



Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC

April 22, 1968 - June 13, 2024

Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC, went to be with the Lord on Thursday, June 13, 2024 while surrounded by his loving family here in Del Rio. He was born on April 22, 1968 in Pearsall, Texas.

EARLY YEARS

As a young man Chris was a great role model for all his siblings and would take them under his wing, even if they were older. He was an energetic young man and excelled at football for the Pearsall Mavericks. He was a force to be reckoned with on the field, and off the field, if anyone tried to bully any of his siblings.

LIFE OF SERVICE (MILITARY)

Chris decided early on as a young man to take that fierceness and bravery to the battlefield and joined the Marine Corps in October 1986. He served in Desert Storm as a Tank Commander and received the Bronze Star Medal with Combat award. During his career he received numerous awards and commendations and retired as a Sergeant. When you did see Chris, he was always sporting a Marine Cap and/or Shirt and he also made sure his Chevy Truck was Marine Red and that was a non-negotiable! Semper Fidelis (SEMPER FI) has been the Marine Corps motto since 1883. It embodies the Corps' value of honor, courage and commitment which Chris displayed throughout his entire life. Thank you for your Service!

LIFE OF SERVICE (TO GOD)

Chris' roots were established early on in loving and serving our Lord as an Alter Boy at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. He continued that dedication by serving as an ACTS member since 2010 and attended Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

LIFE OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICE

Chris started his career in corrections in 1993 in Texas Department of Criminal Justice. He went on to work for The Geo group in February 2021, started as a Correctional Officer and worked his way up to Senior Warden in Kinney County and eventually to Val Verde Correctional Facility where he was currently employed. Warden Chris truly loved his GEO family and they loved him.

LIFE OF SERVICE (COMMUNITY)

Chris was an instrumental mentor and supporter of our military as a member of the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Association at Laughlin Air Force Base where he served as a class sponsor to several pilot training classes over the years. His commitment was unwavering.

FAMILY LIFE

Chris was the greatest, dedicated and loving husband, father and grandfather who led by example. He loved the simple things like barbequing for large gatherings, driving his tractor or jumping in the pool with all the kids.

Somehow, he still managed to make time to see his significant number of siblings.

Chris was actively involved in the Phelan-McDermid foundation to ensure his young son Carlitos had all the opportunities and resources available to him.

Although he will be truly missed; we find comfort in knowing that he will always continue to be our strong protector.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Esther and Gabino Martinez; and sisters: Eloise Saenz and Mary Ann Martinez.

Family members left to cherish his memory include his beloved wife of 23 years, Nora L. Martinez of Del Rio; children: Valerie Martinez (Michael), Christopher Martinez Jr., Jonathan Martinez (Nancy), Veronica Martinez, Vanessa Martinez, Pedro Martinez, Gabino Martinez, Manuel Martinez, and Carlos Martinez; siblings: Johnny Martinez, Stella Rodriguez, Billy Martinez, Charlie Martinez, Gloria Berreles, Manuel Martinez, Teresa Gonzalez, Melinda Jenkins, Gabino Martinez Jr., and Tommy Martinez; grandchildren: Sylvia, Billy, Evelyn, Juliana, Abigail, Christina, Jonathan Jr., Kaitlyn, and Kaden; Warden Christopher is also survived by many other relatives, friends and colleagues.

Visitation will be held on Monday, June 17, 2024 from 5 to 9 p.m. in the Trinity Chapel of Faith. A Holy Rosary will be recited at 7 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Burial will follow at Westlawn Cemetery. Full military honors will be rendered by the United States Marine Corps. and the Jesus M. Limones Jr. American Legion Honor Guard Post #595. Pallbearers will be: Christopher Martinez Jr., Jonathan Martinez, Pedro Martinez, Gabino Martinez, Manuel Martinez, and Ron Rios.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 17. 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Trinity Mortuary
206 Kings Way
Del Rio, TX 78840
(830) 775-2230
info@trinitymortuary.com
<https://www.trinitymortuary.com>

Holy Rosary

JUN 17. 7:00 PM - 7:45 PM (CT)

Trinity Mortuary
206 Kings Way
Del Rio, TX 78840
(830) 775-2230
info@trinitymortuary.com
<https://www.trinitymortuary.com>

Catholic Mass

JUN 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Sacred Heart Church
307 E. Losoya
Del Rio, TX 78840

Military Honors Tribute

JUN 18. 11:05 AM - 11:15 AM (CT)

Westlawn Cemetery
Del Rio, TX 78840

Graveside Burial

JUN 18. 11:15 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Westlawn Cemetery
Del Rio, TX 78840

Tribute Wall

CV

“*Mary Reyna’s comment was beautiful and we agree with her sentiment. Warden Martinez valued the Chaplaincy Program and he knew that there is a place for God in everyone’s heart. Let’s continue to pray for the Warden’s family and friends every day and all year long.*

Chaplain Petitt and Volunteers - June 18, 2024 at 07:25 AM

MR

“*Let it be known that Warden Chris was a leader held in high regard by everyone at GEO Val Verde County Detention Facility. We will cherish and treasure the memories we made while working with him. Rest in peace, boss. We lost a real gem! From: VVCDF Staff and Officers*

Mary E. Reyna - June 17, 2024 at 03:59 PM

MF

“*Mr. and Mrs. Raul Galindo & Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.*



Mr. and Mrs. Raul Galindo & Family - June 17, 2024 at 12:15 PM

FS

“ FA Lavaughn Garnto & EHDC Staff purchased the Reflections of Glory Wreath for the family of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.



FA Lavaughn Garnto & EHDC Staff - June 17, 2024 at 11:52 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.



June 17, 2024 at 11:22 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.



June 17, 2024 at 11:17 AM

YF

“ Your GEO KCDF Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.

Your GEO KCDF Family - June 17, 2024 at 11:17 AM

RL

“ Regent Coach Line. LTD purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.



Regent Coach Line. LTD - June 17, 2024 at 10:29 AM

RL

“ Regent Coach Line. LTD planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.

Regent Coach Line. LTD - June 17, 2024 at 10:29 AM

CC

“ Coastal Bend Detention Center purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.



Coastal Bend Detention Center - June 17, 2024 at 09:22 AM

CC

“ Coastal Bend Detention Center planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.

Coastal Bend Detention Center - June 17, 2024 at 09:22 AM

DF

“ Drs. Antonio & Veronica Cadena & Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.



Drs. Antonio & Veronica Cadena & Family - June 17, 2024 at 12:50 AM

GS

“ GEO Central Region Health Services purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.



GEO Central Region Health Services - June 16, 2024 at 10:03 AM

GS

“ GEO Central Region Health Services planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.

GEO Central Region Health Services - June 16, 2024 at 10:03 AM

WF

“ Warden George "Butch" Head and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.

Warden George "Butch" Head and Family - June 16, 2024 at 09:16 AM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.



June 16, 2024 at 09:16 AM



“ Tommy and Linda Martinez purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.



Tommy and Linda Martinez - June 15, 2024 at 05:46 PM



“ Charles M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.

Charles M. - June 15, 2024 at 05:28 PM



“ Charles M. purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.



Charles M. - June 15, 2024 at 05:28 PM

BC

“ Bill and Jackie Chalmers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.

Bill and Jackie Chalmers - June 15, 2024 at 10:45 AM

BC

“ Bill and Jackie Chalmers purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.



Bill and Jackie Chalmers - June 15, 2024 at 10:45 AM

CM

“ He was truly a wonderful person. He respected others. He was fair. He carried Jesus in his heart. I met n worked w him when I worked at the VVSO. Then as I moved back to Brackett I use to run into him at stripes(getting coffee) on his way to the GEO. Our Lord needed a good man & called his name! God Bless him in Heaven! My sincere condolences to his wife (also met n worked with at GEO). May you have comfort in knowing he is still taking care of U n family from Heaven.
God Bless You n family.
Cordi from Brackettville

C Mendeke - June 15, 2024 at 10:11 AM

TF

“ *The Pon Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.*



The Pon Family - June 15, 2024 at 12:18 AM

BC

“ *It was an honor to be able to have Chris and Nora as our guests when they traveled to MD Anderson. We did not know them well when they first came and we hoped we would all get along. Little did we realize that we would become like family in no time. Chris and Nora are the definition of strength, dignity, and grace. No matter what MDA threw at Chris, he always managed to have a smile on his face. And Nora stood rock solid by his side. We will forever cherish every minute that we spent on the back porch with them. We feel more than blessed to have had the time we did to get to know the two of them. We pray that God gives Nora and the boys peace and comfort.*

Bill and Jackie Chalmers

Bill and Jackie Chalmers - June 14, 2024 at 08:42 PM

CM

“ *Craig & Lucia Moulton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.*

Craig & Lucia Moulton - June 14, 2024 at 07:06 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.



June 14, 2024 at 07:06 PM



“ *GEO Eagle Pass Detention Facility* purchased the *Divine Light* for the family of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.



GEO Eagle Pass Detention Facility - June 14, 2024 at 05:40 PM



“ *We lost a good mentor, leader and overall good man. The void left in our hearts will be hard felt for years to come. The peace we can count on is that you are in eternal peace with our Heavenly Father. Our hearts and prayers go out to the Martinez Family in their time of sorrow. Love you all.*

Rudy Salinas - June 14, 2024 at 03:57 PM



“ *Montgomery Processing Center* purchased the *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* for the family of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.



Montgomery Processing Center - June 14, 2024 at 03:31 PM

SC

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the Martinez family. May you find comfort in knowing he is at peace now. God be with you all in this time of sorrow. Sandy Colombo

Sandy Colombo - June 14, 2024 at 02:25 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.



June 14, 2024 at 12:36 PM

RT

“ Randy Tate planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.

Randy Tate - June 14, 2024 at 12:36 PM

LR

“ Love, Elsa, Analyza and Isaac Reyes planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.

Love, Elsa, Analyza and Isaac Reyes - June 14, 2024 at 10:19 AM

LR

“ Love, Elsa, Analyza and Isaac Reyes purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.



Love, Elsa, Analyza and Isaac Reyes - June 14, 2024 at 10:19 AM

MS

“ Ms. Nora, my deepest condolences to you at this time of losing Mr. Chris. A great man of principal and great character. I pray that Our Good Lord gives you and your family the Peace and Strength at this time. While working at GEO, he was always there for support and guidance. He truly was a great leader and Professional. His smiling personality was always beaming and may Mr. Chris RIP, God Bless you and your Family Ms. Nora.



Mario Saucedo - June 14, 2024 at 08:30 AM

AL

“ The 3 years I worked for GEO he was a good leader and major. My condolences to his family and to you Mrs. Martinez.

Anthony Lopez - June 14, 2024 at 07:10 AM

DF

“ You will be sorely missed brother, my heart and prayers go out to the family. Norma I can't even imagine your pain, I loved you both dearly! I'm still here, willing to listen.

Deborah Fisher - June 14, 2024 at 01:43 AM

IF

“ Ileana Garcia Bement & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.

Ileana Garcia Bement & Family - June 13, 2024 at 09:05 PM

IF

“ Ileana Garcia Bement & Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Warden Christopher "Chris" Martinez, Vet. USMC.



Ileana Garcia Bement & Family - June 13, 2024 at 09:05 PM

JD

“ "Say not in grief 'he is no more' but in thankfulness that he was". I will remember Chris as a great warden and overall superb leader . . . A good man.

Jimmy Dugger - June 13, 2024 at 08:24 PM

KR

“ My heartfelt prayers are extended to the Martinez family. Words cannot express my sympathy for the family. We will continue to pray for comfort and care for the family. The Eagle Pass Detention Facility Staff support you during this time of bereavement. We love you and pray each day for you all. May you find Comfort in God's Word.

FA Kenneth Reagans

Kenneth Reagans - June 13, 2024 at 07:14 PM