



## Martin Hart

November 28, 1944 - July 23, 2019

Martin Dillon Hart went to the great beyond on July 23, 2019. He is currently traveling the universe with his dog Lou. There are no stop lights and no traffic in interstellar space so he is much happier. If you need to reach him, order a Budweiser that costs more than \$3.00 and you will certainly hear from him.

He is survived by his extraordinarily patient wife, Joyce, his daughter, Holly, her husband, Scott, his grandchildren, Dalton (9) and Graham (6), sisters, Mary and Marsha, sister-in-laws, Ruth and Elaine, brother-in-laws, Jim, Wes, Tim, Anthony and Troy, nieces, Elizabeth, Carrie, Molly, Katie, Nicki, Amanda, Meghan, Maddie, Tabitha and Bethany, nephews, John, Ryan and Chris, step-nephews, John and Dave, cousins, Bill, John and Mark and a host of great nieces and nephews.

Martin was born on November 28, 1944 in St. Louis, MO. He lived most of his childhood in Salem riding bikes with his buddies around town. A treasure hunter at heart, he developed an early love for collecting arrowheads, coins, buttons and matchbooks. He was a good student at Salem High School graduating in 1962. He was voted best actor in his school play (he liked to brag about this so I felt the need to include it). He went on to get an accounting degree from Drury College and after a job in the Internal Audit department at Monsanto in St. Louis.

He met his main squeeze, Joyce Knight, and married her on December 30, 1970 (50 years next year) whom he had one daughter, Holly Hart of St. Louis. He taught her to always wear her seatbelt, select quality tires, fish, to love nature and not to smoke. Joyce and Martin moved back to Salem in 1973 to help run the Tower Inn Motel, Walnut Bowl and Crossroads Shopping Center which they operated until 1999. In 1997, he along with Don Gregory, opened The Roadhouse in Salem. Highly regarded as a fair and fun employer, he had little tolerance for employees who missed work or showed up late. He knew all his customers by name and spoke to each of them every time they walked in the door.

He had a life-long love affair of taking pictures of dead animals, Imo's pizza, daily newspapers, his dogs, Budweiser, classic country music and old westerns. He excelled at making spectator fires, cleaning fish, sharpening his chainsaw, wearing jeans for all occasions and reading books on American history. His favorite presents were underwear, socks, shotgun shells and hunting and fishing licenses. He took extreme pride in his two grandsons believing they are the smartest, best looking and most athletic children on the planet.

Martin was an avid hunter who preferred bird hunting over all other forms. The self-proclaimed best fisherman in Dent County (behind the late Ted Ziske) has caught thousands of fish not just locally but in Alaska, Florida, the Great Lakes and Canada. He would beat you in Jeopardy with all subject matter prior to 1985. As a point of pride, he loved to tell people he's been to all 50 states, the last being Oregon just this last June.

Not a religious man but a man with a strict moral code. He hated all thieves and particularly that one person who stole his chainsaw out of his truck in 2007. You will be hearing from him. A steward of mother nature, a collector of artifacts, a loyal friend, a staunch supporter of the local American Legion and

a scholar of Native American history, Martin was a bona fide original.

Everyone who remembers him is asked to celebrate his life in their own way, raising a glass with their favorite drink would be quite appropriate. And you don't have to stop there - you can always have "just one more."

A celebration will be held for Martin at the Spring Creek Golf and Country Club in Salem, MO on Wednesday, July 31 at 3:00. Speakers at 3:00 and libations to follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to one of the following: Salem Public Library, The American Legion Post 99, Love Packs or Salem's Animal Shelter.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUL 31. 3:00 PM (CT)

Salem Golf & Country Club  
Salem, MO 65560

# Tribute Wall



“ *Martin Hart*

January 30, 2023 at 04:37 AM



“ *Martin Hart*

January 30, 2023 at 02:54 AM



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



July 30, 2019 at 05:41 PM



“ *The Rally in the 100 Acre Wood Family is saddened to hear of Martin's passing. Over 40 years ago when Rally first came to Dent County, it was Martin and the Tower Inn that was the center of Rally activity in the woods until the whole Rally moved down to Salem from Rolla. Thanks for all your help Martin....you will be missed.*

**Kim DeMotte** - July 29, 2019 at 10:40 PM



“ *My mother in law Charlene Combs worked for Martin at the Tower Inn for many years. He was very good to a single mother raising a child on her own the whole family was. RIP Martin thank you for your kindness to my mother in law and her son.*

**Pam Combs** - July 28, 2019 at 08:27 PM

SC

“ This is one of the best obits I have ever read and does a great job describing an indescribable man.  
Martin helped to teach me to drive out at the farm, never let anyone exclude me just for being a girl, and gave me opportunities to make some pretty unique memories. I'll miss you "Uncle Martin". Enjoy the afterlife in a land of no eggs, no onions, and unlimited flammables!

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**Shawna Cooper** - July 28, 2019 at 01:29 PM

LI

“ I know you'll give those angels a run for their money... and I am sure you and Don are already winging your way around the stars, lighting up the sky, and causing quite the ruckus.

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**lisa** - July 27, 2019 at 11:25 PM

JC

“ Many years of remembrance playing Softball with Martin. May family find peace and prayer

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**Jennifer Croney** - July 27, 2019 at 03:22 PM

MB

“ Martin you will be missed my friend.

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**Mary beth** - July 26, 2019 at 08:09 PM

CC

“ I am so sorry to hear of Martin’s passing and so sorry for your loss..Martin is a distant cousin of mine, his Grandmother, Jessie, was my Grandfather, George Austin, sister. We spent many Christmas’s at Jesse’s house..Martin was in my brother, Tom’s , wedding and we walked down the aisle together. This was probably the last time I saw him over 50 years. Our son got into ancestry and we found a cousin Judy Falloni in St Louis and we have been keeping in touch in the last year. I live in NH but it’s nice we have been able to connect after all these years. I am so glad she contacted me about Martin’s passing. He was a fun cousin at those Christmas gatherings..again sorry for your loss and for his sister’s loss. Prayers, thoughts and love to you all during this difficult time.

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**Cindy Grube Neumann (Distant cousin)** - July 26, 2019 at 04:04 PM

JH

“ Blessings your way to the whole family! May God provide for you during this time of sorrow! I have to say some things I remember from early to now! 1967 I went to the State Basketball tourney at MU old Brewer Field House. I was late, not place to sit, Martin saw me and made everyone scoot over and dropped me in the middle.

*Played on his softball team over the years and enjoyed very much. Martin was always so nice to my kids. Lots of fun!*

*In later years I enjoyed breakfast at the T & C Deli with Martin and a host of other people. He always liked to discuss multiple issues. Sometimes he had a grand child and he fed them mounds of sweet donuts.*

*Martin, as well as his father, were always really nice to all our family. He was a good friend.*

*RIP*

*Jack, Katy, Jeff, Brian, Hays and families.*

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**Jack Hays** - July 26, 2019 at 01:31 PM

JB

“ I'm so sorry for your loss, Joyce, Holly and all. Martin was a good friend and a good boss. I will miss seeing him and chatting with him. He will truly be missed! Prayers for all of you.

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**Joyce Bolerjack** - July 25, 2019 at 05:22 PM

DI

“ *Dennis Inman lit a candle in memory of Martin Hart*



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**Dennis Inman** - July 25, 2019 at 03:26 PM

JS

“ *Our sincere sympathy, thoughts and prayers to you Joyce, Holly and all of your family.  
May your precious memories put a smile on your face.*

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**Jan & Cleo Shaw** - July 25, 2019 at 11:05 AM

AL

*Prayers for you*

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**AW Lough** - July 26, 2019 at 07:27 AM

SA

“ *P&PT's to you and your family, Joyce.  
~~Susan Archer*

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**Susan Archer** - July 25, 2019 at 08:33 AM

DH

“ *Martin was a good friend. always had a smile . our sympathy goes out to all his family*

*Dave & Karen Hogan*

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**David Hogan** - July 24, 2019 at 10:11 AM

MA

*A wonderful soul! Sam and I had the pleasure of staying at the cabin and hunting for arrowheads! He is truly missed. Prayers and comfort to Joyce and the family.*

*Sam Parker and Martha Tate*

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**Martha** - July 24, 2019 at 10:32 PM

SB

*So very sorry for your loss, sending prayers and love to you all.*

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**Susanne Berry** - July 27, 2019 at 12:54 PM

JS

*Sorry to hear of Martin's passing. He will be missed by many. Will pray for comfort for family and friends.*

*Janice (Clements) Steward*

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**janice (Clements) Steward** - July 27, 2019 at 05:40 PM

RW

*Our deepest sympathy to Joyce and family in the the loss of Martin. For over 40 years there has always be visiting with him on my returns to Salem. He WILL be missed. Ronnie White*

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**Ronnie White** - July 29, 2019 at 11:13 AM

KW

*I played golf with Martin many times. Martin did not have the patience that golf required. If his game was going poorly, it could suddenly become a polo game with Martin running after his ball swinging his club like a polo mallet. He had a good time and the score didn't keep him from having a beer afterward!*

*Keith Wheeler*

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**keith wheeler** - July 30, 2019 at 02:46 PM