



## Mr. William Forrest Martin Jr.

April 17, 1943 - January 14, 2026

William Forrest Martin Jr., always known as Billy, was born on April 17, 1943, to Elsie Gibson Martin and Forest Martin in Henderson, Texas. Billy passed away peacefully at Arabella in Kilgore under hospice care on Wednesday, January 14, 2026. Private graveside service will be at Crim's Chapel Cemetery.

After graduating from high school, Billy began his journey at Eastman Kodak. He dedicated himself to the company, ultimately retiring after a 30-year career.

Billy was heavily involved in his local church and community. For many years, he served as the choir director at Crim's Chapel Baptist Church, where his leadership and passion for music enriched the worship experience for the congregation. In addition to his church service, Billy also showcased his musical talents as a member of a quartet that included R. E. Stephens and Pat Stephens, performing on KWRD radio each Sunday in Henderson. He also served as the choir director for a short period of time at Trinity Baptist Church, with his sister Marilyn Martin playing the organ as his accompanist.

Billy was preceded in death by his parents, Elsie and Forrest Martin of Henderson, Tx.

He is survived by his two daughters, Kelly Martin of Longview, Texas,

Kimberly Martin Hogue and her husband, Brad of Kilgore, Tx. He is also survived by his sister, Marilyn Martin of Kilgore, Texas. Billy's legacy continues through his grandchildren, Amber Collins and her husband, Robert of Kilgore, and Abbey Hogue of Kilgore. He was also blessed with great-grandchildren, Evan Collins and Carson Collins of Kilgore, Texas.

Billy had a lifelong passion for music and especially enjoyed listening to Elvis Presley throughout the years.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at [www.crawfordacrim.com](http://www.crawfordacrim.com).

# Cemetery Details

## **Crims Chapel Cemetery**

6959 SH-322  
Henderson, TX 75652

# Events

**Details are pending.**

# Tribute Wall

MB

“ Margaret Green Brown lit a candle in memory of William Martin



Margaret Green Brown - January 25 at 06:34 PM

SC

“ Sharon Collins lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Forrest Martin Jr.



Sharon Collins - January 21 at 11:32 PM

DM

“ No I did not know Billy personally I went to school with this eldest daughter so I am sending my thoughts and prayers



Debbie McAlister - January 19 at 05:00 PM

RJ

“ Sending my Sincerest Sympathy and Condolences to the Martin Family during this period of bereavement.

Royce Jones - January 18 at 01:35 PM

DB

“ *Damon And Jill Bassett lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Forrest Martin Jr.*



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**Damon and Jill Bassett** - January 18 at 12:36 PM

BH

“ *Brent Hale lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Forrest Martin Jr.*



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**Brent Hale** - January 18 at 07:56 AM

JA

“ *Jason And Patricia Akin lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Forrest Martin Jr.*



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**Jason and Patricia Akin** - January 17 at 08:43 AM

AR

“ *My sympathy to you. I knew him more than 50 years ago when I played the piano for the quartet when they sang on the radio on Sun am. He was always so nice and enjoyed hearing him sing.*

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**Arlene** - January 16 at 10:31 PM

JP

“ Marilyn, Kelly and Kimberly, I am so very sorry over your loss of Billy. It seems I have known him forever. I remember him at Trinity Baptist Church where we all attended. I send prayers to your entire family.



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**Janice Allen Pirkey** - January 16 at 08:11 PM

JA

“ Jason And Patricia Akin lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Forrest Martin Jr.



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**Jason and Patricia Akin** - January 16 at 04:41 PM

KH

“ My deepest sympathies to all the family. Karen Hampton

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**Karen Hampton** - January 16 at 03:44 PM

EB

“ Eric & Amber Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Forrest Martin Jr.



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**Eric & Amber Brown** - January 16 at 02:44 PM

CR

“ Kelly and Family - It is so hard to deal with the loss of a loved one who has been there your entire life. Sounds like Billy led a simple, but very full life that focused on faith and family, sharing his love for music. What a great role model for the younger ones to hear through the many 'old stories' shared as they grow up and expand the Martin family tree. While he won't physically be around, I promise that over time you will begin to notice little pieces of him throughout the generations and the stories shared will keep him with you always. Maybe a mellow 'Love Me Tender' or more upbeat 'Jailhouse Rock' when you gather to remember him. Thoughts and prayers go out to all at this time. Kelly, my heart is especially sad for you today. - CTZF.

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**Carrie Rudberg** - January 16 at 01:38 PM

CH

“ Sorry to hear about Billy's passing. I can still remember him coming to Mack's Sandwich Shop for burgers.  
Butch Heath

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**Charles Heath** - January 16 at 10:12 AM

YT

“ Kelly, Kim, and Aunt Marilyn - I am very sorry to hear about the passing of your beloved father and brother. Donald and I will be praying for your strength during this difficult time. We are here if you need us. Yemaya and Donald

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**Yemaya Taylor** - January 16 at 09:42 AM

HM

“ *Hal And Rosa Martin lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Forrest Martin Jr.*



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**Hal and Rosa Martin** - January 16 at 05:46 AM

BG

“ *Praying for peace and comfort Bonnie Geddie*



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**Bonnie Geddie** - January 16 at 12:09 AM

PC

“ *Condolences to the family lots of fond memories with Billy out at Crims Chapel*

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**Peggy Coffee** - January 15 at 09:59 PM

JB

“ *My deepest sympathy to Marilyn and the rest of Billy's family.*

*Jack Bone*

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**Jack Bone** - January 15 at 09:40 PM

DA

“ *Donna Dorsey Aaron lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Forrest Martin Jr.*



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**Donna Dorsey Aaron** - January 15 at 08:59 PM

JC

“ *My deepest sympathy to all the fsmily*

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**Jimmy Culp** - January 15 at 01:54 PM

KH

*My deepest sympathies to all the family. Karen Hampton*

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**Karen Hampton** - January 16 at 02:31 PM

JT

*My deepest sympathy to all the family. Jackie toon*

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**Jackie Toon** - January 16 at 10:03 PM