martin-isms,") Dan was a slim man with a huge heart. Always proud of his Irish heritage, he and Antoinette made many trips back to his ancestral home. It was there that he learned the word "Hooley," Irish slang for "party." And Dan was one who loved a good party. For that reason, when he and Antoinette purchased a beautiful 30-foot yacht in 2012, naming the vessel "Hooley" was a given. Each year, when getting the boat into the Lake Erie waters, Dan would coyly ask the workers at the marina what time it was. Playing along, they would all respond loudly that "It's HOOLEY time!" In better health, Dan had a love for all things aquatic. He was an avid boater but also an accomplished scuba diver. In his younger years he also enjoyed downhill skiing and roller skating, and continued to cheer loudly for his favorite college and pro football teams. Dan was born to Margaret (Hamill)

Martin and James Robert Martin; he was also the loving step-son of Joseph Rybicki. He leaves behind his loving wife of 26 years, the absolute love of his life, Antoinette, as well as their two faithful dogs, Dolly and Lilly. He is also mourned by his sisters Patricia Martin-Dement [Bruce]; Maura [Bruce] Hayward; and his brother Brian [Virginia] Martin. He will also be sadly missed by his parents-in-law, Richard and Rose Duran; and Antoinette's siblings, Helen (Robert) Balsis; Denise (Randy) Rodnick; Richard (Monica) Duran; and Sheila McIntosh, as well as his many nieces, nephews, their families, and his extended family in Ireland.

Dan Martin declared himself to be a "Professional Irish." He knew every word of traditional Irish music sung around St. Patrick's Day, songs like "Black Velvet Band," "No, Nay Never," and so many others. His theme song, though, may not have been Irish at all. It may really have been Kool and the Gang's 1980 classic "Celebrate!" ("...It's time to come together, it's up to you, what's your pleasure, celebrate good times, come on!" Dan simply loved people. On entering a crowded room, he was known to greet someone with an outstretched hand and the words, "Hi, I'm Dan Martin. Damned glad to know ya!" Or, on occasion, "I'm Dan Martin. Don't know ya -- want to!" Sometimes it was "Nice to see ya -- wouldn't want to be ya!" When spouting an indisputable fact of any kind, he'd consistently advise anyone that he or she could "take it to the bank!" When he was telling a joke and the recipient didn't laugh (a rare occasion!) Dan would say, "Let me repeat myself!" And then he would go on to recite the entire joke again, which always seemed to make it that much funnier. While Dan Martin always entered a room with style and flourish, his departures were often the opposite, usually slipping away quietly to avoid a long goodbye. (While some may call these types of departures "Irish goodbyes," Dan laughingly insisted that they're really French!) Although it could seem like he's trying to do that again, that is to slip away quietly, this time he cannot. This time, there are simply too many family, friends, and loving fans who won't let him leave this world unnoticed and remain determined to celebrate this unique and special man's life.

“Oh Danny boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling;
From glen to glen, and down the mountain side.
The summers gone, and all the roses falling.
‘Tis you, it’s you must go and I must bide.

But come ye back when summers in the meadow.
Or when the valley’s hushed and white with snow.
‘Tis I’ll be here in sunshine or in shadow.
Oh Danny boy, oh Danny boy, we love you so...”

---Frederic Weatherly, 1913

Visitation Monday, May 4, 2020 from 4:30 – 8 pm and Funeral Service at 6:30 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Road (between Ford Road and Cherry Hill) Westland. Interment is at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Salvation Army of Westland, 2300 S. Venoy Road, Westland, MI 48186. To share a memory please use the Share a Memory tab on this web page.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 4. 4:30 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Westland
980 North Newburgh Road
Westland, MI 48185
(734) 326-1300
westland@vermeulenfh.com

Funeral Service

MAY 4. 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Westland
980 North Newburgh Road
Westland, MI 48185
(734) 326-1300
westland@vermeulenfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Daniel Thomas Martin*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM

MM

“ I found you and had happy times.

I met Dan in the early 1970's through Dave Spears I was dating Dave's cousin. I learned he was about to go to EMU. I mentioned that to my apartment mate since he too was about to go there as well. Next thing I knew we were moving to a three bedroom house near the campus sharing rent. Oh boy good times. I associate Dan with many activities we did in the couple of years I lived with them. I bought a very used Farfsia style little organ. Brought it to the house Dan walked over and started playing it. I was impressed and we moved it into his room it became his. He often amazed me, we went skiing and as I was trying to learn he would ski circles around me and shout encouragement.

He tried to teach me how to drive a motorcycle we used his fast dirt bike. He explained the shifting and braking, then said go. I took off so rev'd up I could just barely hang on. I never got to shift but went in a long circle and applied the brakes. I went over sideways just like a comedy skit. What a laugh but it actually helped me years later when I went biking with my wife. We did a lot in that short time together which is why so many activities remind me of Danny. You couldn't forget him he made everything fun.

Every so often I would try and find him and couldn't, I should have known this is what I'd find. Been sad since finding his obituary. I won't be getting over this easy there are too many things that make me think of him. Mike Murphy



Mike Murphy - March 28, 2023 at 08:39 PM



Thanks Mike for the story. It is so Dan! Antoinette

Antoinette Martin - February 23, 2024 at 09:48 AM

PD

“ *What can I say about the Dan Martin? I was 14 when we met and he was my first guy friend. It was Jill, Patty Smith and me, we were inseparable along with Dan, Darrell, Chuck, Tony and John. Quite the little hippie cool we thought we were! I think about those days now with laughter and sadness. Didn't see much of Dan in later years unless it was a Farris event, but when I did it was like old times lots of good fun! I will miss you my dear Pugsley.*

Peggy Donohue - May 04, 2020 at 03:24 PM

JM

I remember Dan from St. Mikes, and later Churchill, he was a good person, one of my chums when we were kids...John McIntyre

John McIntyre - November 19, 2020 at 09:07 AM

LO

“ *Although I am unable to be there to pay my respects, you are in my thoughts right now.*

I pray that you have God's grace with you at this moment; and moments to come.

Linda Ochoa - May 04, 2020 at 11:42 AM

RD

“ *Sending our sincere condolences. I know that Dan and my Dad were close. I like to think they are keeping the hooley going strong up in heaven.*

Rachel DiPirro - May 03, 2020 at 11:29 PM

JF

“ There are too many hilarious memories and Dan Martin euphemisms that I find it difficult to choose which ones to share. One of my favorites is the time Dan and Antoinette took us out on the boat on Lake Erie. I have pictures somewhere of the tour and in the pictures you can see we were all laughing our asses off. Guess why...Captain Dan was why and he even had a pre-recorded guide accompaniment!

The other memory is years ago we took Dan and Antoinette camping at Burt Lake. We had been sitting around the campfire when Antoinette and I decided to go to bed since we had to get up early and break camp and leave. The guys said they'd be right in....but you know Dan and George, neither one ever willing to quit a "party". I woke up with a start around 2:00 am and could hear them still at it. I leapt out of bed threw the door open and said "just so we're clear you will be getting up in a few hours and DRIVING us 5 hours home"! Dan never said a word but like a couple of little kids they quietly got up, hung their heads and went to bed. But Dan just couldn't keep the hilarity contained and waited for the perfect timing on the drive home to repeat his new favorite admonishment to George. "Just so we're clear George", was repeated over and over on the way home and the more he said it the funnier it was. He repeated it for years!

We will miss you forever Danny Boy and I will cherish all the memories big, small, happy and sad ones. ❤️❤️

Jill Farris - May 03, 2020 at 09:40 PM

LP

“ So sorry for your loss Antoinette ❤️ I always loved Dan's sense of humor. He was a very witty fellow. I remember he always said Chicnic instead of picnic 😊 Peace and Love to you and your family
❤️❤️❤️❤️

Lisa Phillips - May 02, 2020 at 04:04 PM

JD

“ *Dan was always the life of the party. He lit up the room. Always a warm welcome and a joke. He made the work events seem not like work at all. We will miss him! May he rest in peace.*
Sincerely, Joanne Darga

Joanne Darga - May 01, 2020 at 05:53 PM

KW

“ *Beautiful sentiment Antoinette. Thank you for sharing Dan with us. I will miss his voice. You always knew it was going to be a good party if you could hear his voice. God speed Daniel Thomas Martin.*

Kathy Warunek - May 01, 2020 at 05:48 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Antoinette Martin - May 01, 2020 at 05:23 PM



So nice to hear his voice thank you for sharing , and YES Dan I get the joke =)

Gary Bulson - May 02, 2020 at 01:43 PM