



## Clarence Edward Martin

February 19, 1939 - January 8, 2020

“If we each light one little candle, we can light the world.”

----- Priest Fulton J. Sheen, Motivational Speaker

Clarence E. Martin went to his Lord and Savior on 8, January, 2020. He was born in Milton, West Virginia on February 19, 1939, the son of the late Clarence H. and Ollie S. Martin. He is preceded in death by one son, Stephen Martin, brothers, John and James Martin and sister, Doris Lambert. He is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Sharon Lynn Martin, two sisters, Velma Clonch and Karen (Jim) Leach, three brothers, Bill (Aida Mae), Larry (Linda) and Bobby Martin, three sons Commodore Anthony (Cathy) Martin, Timothy (Tammy) Martin, Eric (Jamie) Martin, one step son John Cartwright and one special son, Derek Chaffin. Ten grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren. He was the eldest of nine children, growing up in a home that consisted of two (2) rooms and an outhouse, he learned quickly that hard work and determination is what it would take to better his life and become successful.

He graduated in 1957 from Barboursville High School with a graduating class of 167 people. While in high school, he played basketball, ran track, and played football.

Clarence had significant influences in high school that affected his life and guided him in the right direction. One of his greatest influences was his Coach, Dick Ware. Coach Ware was the head football coach, and was a master strategist and motivator. He taught Clarence the value of teamwork, perseverance and determination.

Before Clarence's senior year of high school, he enlisted in the West Virginia Air National Guard. He received basic training that summer at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

Football was Clarence's key into college, and with a football scholarship he attended Marshall College (at that time), in 1957-1958, and played football under Coach Herb Royer. During his sophomore year at Marshall, he realized that he did not have the funds

to continue college. In February, 1959, with the military training he had received, he received his release from the West Virginia Air National Guard, and enlisted in the US Army.

Clarence's entrance exams into the army were very high, and this offered him the opportunity to work with the army finance and administration personnel corp. He took advantage of this and this gave him his initial interest in his career path of finance and accounting.

He was stationed in Germany for two (2) years and was a finance specialist assigned to support seventh army. Clarence was discharged in February, 1961.

Clarence returned to the states. He was hired by Raytheon Corporation in Boston and worked for nine months. He lived in Cambridge, approximately one mile from Harvard (so close, yet so far).

After leaving Boston in late 1961, he returned to West Virginia and went to work for Roman J. Claprod, a wholesale distributor in Huntington. In 1963, he went to work at International Nickel, or Inco Alloys, as it was called at that time, working in the mill on night shift. He once again enrolled at Marshall, taking classes during the day and working at night. He started working towards his degree in finance and accounting. He was able to finance it with the G.I. bill. He graduated from Marshall in 1967, with a BBA in accounting. After a period of time, he returned to Marshall and earned his MBA. After receiving his MBA, he did additional post graduate work towards a doctorate at Ohio State University and the University of Kentucky.

After graduation from Marshall, he continued his employment with Inco Alloys where he held jobs in the accounting department as an auditor, assistant controller, plant accountant, and assistant to executive VP and Division President.

Clarence began his teaching experience in 1968-1969 part time at Marshall. Went to full time teaching when he left Inco in 1969-1972. First full time teaching job was with the Marshall branch at Logan, WV, which is now Southern West Virginia Community College. He then went to the University of Kentucky, where he worked full time until 1972, when he met Art Weisberg, and came to State Electric Supply Company. He continued to teach part time at the University of Kentucky Ashland Community College for three (3) years after he came to State Electric full time. He did this until it became too difficult to manage both jobs well.

Clarence was hired as controller at State Electric in 1972; became Chief Financial Officer in 1977, and Chief Executive Officer in 1994. When he began working at State Electric there were two (2) branches, Huntington and Dunbar. There were a total of 41 employees, which included Art's brother and mother. The business was just beginning to grow.

From two (2) branches Clarence focused on growing the business to 44 branches across seven (7) states, and employing nearly 800 employees. Becoming a partner in the business in 1988, and one of the successors to the business. His goal was to continue to expand the business to provide a better economy, a better community, a good place for people to work and provide for their families. He always wanted to give back some of what he had been fortunate to receive.

Clarence was the Executive Vice President of Arthur's Enterprises, which was formed in 1986 to provide organizational structure for the continued growth of State Electric.

Clarence served as a member of the Board for Huntington Federal for over twenty (20) years.

Clarence served as Chair of the National Association of Electrical Distributors (NAED) Government Affairs Committee, and was previously on the NAED Legislative Committee in the 1990's.

Clarence was the Board Chairman for the National Association of Electrical Distributors in 2012-2013, representing an industry of over 72 Billion U.S. dollars.

Clarence's most recent accomplishment was his induction into the 2012 Marshall University Business Hall of Fame. This is an award given annually to business leaders who have an outstanding record of achievement in their fields and have dedicated themselves to excellence.

Awards and Honors:

2006: Inducted to City of Huntington Wall of Fame

2012: Inducted to Marshall University Lewis College of Business Hall of Fame

Clarence was a member of the following organizations:

American Management Association

O.V.A.A. – Ohio Valley Accounting Association  
S.H.R.M. – Society For Human Resources Management  
N.A.A. – National Association of Accountants  
West Virginia Department of Commerce District Export Council  
N.A.E.D. – National Association Electrical Distributors  
A.D. – Affiliated Distributors  
Vanguard Group and Vanguard National Alliance.  
I.N.F.O.R. Computer Systems Board of Directors (NxGroup – The Users' Group)

Social and Civic Organizations:

Member of Barboursville Rotary Club  
Junior Achievement  
B.S.A. – Boy Scouts of America  
Little League Programs – Baseball, Football  
Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Huntington Area Development Council  
Advantage Valley  
City of Huntington Foundation Committee  
Heritage Farm Leadership Forum

The family will receive friends on Monday, January 13, 2020 at Lewis Memorial Baptist Church, Huntington from Noon until 5:00 PM. Funeral services will follow immediately at 5:00 PM with Pastor Mitch Webb officiating. Private burial will take place at White Chapel Memorial Gardens, in Barboursville. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Marshall Foundation or The Ohio State University School of Veterinary Medicine. Henson and Kitchen Mortuary, 6357 East Pea Ridge Road, Huntington, WV near Barboursville is caring for the family. Online condolences and memories may be shared with the family by visiting [www.hensonandkitchen.com](http://www.hensonandkitchen.com)

# Cemetery Details

## White Chapel Memorial Gardens

Route 60 East  
Barboursville, WV 25504

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JAN 13.** 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Lewis Memorial Baptist Church  
5325 W. Pea Ridge Road  
Huntington, WV 25705  
<http://lmbc.org>

## Service

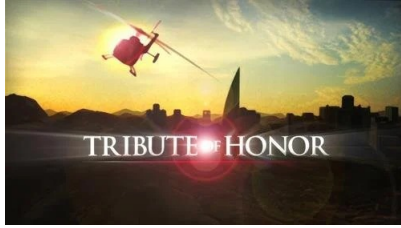
**JAN 13.** 5:00 PM (ET)

Lewis Memorial Baptist Church  
5325 W. Pea Ridge Road  
Huntington, WV 25705  
<http://lmbc.org>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Henson & Kitchen Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Clarence Edward Martin*



**Henson and Kitchen Mortuary and Cremation Services** - January 11, 2020 at 01:28 PM

RD

*Tony, and the entire Martin family. We were all blessed to have been in the presence of Clarence. I met him in the Barboursville Rotary Club and watched him set an example for all of us as he practiced the Rotary motto of “SERVICE ABOVE SELF”. He was a great and accomplished leader, but he was so kind and considerate unlike many successful leaders. His presence exhibited strength and confidence but in a gentle and kind way. We are all better today for having had CLARENCE in our lives and I am sure that he has received his heavenly reward. My thoughts and prayers are with you as you celebrate the life of a great man.*  
*Ron DeTemple*

**RONALD DETEMPLE** - January 14, 2020 at 01:27 AM



“ *Clarence Edward Martin*

October 23, 2023 at 01:49 AM

BP

“ *What a great great gentleman! Prayers/thoughts to all!*

**Brian Peters** - January 19, 2020 at 11:21 AM

MB

“ *Clarence,*

*So sorry for the loss of Clarence Martin. He truly made the world a better place with his kindness, patience, intelligence, wisdom, love for his family and all who were fortunate to know him.*

*Martha Weisberg Barvin*

**Martha Barvin** - January 17, 2020 at 11:09 AM

-U

“ - Sonepar USA purchased the Peace, Prayer Blessing Sympathy Basket for the family of Clarence Edward Martin.



- Sonepar USA - January 15, 2020 at 03:10 PM



“ So sad to hear of the passing of our sweet neighbor. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Martin family!



Sincerely,  
The Whitmore family

Stacey Whitmore - January 13, 2020 at 07:40 PM

ED

“ On behalf of the AD Electrical Division Mexico Team, I want to express our deepest condolences to Martin family.

Edna - January 13, 2020 at 04:39 PM

WM

“ I had the great pleasure to have known Clarence for over 30 years. He was a special individual with incredible talents and values. He gave generously to all who had the pleasure of doing business with him over his rich tenure in our industry and dedicated leadership at State Electric Supply. A conversation with him always provided a learning experience. His spirit will live on with the wonderful memories I will hold dear until we meet again in eternal life. William W. Marshall

william maarshall - January 13, 2020 at 03:23 PM

DK

“ Sending the Whole Martin and 'State' Family my deepest condolences. I admired Clarence and he was an inspiration to the electrical industry and made an enormous contributions to the industry with his thought leadership and he was just a wonderful, caring person. He will be missed!

Denise Keating

Denise Keating - January 13, 2020 at 01:37 PM

AC

“ I consider myself to be very fortunate to have known Clarence Martin. My association with Clarence runs for 25 years and has been through our mutual industry organizations and experiences. His intelligence and insights were readily apparent to those who had the opportunity to work with him, but it was his strong work ethic and his moral character that for me really stood out. He truly cared about people and it showed. I admire Clarence and am grateful that I was one of the people who had the chance to know him and call him a friend.

Art Cook

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Art Cook - January 13, 2020 at 12:43 PM

DG

“ My deepest condolences to the Martin family and his family at State Electric. We all should inspire to leave such a positive mark on our families businesses and communities. Clarence was a good friend, a great person , one who would take time out to discuss even the simplest of topics and was always a great source if insight when things got tough. I will miss the big guy at our Industry meetings , he will be missed but not forgotten.

The Gray Family

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Dan Gray - January 13, 2020 at 10:31 AM

BC

“ Becky Carron lit a candle in memory of Clarence Edward Martin



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Becky Carron - January 13, 2020 at 09:23 AM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Clarence Edward Martin.



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January 13, 2020 at 09:10 AM

TM

“ My sincerest condolences to the Martin family. You will be in my thoughts and prayers.

*Todd Myers, State Electric Statesville.*

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**Todd Myers** - January 13, 2020 at 09:09 AM

GB

“ On behalf of the Rockwell Automation Team, I want to express our deepest condolences to the Martin family. Clarence was a key component in the success of the partnership between State Electric and Rockwell. He was a steady leader, always exhibiting the highest level of professionalism, passion and kindness. For me personally, Clarence was a great mentor but an even greater friend. I will miss him dearly. Our thoughts and especially our prayers are with the Martin family.

*Greg Barton*

*Rockwell Automation, Charleston, WV*

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**Greg Barton** - January 13, 2020 at 08:56 AM

CP

“ Clarence was one of the single most sincere and thoughtful men I know. 12 years ago I joined a writing group and he showed interest in that when I mentioned it to him in passing, and asked if he could read one of my short stories. He loved it, and asked to read another, and another! For the last 12 years since that time, every time he saw me, he made a point of asking me if I was still writing and telling me that I should really focus on that in my future. That kind of encouragement and sincere interest in other human beings was a hallmark of Clarence's kindness and is much needed in the world we live today! What an honor it was to know him and to work with him. He will be dearly missed!

*Charlene Plymale*

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**Charlene Plymale** - January 13, 2020 at 08:26 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Clarence Edward Martin.



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January 12, 2020 at 06:51 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Clarence Edward Martin.*



January 12, 2020 at 10:32 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Clarence Edward Martin.*



January 12, 2020 at 06:38 AM

RF

“ *To the Martin family please accept my deepest sympathy on the passing of Clarence. He was one of the finest and nicest people I have ever met and he truly will be missed by all who knew him. May God be with all of you and Heaven just got one Great man.*

*Rob Fleming*

**Rob Fleming** - January 11, 2020 at 04:51 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Clarence Edward Martin.*



January 11, 2020 at 03:59 PM

VR

“ *Sharon, my thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. May your memories comfort you ..Clarence was truly a unique gentleman. God Bless,. Vanessa Ramey*

**Vanessa Ramey** - January 11, 2020 at 02:32 PM



“ 79 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Henson and Kitchen Mortuary and Cremation Services - January 11, 2020 at 01:25 PM



“ Clarence was a true friend and a man to be admired. He will be missed and always remembered.

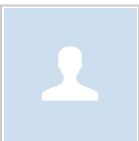
Tom Click - January 11, 2020 at 01:17 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Clarence Edward Martin.



January 11, 2020 at 10:04 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Clarence Edward Martin.



January 10, 2020 at 10:38 PM

CO

“ I want to express my sincerest condolences to the Martin Family.

Over the next days and weeks you will hear countless stories of how Clarence impacted peoples lives as a mentor, as a friend and just as a model member of the human race. He had that way about him. That way of uplifting everyone around him to achieve far beyond what we would have believed we could have achieved without his encouragement and leadership. I know I for one am a much better citizen of this earth for having crossed paths with such a positive force as Clarence.

My thoughts and prayers are with you.

God Bless.

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**Chuck Oldaker** - January 10, 2020 at 06:10 PM

PC

“ As a employee for over 22 years with State Electric Co. Clarence Was always a positive person every time he came to Winston-Salem he always came by and said hello, how are you and doing, To the Martin family my deepest condolences. Clarence is in the presence of our Savior and I can't think of anything better than that. I also believe Art and Arnold and him are sharing some great stories .

Paul Carlton

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**Paul Carlton** - January 10, 2020 at 06:07 PM



“ Loved One Vertical Blanket was purchased for the family of Clarence Edward Martin.



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January 10, 2020 at 06:00 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Clarence Edward Martin.



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January 10, 2020 at 05:08 PM

RO

“ Clarence Martin was the kindest individual I can ever remember. You could always count on him for guidance and a helping hand. He will be sorely missed. Rest in peace and may God help the family through this difficult time.

Roger O - January 10, 2020 at 04:25 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Clarence Edward Martin.



January 10, 2020 at 03:02 PM

JL

“ I knew Clarence thru the Electrical Distribution Industry for some 25 years as both a peer, a competitor, and a friend. It is always a delight to have an honorable competitor and that is a great word to describe Clarence - honorable. We worked together on a number of industry committees, Allen-Bradley project teams, and more where we developed a great working friendship. He was always there with a smile, an encouraging word, and a wonderful humility that did little to shade the excellence, the hard work and the intelligence that Clarence offered to his business and his industry. He was always a gentleman and I admired and will long remember him for that as much as for anything else.

Jack Lawson

Retired CEO, Electrical Equipment Company, Richmond, VA

Jack Lawson - January 10, 2020 at 03:00 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Clarence Edward Martin.



January 10, 2020 at 02:57 PM

DB

“ *Prince of a Man is how I'd describe Clarence. I had the great fortune to serve on the board of NAED with him, and though he was miles ahead of me in the industry, he sat beside me and talked to me like I was his peer. Taught me a lot. I'll bet there are hundreds who can say the same thing. Been out of the industry for four years now but when I heard his name, positive feelings came right back. Rest in peace Clarence, you were a genuine man who cared about others. Well done good and faithful servant.*

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**Doug Borchers** - January 10, 2020 at 02:23 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Clarence Edward Martin.*



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January 10, 2020 at 11:46 AM



“ *To: Clarence Edward Martin Family*

*Our Deepest Sympathy.*

*From: The First State Bank and Vallandingham Family*

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**Renita Brown-Lawson** - January 10, 2020 at 11:38 AM

TG

“ *Clarence Martin's candle burned brightly as he touched so many lives for so many years. His passing marks the world a little darker for all of us. Godspeed, Clarence.*

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**Tim Griffith** - January 10, 2020 at 11:08 AM

TS

“ *Clarence was a true gentleman and good friend. Always very responsive to the needs of others. Helped me and Marshall in many ways. Together with Art, Clarence supported many of our initiatives: Heritage Farm meetings, Marshall CITE and CEGAS. He will be missed..*  
*Tony Szwilski.*

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**Tony Szwilski** - January 10, 2020 at 10:26 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Clarence Edward Martin.*



January 10, 2020 at 10:00 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Clarence Edward Martin.*



January 10, 2020 at 09:04 AM

JM

“ *Jonathan Mills lit a candle in memory of Clarence Edward Martin*



**Jonathan Mills** - January 10, 2020 at 08:15 AM

SM

“ *Susan Moore lit a candle in memory of Clarence Edward Martin*



**Susan Moore** - January 09, 2020 at 08:39 AM

BP

*Prayers/Thoughts to the Martin family. Very much enjoyed working with Clarence thru industry issues/events. Truly great gentleman! Prayers!*

**Brian Peters** - January 11, 2020 at 10:08 AM

WM

*I've had the honor of knowing and working with Clarence for over 33 years. Clarence was a man that treated everyone with respect and took time to always greet you with kindness, and smile. Clarence will be sadly missed. Something that always stood out to me was Clarence always went around to all the employee's around the Holidays and just wanted to wish everyone good tidings. As I've read some of the memories of Clarence it is true... you would think being decorated as Clarence was with accomplishments he still cared and took care of his working family. You could write a book of this special man, but you would never be able to say enough of the gentle caring giant he was. Just an awesome, awesome man. Sadly we will miss his presence..... God bless and comfort each of his family during this difficult time. " The footsteps we leave behind will lead those in whom walked beside us....". Truly respected and loved.*

*Wendell Mays*

*January 13, 2020 | Barboursville, WV | Coworker*

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**wendell mays** - January 13, 2020 at 08:50 PM