



A Letter From Heaven

When tomorrow starts without me
 And I'm not there to see
 If the sun should rise and find your
 eyes filled with tears for me.
 I wish so much you wouldn't cry
 The way you did today
 While thinking of the many things
 We didn't get to say.
 I know how much you love me
 As much as I love you
 And each time that you think of me,
 I know you'll miss me too.
 When tomorrow starts without me
 Don't think we're far apart
 For every time you think of me
 I'm right there in your heart.
 - Author Unknown

*Dad, you exceeded I'm sure all expectations.
 Rest, be at peace! This ain't easy, but we'll make it through.
 -Your Son, Chuck*

Acknowledgements

The family of Mr. Finley Charles Martin, Jr. wishes to express their sincere appreciation for the many acts of kindness, words of support, and expressions of sympathy during the passing of their loved one. May God shower His richest blessings upon you. Special thanks to all those who took the time out to visit my dad; especially his Omega Brothers who often picked him up to attend the Omega luncheons.

Services Entrusted To:

Ozella J. Foster Funeral Services
 4100 Dr. Martin Luther King Drive ~ St. Louis, MO 63113
 Tel. 314-652-3305 ~ Email: info@ozellajf.com

 *"To Him We Give The Glory"*



*Celebration
of Life
for*

**Mr. FINLEY
Charles
MARTIN JR.**

Sunrise: April 25, 1928 - **Sunset:** October 14, 2025

Monday, October 27, 2025 - 11:30 AM

Rev. Dr. Ferrell Roddy, Officiant

Ozella J. Foster Funeral Services Chapel
 4100 Dr. Martin Luther King Dr. | St. Louis, MO 63113

This Is My Life

-Written by Finley C. Martin Jr.

Finley Charles Martin Jr. was born April 25, 1928, to Finley Charles Martin Sr. and Rosie Belle Foster. This marriage had one son and five daughters. Finley Jr. was the eldest of the six children. His mother, father and three sisters – Irma Jean Martin, Rosella West and Lila Hunter, all preceded him in death.

At the age of three he was stricken with infantile paralysis, which left the right leg smaller than the left leg. For a period, he wore a leg brace. He was educated in the Saint Louis Public School System, attending the Devoil Elementary for two years. He later enrolled at Charles Henry Turner School, a school for children with physical disabilities and underweight. The school was located on Kennerly Ave. in front of Sumner High School. Finley graduated from Turner in January 1942 and enrolled at Vashon High School located on Laclede Ave. While attending Vashon, he participated in many school activities including member of the student council and choir, member of the varsity basketball team, swimming team, cheer leader during football season, president of the Hi-Y club, and for a short time was on the staff of the school paper.

Finley graduated from Vashon in January 1946 and enrolled at Stowe Teachers Junior College for 1 1/2 years. He pledged and joined the Lampados Pledge Club of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and was a member of the starting five on the varsity basketball team. After leaving Stowe, he enrolled at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, MO in September 1948. At Lincoln he was inducted into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity on April 30, 1949. Finley was the Basileus of the fraternity, President of the Pan Hellenic Council, Treasurer of the junior class, Treasurer of the senior class, Financial Secretary of the Student Christian Association. His athletic participation included being a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity starting 5 basketball team (the team went undefeated and won a championship, winning the intramural league), 3rd baseman on the fast pitch Omega softball team (placed second in the intramural league), member of the frat volleyball team (won the intramural championship), won the high jump at the intramural track and field day, was commissioner of the intramural athletic leagues. He received the Sigma Gamma Rho award as outstanding Greek in 1950. Bailey graduated from Lincoln University in June 1951 with a Bachelor of Science degree in health and physical education.

In August 1952, after meeting and dating Finley married Joan Elizabeth Alexander, who enrolled at Lincoln University in September 1950. They became engaged in December 1951 and married in August 1952. June 8, 1954, a son was born, Finley Charles Martin III and dub with the nickname *Chuck*. Chuck was christened in the fall of 1954 at Saint Mark's Catholic Church after taking instruction and receiving confirmation.

Finley was baptized to the Catholic faith at Saint Mark's Catholic Church in 1954. He was a member of Saint Augustine Catholic Church, initially in 1996 under the pastorate of Father Robert (Bob) Gettinger. He served in some stewardships as a member of the Saint Vincent De Paul, co-chair of the Annual Catholic Appeal fund drive for 22 years. He served as Vice president as an elected member of the Parish Council.

After graduation his first job was Assistant Boys Director at the Carver House Community Center in January 1952. He was later promoted to the position of Boys Director. This job consisted of planning and supervising athletic and club activities for boys between the ages of 9 to 18. His staff consisted of one full-time and five part-time workers. He left Carver House in January 1955 to work as a carto-photo aid at the Aeronautical Chart and Information. His duties consisted of compiling maps for use by the Air Force. His most interesting work while employed there was compiling maps of the moon, which were used in the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo space program; the program which eventually landed a man on the moon. Finley made a trip to Houston, manned Space Center to deliver the charts that were used for orbit of the moon and later the moon landing.

For five years he was an EEO counselor, assisting those who filed discrimination complaints based on race, age, sex and natural origin. Finley received a plaque from the Equal Opportunity Office of the Defense Mapping Agency for his outstanding service to the agency on the day he retired. While working as an EEO counselor, he served as treasurer of the Greater Saint Louis Metropolitan Saint Louis CEO Council. Retirement came May 30, 1985 after 30 years and five months.

While at DMAAC, he was playing manager on the agency fast pitch team, playing at the position of catcher. The team won five championships while participating in the Federa Fast Pitch softball league and four city championships (once held a record of winning two years without a defeat). Some other highlights of his active life include campus counselor YMCA camp, River Cliff Master Camper, excellent swimmer - receiving lifeguard certificate from Red Cross, excellent canoe man and oarsman of row boats, past president of YMCA Old Tymers of the Monsanto YMCA, past President of Town and Country Social Club, umpired baseball and little league in University City Baseball League, received an Outstanding Alumni Award from Lincoln University alumni, president of Lincoln University alumni, president of Vashon alumni classes 1946, inducted into the Vashon Alumni Hall of Fame 1993, recipient of the YMCA Old Tymers Man of the Year Award in 1988, worked as a counselor in the Junior Achievement program.

Finley Charles Martin Jr., better known as *Gabby*, resided under the care of Delmar Gardens North from July of 2022 until 10/14/25. On that day, at approximately 9:07 AM, he transitioned to the heavenly side.

Finley Jr. (Gabby) leaves to cherish his memory, his only child, Finley Charles Martin III, one grandson Seanell L. Martin, one great-granddaughter Ashanti S. Martin; one surviving sister Marilyn Martin; Shantell Williams (Ashanti's mom) whom he shared a special friendship with like father/daughter; a loving friend and companion Johnette Wells. He also leaves a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, adopted daughters and sons as well as a large adopted church family and a host of friends.

Order of Service

OMEGA FRATERNITY SERVICE	11:00 AM - 11:30 AM
CALL TO ORDER	Rev. Dr. Ferrell Roddy, Chaplain 8 th District, Omega Psi Phi, Inc.
SCRIPTURE Old Testament New Testament	Rev. Dr. Ferrell Roddy
PRAYER	Rev. Dr. Ferrell Roddy
SELECTION	Mr. Willie Cogshell
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CONDOLENCES	<i>Please limit to two minutes</i>
SELECTION	Mr. Willie Cogshell
REMARKS	Family & Friends <i>Please limit to two minutes</i>
MINISTER REMARKS	<i>Please limit to two minutes</i>
THIS IS MY STORY	Read by Sheilah Hamilton
SELECTION	Mr. Willie Cogshell
WORDS OF COMFORT	Rev. Marvin H. Richardson Pastor, Kingdom Minded Christian Church
PARTING VIEW	Ozella J. Foster Funeral Directors <i>Peace Be Still</i> , Music by Rev. James Cleveland <i>Total Praise</i> , Music by Richard Smallwood
COMMITTAL	Pulpit Minister

Requast

Immeadiately Following Service:

Omega Center

3900 Goodfellow Blvd | St Louis, MO 63120