



## Johnny Austin "John" Martin

January 5, 1945 - March 28, 2024

Johnny Austin "John" Martin, 79, of Salisbury, passed away March 28, 2024 at Novant Health Rowan Medical Center.

Born January 5, 1945 in Rowan County, he was the son of the late Austin Martin and Virginia Burch. He was a graduate of North Rowan High School. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and served with the Air Force Police in Saigon during the 1968 TET Offense and participated in the defense of Tan Son Nhut Air Base and Urban Street fighting during the TET attacks on Saigon.

John began his dispatching career with the Salisbury Fire Department in November 1977 and was one of the original eight dispatchers hired when the county moved to 911 Communications. He also served as an Emergency Medical Responder with the Spencer Fire Department. He was a nationally certified emergency medical dispatcher. He was a member of the Vietnam Security Police Association and the Tan Son Nhut Association.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his wife, Rosa Maria Herrera Martin on July 30, 1985.

Left to cherish his memory are his children, John "Johnny" Martin Jr. of Mooresville, James Eric Martin of Salisbury, Angie Wagoner of Spencer and Josefina Herrera of Wichita Falls, TX; sister, Elaine Cram; granddaughters, Cassidy Martin and Barbara Skinner; grandsons, Andrew and Tyler Adams and Alex Schultz.

Visitation will be from 1-2PM Thursday, April 4, at Oakdale Baptist Church.

Funeral Service will be held at 2:00PM Thursday at Oakdale Baptist Church with Pastor Jonathan Collins officiating. Burial with military honors will follow in Oakdale Baptist Church Cemetery.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Martin family. Online condolences may be made at [www.summersettfuneralhome.com](http://www.summersettfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Oakdale Baptist Church Cemetery

Spencer, NC

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 4. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Oakdale Baptist Church  
Charles St.  
Spencer, NC 28159

## Funeral Service

APR 4. 2:00 PM (ET)

Oakdale Baptist Church  
Charles St.  
Spencer, NC 28159

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Johnny Austin "John" Martin.*



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April 04, 2024 at 03:34 AM



“ *Andrew & Johnathan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Johnny Austin "John" Martin.*

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**Andrew & Johnathan** - April 04, 2024 at 03:34 AM



“ *Johnny and I first met over 20 years ago as members of Spencer FD, responding to many late-night medical calls. As a new medical responder, Johnny helped me learn the ropes in becoming a firefighter and First Responder. Even after he retired, we would still run into each other on many occasions as he took daily walks around town. Johnny always had a kind word to say, and I will forever remember Johnny as the "Silver tongue devil" for his distinctive voice as a dispatcher at Rowan Communion. It was rumored that women would melt when they heard Johnny's voice come over the radio. Rest in peace, Johnny, you will be missed.*

*Sincerely,*

*Wayne Comer*

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**Wayne Comer** - April 03, 2024 at 01:56 PM

RL

“ I also served with John in the 377th Security Police Squadron at Tan Son Nhut Air Base during the Tet Offensive in 1968. There were about 900 of us so we didn't know everyone but we learned whom to trust and respect. Frank Ybarbo's piece about John said it better and with genuine sincerity. We all wore the same cloth, ate the same food, endured the same dangers and prayed to the same God. It was a true honor to have served our country with John whose whole life was devoted to the service of others.

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**Robert Lester** - April 02, 2024 at 08:05 PM

PP

“ Johnny and I grew up together. We shared the same Grandmother. When I moved back to Salisbury we got back in touch by phone and promised each other that we would stay in touch. I let him down and felt terrible when I saw his obituary.. I have nothing but wonderful memories of our childhood. To all of the family, you have my sympathy and love. He was really special.



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**Patricia C. Proctor** - April 02, 2024 at 04:36 AM

MH

“ Such a great soul, dispatched me on many EMS calls during the REMAS days, my he RIP

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**Mark Hancock** - April 01, 2024 at 10:16 PM

FY

“ Johnny and I, Frank Ybarbo, were best buddies in Vietnam. We played together, stood against our enemy together, laughed and experienced horrific fear together. Johnny was a brave soul and I often had to look to him for strength. We often talked about how we would cheat the grim reaper, grow old and spend days sitting in a rocking chair on the front porch. We shared stories about who we would find to love and spend our future with then share those memories as we walked on through life. Share we did. I was fortunate to have such a friend as Johnny Martin. I named one of my sons after him. Stand your post Johnny Martin just like you did against our mortal enemy. A piece of you is still with us.

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**Franklin Ybarbo** - April 01, 2024 at 04:18 PM

TL

“ He was a great man and friend

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**Thomas Lowman** - March 31, 2024 at 07:53 PM

RB

“ John was a fine man and good friend. I always enjoyed having conversation with John when sitting in the dispatch room at SFD station 1 listening to him dispatch. His voice always calm and never changed. Thoughts and prayers to John's family. My family extends our greatest appreciation for John's service to our country.

*R.G. Burleyson  
Retired Engineer Salisbury Fire Department*

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**Robert Burleyson** - March 30, 2024 at 10:38 AM

TJ

“ John , James LeFevers and I were best friends in High School (North Rowan). All three of us served in Viet Nam. John and myself first. James was going to college. Upon graduation he was also sent.. John and I drove him to the air port to catch his flight. We dragged town and always got a milk shake at Zesto's while in school. He was so much of my life. His memory will always be with me. I cannot say enough.

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**Thomas Cordell Talbert, Jr** - March 30, 2024 at 05:59 AM

PS

“ Worked with John some at the County. God Bless him for his service. He was always so helpful.

*Prayers of Comfort and Faith.*

*John 14:1-3*

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**Pastor Joey Spry** - March 30, 2024 at 12:25 AM