



Larry F. Martin

May 31, 2021

Larry F. Martin, 69, passed away on May 28th, 2021 in Gainesville, Florida.

Larry was born the middle child of Horace and Wilma Martin in Leesburg, Florida. They moved to Gainesville in the early 60's. Larry attended Gainesville High School and was a member of the Florida National Guard. He was in the automobile salvage business all his life. It was there that Larry would find his calling, and his passion for racing. He started racing in 1975, and continued for close to 30 years. Larry was a Regional Manager, and retired from LKQ Auto Parts.

In 1975, he married the love of his life Elaine Sauls Martin of Williston, Florida. They had one daughter Erica, to say that she was the apple of his eye was an understatement.

Larry left behind many friends. He was a kind, gentle man and always the life of the party. Larry was always ready with a quick smile or a joke but he had a twinkle in his eye that made you think he was up to something (and he probably was). Larry was a racer of stock cars for 43 years... it was his passion and he was good at it. He forged many friendships while racing that have endured to this day. Larry was much loved by his hunting buddies and his racing family.

His memory will be forever in our hearts. He is preceded in death by this mother, Wilma L. Martin. He is survived by his wife, Elaine Martin of 46 years; his daughter, Erica Martin; father, Horace F. Martin; sister, Lynn Tharpe (Butch); brother, Dale Martin; many aunts, uncles, in-laws, nieces and nephews. Rest in peace at that big race track in the sky! God speed my friend.

The funeral service will be held on Wednesday, June 2nd, 2021, at Forest Meadows Memorial Park Central with a gathering at 10am, and service starting at 11am. It is located at 4100 NW 39th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32606.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to Victory Junction (victoryjunction.org) or a charity of your choice.

Tribute Wall



“ So sorry to hear that Larry has passed. He was the older brother of my best friend.

He was and still is one of the kindest and best natured people, I've ever had the privilege of knowing.

One night we were all working on the 07 Racecar in the workshop behind Larry's and Elaine's home, not really sure how it came up, but apparently Erica was in the very earliest stages of getting involved with "Boys".

Larry said he had answered the phone earlier that day, and there was a boy on the other end that, as described by Larry, had a very deep voice. So in his best real deep voice, he told us all what the boy had said:

Hello, is Erica there

(taken back by how deep the boys voice was and thinking this guy must be way to old for his daughter to even think about)

Larry said, he told the boy: No, there is NO Erica here, don't call here again, goodbye.

Well, you know all us guys got a good kick out of Larry being the protective father, trying his best to keep her his little girl for as long as he possibly could, I told Larry, "You know, there WILL come a day for all that, but it ain't today"

I will never forget the big smile that came across Larry's face as he said, "You are right, it ain't going to be today"

We all just busted out laughing together.

Rest in Peace my friend

Rick Richards

Rick Richards - September 19, 2024 at 02:37 PM

EM

*Thanks for posting this! That's my dad :) and it sounds just like him! We were so close, and he could always make me laugh. I love, and miss him every day of my life. I was so blessed to be his daughter and will carry all those wonderful memories with me forever!
Thank you again for taking the time and posting this.
~Erica*

Erica Martin - April 03, 2025 at 09:46 PM

ER

“ *Erica lit a candle in memory of Larry F. Martin*



Erica - January 14, 2024 at 03:07 AM

ER

“ *It has taken me a long time to be able to accept, and much less write about my dad's passing. I changed the second he took his last breath and I will never be the same. I miss him every second of every day, and that smile and big hug that I would get every time we saw one another, I will forever cherish! I do want to thank all you that have posted lovely tributes, pictures, texts and photos. My gratitude is way overdue for all of the kindness that so many have shown. Thank you for loving my dad, and I am very much looking forward to seeing my hero again one day!!*

Erica - January 14, 2024 at 03:03 AM

SG

“ Elaine and Erica, I just heard about this terrible news. Our thoughts and prayers are with you guys. Larry was like an uncle to me. He was a funny happy wonderful person and will be greatly missed.

Shawna Beach Giambrone - June 15, 2021 at 03:48 PM

DS

“ Larry you're so much more than a racin' buddy, thanks for all the humorous life guidance. In discussion and by example. All my best to Elaine and your wonderful family.

Dana Sheffield - June 10, 2021 at 03:47 PM

JA

“ Larry was a super guy ,he will always be remembered as a Winner at racing and a man full of knowledge . Larry had what many don't have courage , respect , and honesty , you will be missed

Johnny Alen - June 05, 2021 at 02:47 AM

DO

“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Larry was a presence that you couldn't ignore throughout high school and after.... May you be comforted by your precious memories and dear friends. God Bless you all during this difficult time????

Donna Zetrouer Overstreet - June 04, 2021 at 05:17 PM

DO

“ My sincerest sympathies to you Elaine and your daughter.

Donna O'Steen - June 03, 2021 at 11:57 PM

WJ

“ Larry was a Great Man, always remember his joke's his Great Smile, Friendship, Great Driving Skills, and was a Great Boss, RIP My Friend...

Wayne Johnson - June 02, 2021 at 10:38 AM

RH

“ Larry will be greatly missed. I pray the family will be comforted and find peace.

Ronnie Henley - June 01, 2021 at 04:51 PM

LH

“ We are so sorry for your loss. We cherish our memories of our lifelong friendship. Wishing you peace.

Leatha and Curtis Holder - June 01, 2021 at 11:59 AM

DR

“ May peace be with the

David and Mary Robinson - June 01, 2021 at 10:49 AM

RJ

“ Elaine - I will always remember the hospitality you and Larry showed me, my brother and your two brothers (Bobby & Gary) when after a Saturday evening Bronson Speedway race, we would all end up at your home around mid-night. You and Larry were so patient and kind to us teen-agers who thought Larry was going to be the next Richard Petty or AJ Foyt. Larry truly was a nice person - we need more of his kind.

My thoughts and prayers are with you and Erica.

Randy Johnson - June 01, 2021 at 02:07 AM

CH

“ Elaine and Erica, my heart is hurtling for the bith of you. You'll always have the memories, hold them close to your heart. I remember his smile, it seemed he always had one. He was loved by so many, he touched many lives. RIP Larry. GOD SPEED. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Man and Charlene Hughes

Charlene Hughes - June 01, 2021 at 12:04 AM

RT

“ We are so sorry to hear of Larry's Passing . You never met a more kind and sweet soul. Always smiling ! Prayers to the wonderful family left behind.. RIP Larry with love

Ronnie & Connie Thames - May 31, 2021 at 11:43 PM

CH

“ Larry will be missed so much by everyone that met him. So many memories from racing days at Bronson. Elaine and Erica you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Cindy and Scott Hedgcoth - May 31, 2021 at 11:15 PM