



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

WD Martin Jr.

MARCH 28, 1954 - JULY 6, 2026

Thursday, July 30, 2026, 10 AM
Eastside Cathedral of Praise, 5955 East 29th St N

THE BLESSING OF THE LORD BRINGS WEALTH,
WITHOUT PAINFUL TOIL FOR IT.

PROVERBS 10:22 NIV

Obituary

WD Martin Jr. began his life on March 28th, 1954, he was the third of ten children born to Corene Martin and WD Martin Sr. WD was a man whose personality was impossible to forget. He had a gift for oversharing stories, opinions, and memories that often wandered far from where they started. Those conversations, though sometimes long-winded, became one of his most beloved qualities, leaving people laughing, shaking their heads, and feeling as though they knew him just a little better.

Known for his old-fashioned sense of humor, unwavering determination, and stubborn nature, WD stood firmly by his beliefs and rarely changed his mind once it was made up. While he could be headstrong, those who knew him understood that his authenticity was one of his greatest strengths along with his entrepreneurship and ministry. WD had an uncanny ability to create delicious meals without recipes or measurements. He could take whatever ingredients were on hand and turn them into something memorable, sharing his love through food as naturally as he shared it through music and laughter.

Music was woven into every part of his life. He was rarely found without a song on his lips and possessed a natural musical talent that couldn't be taught. Whether singing or playing one of the many instruments he had learned over the years, music was simply part of who he was. It was a gift and a great love he passed down to his children. He started a recording studio called Nitram Records and produced a few albums with his music group Family Friend. The group had been performing for almost two years and had been regulars on "The New Jim Bakker Show" and performed on "The Bobby Jones Show" in Branson and throughout the country. He carried the name of Family Friend and started a ministry that initially focused on feeding homeless veterans then expanded into a nonprofit organization that feeds the homeless community.

He served in the Army for two years, then he went to barber college where he was told that his knowledge of cutting hair exceeded the expertise of what they could teach him and was transferred to Inglewood, California to the barber college in Watts, California. After returning to Wichita, he continued working as a barber until he started his own barber college Martin's Total Image, which ultimately became one of the first black-owned cosmetology schools in Kansas. He then had a barbershop called JR Martin's Place and expanded to two more locations, JR Martin's Place 2 and 3. Eventually, he left working his barbershops, but he still continued to cut hair remotely.

Above all else, WD loved his family. As the father of many children, he cared deeply for each of them and treasured the relationships he was able to maintain throughout his life. His love was steadfast, even when time and distance created space between them. WD departed this life on Monday, July 6th, 2026, at the age of 72 years old. He graduated from Southeast High School in 1972. He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, and two sisters. His passing was sudden, leaving behind songs left unsung, stories left unfinished, and meals that can never quite be recreated. Though he is deeply missed, his laughter, music, resilience, and unmistakable spirit live on through his children, family, and everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

He leaves behind to mourn him his five daughters, Shanell (Rashad) Fields, Porsha (Cornelius) Adkins, Chavon (David) Snow, Ciquia Martin, Mikayla (James) Peeples, and one son, Yanessa "Yanni" Martin, three brothers, Eddie "Rocky" Martin, Troy (Helen) Martin, and Keith (Cynthia) Martin, three sisters, Nora Johnson, Peggy Martin and Cynthia "Cindy" Martin, fourteen grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren.

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

WD Martin Jr.

PROCESSIONAL

Family Friend
Musical Selection

SCRIPTURE

Ciquia Martin

MUSICAL SELECTION

PRAYER

Ricky Jones

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AND OBITUARY

Pastor Donald Smith
Mikayla Peeples

REMARKS

2 Minutes

MUSICAL SELECTION

WORDS OF

COMFORT/EULOGY

Pastor Donald Smith

VIDEO TRIBUTE

Cynthia Pizzini-Martin

RECESSIONAL

Family Friend Musical
Selection

FINAL RESTING PLACE

Winfield Veterans Cemetery
1208 N College St, Winfield,
KS 67156

Honorable Pallbearers

Troy Martin Jr.
Deon Custard
Tony Neal
Joey Peeples
James "Buddy" Peeples
Jaquez Adkins
Brent Fields
José "Freddy" Ureno
Jason George
Derek Lewis
Alex Ho

Flower Girls

Sharell Martin	Mi'Kayla Fields
Shavell Martin	Ciquia Fields
Leaisha Yapa	Evalia Fields
Tiara Adkins	Aaliah Fields
Shea Alexander	Ciara Abong'o

Repass, 3:00 PM

Church of Christ
5833 E 37th St. N
Wichita, KS, 67218