



George Anthony "Tony" Martin

JUL 7, 1952 - APR 29, 2025



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We are deeply saddened as we mourn the loss of George Anthony (Tony a.k.a. Colie) Martin, who went peacefully on his journey after a recent struggle with stomach cancer.

Tony is survived by the devoted love of his life, Leila; his maternal aunt Doris Whitt White; his siblings: Marlene (Dean Wheeler), Randy (Terri Wright Spinks), Kathy Pollard, and Jimmy (Kim); as well as his much-loved nephews and nieces who call him Cokie: Travis Wheeler (Minde), Caroline & Mackenzie Wheeler; Alecia Wheeler (Luke Clamp), Ian & Alex Clamp; Chad Martin (Loren), Devin Martin; Amanda Martin; Jeremy Spinks (Jamie), Joshua & Jaycelyn Spinks; Tassy Pollard (Ralph Mannis), Nina & Logan Mannis; Lee Pollard III (Lauren), Abigail & Alexis Pollard; Eric Pollard (Lauren), Austin & Everett Pollard; Sara Pollard (Elijah Hayes), Cooper & Connor Hayes; Will Martin (Sarah), Azalee Martin; Andrew Martin (Emma), James Martin; Michael Martin (Stacy), Marlee & Sunny Martin; his McMillan brothers, sisters, nephews and nieces by marriage: Jack Olin, Matt, Sammy (Kate); Vic (Melissa), Victor (Stewart), Henry, Jack, Grace, Thomas (Jaclyn); Sam, Nan (Ben Edwards); Teresa & Maria(h); along with a multitude of Martin and Whitt cousins.

He is preceded in death by his parents, William Alvin (Bill) and Juanita Whitt Martin, and his sister, Joyce Ann Martin.

Tony will live in our hearts forever, spreading humor, joy, laughter and smiles through the endless retelling of unforgettable stories highlighting his unique spirit and special knack for funny shenanigans and creative antics. He was truly a character whose vivid imagination captured made-up words & verbs that left no questions of their meanings and became vocabulary often used by those who knew him. In addition, he is credited with giving fitting nicknames to many who crossed his path.

As a favorite uncle to countless young people, whether by blood, marriage, or choice and purpose, he will be greatly missed by friends and loved ones near and far, especially Leila's extended McMillan and Murphy families who fully embraced him. He always had a heightened sense of



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when and how to provide others with uplifting understanding. This natural attribute contributed to his value as a Big Brother volunteer during the years when a single mom and her son needed mentoring support. He was also a reassuring show of muscle to kids who might have otherwise bullied.

Known in business as George, he trained and worked as an HVAC engineer with building management companies in Atlanta which included White & Associates, Technology Park, and Holder Properties. He was a member of Christ Church Episcopal in Norcross, GA, and he participated in building Habitat for Humanity homes for a co-worker and others.

Graveside services will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, May 23rd at Memory Gardens, 586 Issaqueena Trail, Central, SC 29630, phone 864-654-3236.

A native of Clemson, Tony the Tiger wore orange daily and rarely missed opportunities to see university athletic events. So, please come to the cemetery attired for the hometown Clemson tailgate celebration that will follow the service at Clemson University Outdoor Lab, 415 Charlie White Trail, Pendleton, SC 29670, to rejoice in the wonderful, colorful life he shared with us.

Lifesong Funerals & Cremations, Quincy, FL, is assisting the family with arrangements (850-627-1111).

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory will be sincerely appreciated: Kanuga (a non-profit Episcopal camp and retreat), 130 Kanuga Chapel Drive, Hendersonville, NC 28739; Big Bend Hospice Foundation, 1723 Mahan Center Blvd, Tallahassee, FL 32308; or to a charity of your choice.



Tribute Wall

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DM

Dale Martin posted:

Tony I am very saddened by this, you were like a brother to me, especially when we were Younger. I prefer to remember you by your Great Sense of Humor, Remembering The Lumber Company. May God be with Your family in this Time of grief. You will always be a Precious Memory To Me. RIP Colie.

May 22 at 9:00 AM

PA

Paddy posted:

Tony had an effortless, humble charisma that one couldn't help but warm to instantly. Definition of "good with kids", he had us rocking Clemson t-shirts in the schoolyard, long before college football had a following here in Ireland. We'll miss you big fella 🤔

May 21 at 12:57 PM

CM

Cathy And Ray Miller posted:

Leila-you know that you and Georgie are just part of our family. We still can't believe this is real. We love both of you and hope that you find strength in the love and support of so many of your friends and family. One of my favorite memories is back in the early 90's when Leila and George were living in Atlanta. We lived close by and Leila used to travel a lot for her job. George wasn't much of a cook (or a cook at all) so we would often invite him to eat with us when Leila was out of town. One day, I was just pulling into our driveway after work and there he was-sitting on our front porch, leaned up against our front door with a sign that said "Will work for food". Ha! He always made our dinner table more exciting. Thank you for being such wonderful friends over so many years. Thank you for being the Godparents to Jessica and thank you for so many fun, eventful, happy times that we shared. Those are the times that carry us through life. Please know that we are here for you and only a phone call away. Cathy, Ray, Jessica & Andrea

May 12 at 3:55 PM

BS

Ben Sullivan posted:

Dear Leila...I was so saddened to hear of Tony's passing. I didn't have the opportunity to see you both very often, but always knew ya'll would be at the "Hometown Tailgate" during almost any fall home game. One constant I will always remember is Tony's wide smile when we reunited, as broad and welcoming as Death Valley itself. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers..Ben Sullivan

May 11 at 2:15 PM



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Linda O'shields posted:

Leila, my heart aches for you as you face life without George. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you. We shared some happy, crazy times and I'll always remember you and George for the joy you gave.

May 7 at 4:58 PM



Thomas C. sent a sympathy card to the Martin family.



May 7 at 7:29 AM



Chris & Vicky posted:

Leila, we are so heart broken over George's death. We are sending you special hugs, out thoughts and prayers. We have fond memories of our trip to the Clemson/FSU football game, once we arrived after Mariah's directions. We will miss you George, go Tigers 🐯🏈🐯❤️

May 6 at 5:44 PM



Catherine Abercrombie posted:

Colie was a gentle, loving, and kind person with a great sense of humour. I enjoyed meeting him when I came to SC and spending time with him, his lovely family, and with Leila.

May 6 at 8:19 AM



Bobbi Simpson posted:

What a legacy - personality unlike anyone I knew. Unrivaled charm, playfulness, creativity. He conjured nicknames that helped us all laugh and not take ourselves so seriously. A truly generous and kind heart.

May 6 at 7:21 AM



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EM

Ed Murphy posted:

Tony brought a gold mine of love and laughter to our annual Kanuga gatherings - the Bocce championship, hayrides for the kids in his big red truck Rolling Thunder, good natured practical jokes which he received as well as gave, and the story telling on the porch or dining room table which triggered Sam's iconic laughter that has echoed through those mountains for 40+ years. We will miss him dearly when we gather again. Go Tigers, my bocce partner.

May 6 at 5:00 AM

TM

Teresa Mcmillan posted:

One of my favorite stories of Tony was when, in 1992, he was living with Olin, our boys and me in Marietta, GA. Leila was in Kentucky making the transition back to live in GA. Tony came back early due to starting with his new employer. Tony and Leila would meet every weekend some where in Tennessee. Expecting Tony back to Marietta one of those Sunday evenings, he hadn't arrived and it was going on midnight. This was before cell phones. I was about ready to call for help locating him, when the landline phone rang. He was in Alabama, somewhere. Tony's explanation was as follows, "I was deep in thoughts about the great weekend with Leila, I must of missed the turn south off I-75 in Chattanooga and am lost in Alabama". He eventually safely arrived to my welcoming arms. When I think of Tony, a smile always appears on my face. Teresa

May 5 at 5:55 PM

MM

Maria Mcmillan May 6 at 5:33 AM

The Bamboo Club The kids would call him during the school year if the bracelet broke. He made a point to replace the bracelet ASAP because "a little Smurf" was waiting for a new bracelet. ❤️

JG

Joan Grava May 6 at 12:37 AM

This makes me cry and laugh at the same time. I will always remember Tony's warmth and sense of humor. Making bracelets out of fishing tackle for the boys when we were all at Kanuga 😊 rest in peace dear Tony.



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Jack Mcmillan posted:

Leila reminded me of this story a few days ago. Tony, Don Coon and i travelled together in my truck from Atlanta to Tallahassee for the season-opening Clemson-FSU game in 1999. Don was sitting in the back and Tony was riding shotgun. I noticed that Don was speaking very loudly whenever he directed a question or point to me. Almost at the point of yelling at me. I thought it was a little strange but so it went. After the game, Don stayed in Tallahassee with his daughter and Tony and I drove back up to Atlanta. Somewhere along the way I mentioned to Tony that "Don sure does speak in a loud voice to be inside a vehicle". Tony broke out laughing and confessed that he had told Don I was hard of hearing in my right ear and he would have to speak up when he was talking to me. We had a good laugh. Typical Tony humor.

May 5 at 2:49 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring George by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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