



John Clinton Perkins Martin Sr.

June 8, 1932 - August 24, 2017

John Clinton Perkins Martin, Sr. was born June 8, 1932, in New Bern, North Carolina, the first child of Reverend George Clinton Martin and Pearlie Mae Ridley Martin. JC or John Clinton, as he was called by family and friends, enjoyed school, fishing and crabbing. Martin attended grade school at West Street School. John professed Christ and was baptized in March of 1945 at Guilfield Baptist Church in New Bern, North Carolina by Reverend T.T. Chivers. In 1950, he graduated from West Street High School.

Martin earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Shaw University with a physical education major and minor in Biology. It was also while attending Shaw that he became a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated in 1955. Martin also earned a Masters in physical education from Springfield College and completed coursework towards a Doctor of Physical Education.

In 1961, Martin met the love of his life, Ann Battles. He and Ann were married June 5, 1962.

John's illustrious career spanned nearly forty years. Coach Martin, as he is affectionately known, created many successful sports programs and teams during his years as a college coach and administrator.

Coach Martin started his career at historic Kittrell College. After a successful

stint, he moved to Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee from 1959-1986. He was an Associate Professor of Physical Education, coached the Track and Field and Cross Country teams and served as the Athletic Director. At Fisk, Martin built two programs, baseball and track and field. The track and field program grew to a great, national powerhouse. Coach Martin led the Bulldogs to numerous SIAC and national championships and produced several All-Americans. Coach Martin also produced two World Record holders during his time at Fisk. His innovative spirit and strong social networking led him to partner with WVOL 1400 to establish the Fisk Jubilee Cross Country Invitational, a prestigious event ahead of its time.

Martin's administrative success led others to tap him for prestigious appointments. He served as president of the NCAA Track Coaches Association, Chairman of NCAA Division III and coach for the Guyana South American Track and Field team. He served as Director for NCAA Regional Championships and NCAA Division I-AA Southern Regional Playoff games.

In 1986, Martin was appointed by then Delaware State College President Luna I. Mishoe to head the Hornets' athletics department. He held the position until 1996. During Martin's tenure, Delaware State's men's and women's programs were each recognized as tops in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. Under Martin's leadership, the Hornets won four MEAC football championships (1987, '88, '89, '91), along with conference titles in volleyball (1986), men's and women's indoor track and field (1987), baseball (1989), men's cross country (1989), women's cross country (1990) and men's outdoor track & field (1992). In 1987, Delaware State received the MEAC's Mary McLeod Bethune All-Sports Award for overall excellence in women's sports. The Hornets were presented with the Talmadge Hill Award for overall excellence in men's sports in 1990.

Martin, a huge proponent of equity, was Director of Athletics when the softball

program was formed at Delaware State in 1992. He was also instrumental in the establishment of the school's Athletics Compliance Office and a major proponent of the NCAA's Academic Enhancement Program, which provides funding for academic assistance at member institutions. In addition, he spearheaded ambitious, successful football events featuring the Hornets in the Motor City Classic at the Silverdome in Pontiac, Michigan in 1992 and he brought FAMU football and the world famous Marching 100 to Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia in the Philadelphia Football Classic in 1994. Martin also helped negotiate the first athletics competition between Delaware State and University of Delaware teams. The Hornets defeated the Blue Hens in men's basketball 99-95 in the first head-to-head meeting between teams from the state's two Division I schools in 1991. He was inducted into the Delaware State University Athletics Hall-of-Fame in 2001.

After retirement, "Martin" as he was called by his wife and best friend, Ann, declared that he was going to be a full time grandfather. He introduced himself as "the Big Daddy" and lived his persona in everything he did. Big Daddy continued his life in Kappa, reaping many awards for his dedication and service. He earned his 50 Year membership in 2005. Dover Alumni Chapter bestowed the Kappa Man of the Year on him also in 2005.

John C. P. Martin, Sr. will be remembered with love by his devoted wife of 55 years, Ann B. Martin. To cherish their memories of him and to celebrate his life, he leaves one son John, Jr. (Ronica); three daughters, Linda Stewart (Phil), Michele (Leroy, Sr.), and DeDe Ashton (Russell); grandsons, Leroy, Jr. (Jennifer), John, III, and Joshua; granddaughters, Teresa, Courtney Ann and DeBorah; sister, Gwendolyn Milteer; two nephews, Rev. Andre Milteer and Joseph Milteer (Elizabeth); and many other loving relatives and friends.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of John Clinton Perkins

Martin Sr., please visit our
Heartfelt Sympathies Store.

Tribute Wall

SJ

“ *Thinking of You*

Shelley Jackson-Cox - August 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ *I was the track coach at Vanderbilt in the 1970's, when Coach Martin was at Fisk, and we saw each other often at track meets. Coach Martin was a gentle man and a gentleman, a positive influence on us all. Coaches and athletes respected him for the good man that he was. We join you in mourning his loss.*

J. B. Nation - October 22, 2017 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ *Martin Family:
I was extremely saddened to hear about the passing of Coach Martin. I have fond memories of him when I was growing up. Our families were the closest of friends. He will truly be missed.*

Karya Beamon-Evans - September 05, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ *To the Martin family:*

Please accept my sincere condolences for your loss. Coach Martin was a role model..on and off the field..he mentored players and others..respected and admired...he was a go-to man!!

he will be missed, but he will never be forgotten.

john alston, Fisk '65

john alston - September 02, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ To the Martin famiy I send my deepest sympathy. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Fisk would not have been the same without John Martin.
RIP Coach.

Dr. Charlene Portee - September 02, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ The Martin Family, Mother/Deaconess Gwendolyn Milteer and Pastor Andre' W. Milteer,

At this time of sorrow, we offer you our sincere love and Condolences on the loss of your brother and uncle.

John 11:25 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies.

Lovingly submitted

Shelley I. Jackson - Cox & Family

Church Administrator

Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Newark, NJ

Shelley I. Jackson - Cox - August 30, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ To the family, I thank you so much for allowing me to share with you the great man John Martin was.

To my teacher, coach, mentor, and dearest friend, you have touched so many hearts and my heart will greatly miss you forever.

Dr. Harriet Kimbro-Hamilton - August 29, 2017 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ My deepest condolences for the loss of your dear loved one. While nothing will completely take away your grief by meditating on Gods promises found in the Bible you can find real hope and the strength to keep going. My family and I have found the scripture at Isaiah 25:8 to be especially comforting. Here it promises that God "will swallow up death forever and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces."

H. Fields - August 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

GR

“ My dear wife and I would like to extend our condolences for the loss of your loved one. All of us have experienced the pain of death in some way sad to say. And, so, at difficult times like this we are confronted with the stark reality of how precious and fragile life can surely be (James 4:14). So, my wife and I send this condolence to you with the hope that we can in some small way comfort you as it has comforted us with what the Bible reveals to us about GOOD NEWS from Almighty God. Please be assured that we are in no way trying to impose our faith on you; but we sincerely just want to extend comfort to you during your grief (Proverbs 17:17).

As recorded in the Bible, God's only-begotten son, Jesus promises that one day he is personally going to bring back to life all those who have died, just as he did when he was on earth as a man (John 5:28,29; 11:43, 44). Just as death is an enemy to us, it is also an enemy to God (1 Corinthians 15:26). For that reason as well as others, He promises to remove FOREVER all the pain, suffering, wickedness, and DEATH that mankind has had to endure for thousands of years (Revelation 21:3-5; Psalm 37:10, 11, 29). What a glorious and almost unbelievable day that will be! It's a reality and a sure hope we can rely on because it is absolutely impossible for God to lie (Titus 1:2; Isaiah 55:10, 11).

It is our hope that you NOT take our word for what has been written in this condolences; but that you please take a moment to read and meditate on all these referenced scriptures in your own Bible (1 Timothy 4:15, 16). My wife and I are confident you will be encouraged and comforted by the marvelous hope God has in store for us (Psalm 1:1-3; John 17:3). Our thoughts and prayers are sincerely with all of you.

George & Christine Ragusa - August 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ Dear Family,

I wish to extend my deepest sympathies during this difficult time. May you find strength in Gods promise at Isaiah 25:8 that soon he will swallow up death forever.

JoyceA - August 24, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ *I am sorry for your loss, please accept my sincere condolences. I hope the family will find some comfort and strength in Jesus promise of the earthly resurrection(Acts 24:15)and the renewed Paradise earth, where death will be no more and no family will mourn the death of a loved one.-Revelation 21:3,4;John 5:28,29;Luke 23:43. may GOD(Psalms 83:18)grant you peace and comfort now, during this grievous time.-Matthew 5:4.*

M Jones - August 24, 2017 at 12:00 AM