



## James Aaron Martin

June 16, 1948 - November 18, 2016

James Aaron Martin was born in Abilene Texas June 16, 1948. He attended Cooper High School in Abilene Tx and was an accomplished machinist and business owner in the Odessa Tx area.

Drafted in to the U.S. military in 1967, James served the U.S. Army in the Vietnam conflict from 1967 – 1969 as part of an advanced Combat Dog Tracker Team with the 23rd Infantry Division. After completing over 50 missions in the A Shau Valley, James was honorably discharged from the military in 1969 and returned to Texas to be united in marriage to the love of his life Dona. They were wed December 13, 1969 in Odessa Tx.

James was an extremely talented individual in many ways and had a passion for motorsports and many forms of artistry.

An avid motorcycle rider, race car builder and driver, James competed in many competitions throughout his life including the Baja 500/1000, motorcycle

racers throughout the Texas, Oklahoma and Arizona area and the inaugural Las Vegas to Reno off-road race. He shared these passions with family and friends throughout his life whether it was on the beach in Mexico or in the mountains of Colorado.

Following in the footsteps of his late mother Dorothea, James was also a very talented artist producing artwork that varied from detailed sculptures, paintings and other original ideas that were very much his own. Often, James would create simple ingenious pieces such as a metallic key fob and at other times he would create much more detailed paintings and large complex sculptures. While many of the items adorn the walls of his home and shop, he would gift many items to friends and family and his legacy lives on through these works of art.

James passed away peacefully at his home in Odessa Tx. November 18th 2016 with his wife by his side and is preceded in death by his parents Buck and Dorothea Martin.

James' beautiful life will be forever cherished in the lives of his wife Dona Martin, son James A. Martin Jr., Sisters Cathy Bollinger and Sue Clark, daughter-in-law Sarah Martin, Grandchildren Andrew and Brandon Martin and the many other lives that he touched through his kind spirit towards friends and everyone that he met. He will be missed by many.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the family home December 10th, 2016.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the American Cancer Society.