



Derik Martin

July 10, 2025

Derik Martin, 32, of Pittsgrove, passed away on July 10, 2025. Born in Washington Township, Derik was the beloved son of Paula Gant Martin and the late James A. Martin Sr.

Derik had a strong work ethic and a caring spirit, which was evident in the two roles he proudly held — working for UPS and serving as a security guard and custodian at Paul W. Carleton Elementary School in Penns Grove. He was deeply committed to his community and faith, actively involved as Senior Deacon of the Elmer Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons #160, a member of The Street Rollers Car Club, the South Jersey Gas Engine Club, and a devoted member of Illuminate Church in Elmer.

Known for his infectious energy and love for the outdoors, Derik found joy in riding his quad, fishing, caring for his tractors, and spending time shooting at USANA. But above all, Derik was known for his big heart, always willing to lend a hand, crack a smile, and put others before himself.

His mother and stepfather survive him, Paula Martin and Michael Mulvenna; his girlfriend, Crystal Cannon, and her children Stephen, Joseph, and Aubrey, whom he loved dearly; his brothers, James Martin Jr. (Arianna) and their children Koen, Mason, and Elliana, and Shane Martin and his daughter Olivia; his MomMom Jennie Brown; and David Labree, a close friend, mentor, and

father figure. He also leaves behind his loyal dog, Buddy, as well as his aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was predeceased by his father, James A. Martin Sr., and grandparents Charles and Elaine Martin and Paul Gant.

A viewing will be held on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, and again on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM at Illuminate Church, 21 S. Main St., Elmer, NJ 08318. A funeral service will follow at 11:00 AM. Interment will be private at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations in Derik's memory be made to Halo House Animal Resort, 3241 Delsea Dr., Franklinville, NJ 08322, an organization dear to his heart.

Condolences may be shared at adamsfuneralhome.org.

Cemetery Details

Private Interment

Previous Events

Viewing

JUL 15. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Illuminate Church
21 S. Main Street
Elmer, NJ 08318

Viewing

JUL 16. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Illuminate Church
21 S. Main Street
Elmer, NJ 08318

Service

JUL 16. 11:00 AM (ET)

Illuminate Church
21 S. Main Street
Elmer, NJ 08318

Tribute Wall

CC

“ *I still think of you often, Derik. You had such a beautiful spirit and an infectious enthusiasm. Derik, I still really miss you!*



Carol Ceglia - May 07 at 08:39 PM

CC

“ *My deepest condolences to the family. Derik was a very genuine loving kind hearted person. I am so grateful I was able to meet and know Derik even if only for a little while. He had a way of making me feel so comfortable as if I knew him my entire life. He really had a way of bringing out the best in people without judgement. He was a wonderful person Paula you have truly raised one of the best men I have ever met in my entire life. I am so grateful you were such a big part of his life it helped build the wonderful person he is. I love you lovebug forever in my heart never to be forgotten xoxoxo one day we will meet again and entirety will begin xoxoxo*

Crystal cannon - August 04, 2025 at 12:42 AM

JO

“ So sorry to hear about Derik's passing. Prayers for all of his family. I've gotten to know Derik over the past few years at Carleton and always appreciated his willingness to help in whatever he was called on to do. I was also impressed that Derik would come to school early and help with jobs he wasn't required to do. He would often help clean and support the staff throughout the day. He will be missed!
John M.

John - July 22, 2025 at 01:24 PM

DZ

“ To Derik's beloved family and friends, wishing you love & comfort, and in the midst of your loss, the joy of knowing how widely and deeply Derik was & is loved and appreciated by all who knew him – truly miraculous on this challenging earth. I had the pleasure of knowing Derik as a student, and afterward as a cheerful occasional odd-jobs helper at my grandmother's and mother's in Elmer, and as a fellow lover of dogs and other animals. Derik continues to shine on in eternity, where we will all be reunited one day. ❤️

Deb Zabel - July 21, 2025 at 11:09 AM

AP

“ Thank you for your willingness to always help ! You will be missed at PWC. Thank you for shining your light with us! I will miss you in the cafeteria ❤️

Amber Pierce - July 16, 2025 at 09:30 PM

GG

“ *Derik you were like a little brother to me
You will be missed dearly*



Gary Geloso - July 16, 2025 at 02:33 PM

CC

“ *Derik, you were more than a friend — you were family. Life gave us something rare and losing you feels like losing a part of myself. I'll hold every memory close.*

My heart goes out to your family.

Your laugh, your kindness, your light — it was rare and given often by you. I'll never stop missing you.

Forever grateful for the time we had yet forever heartbroken that it wasn't more.

Love you and miss you always. You are now and forever more with Bear. Rest in peace, my friend.

Carol Ceglia - July 16, 2025 at 08:59 AM

MS

“ *Paul W. Carleton will truly miss you* ❤️ 🖤



Michelle Schnetzler - July 15, 2025 at 12:14 PM

“ (Never Forgotten)

Oh Derik, my son, my brother, my friend! Having a very difficult time dealing with this. You have been a very close vital part of my life for around 10 years. I'm a retired professional man in a wheelchair and someone introduced him to me when I was looking for someone to work for me around my home to do things I could not do. He was the best and we quickly became bonded together like a father and son and like best brothers.

There are so many great things and experiences, trips we have had together I wouldn't trade for anything. We were schedule for another one this Thursday but not this time.

Derik lived life to the fullest he could and seemed like he burned the candle on both ends often but he was aware. He just had a zest for life and lived it fully but always had a great heart for others and lived it too. So many times he was there for me when I was alone or needed someone to give a shit. He always did and showed it in his actions yearly. There will be a big void in my life now but I am so glad that the Lord put him in my life for the period he was. Also I am so glad I always told him how much I loved and appreciated him in my life.

My whole heart goes out to his mother Paula and his recently found excellent girlfriend Crystal and kids who he loved dearly. They have to feel way more devastated than me and that is too much! My heart and prayers are with them all. So much more to say but I can't.

Derik, rest easy bro, until we meet again in our Lord's kingdom to hug each other with Joy. Thank you so much for absolutely everything you have been in my life and so many others.

I will miss that smile and laugh of yours that was only yours to own!!

Much Love, Tim Bryte

Tim - July 15, 2025 at 10:00 AM

DC

“ We were blessed to have taught Derik in Jr church when he was young. And being neighbors of the LaBrees, we would often see him over in the next yard. He always had a smile and a story and I am sorry to see he passed so young. I know he will be missed by so many. The Coughlins

Debra Coughlin - July 15, 2025 at 08:22 AM

CM

“ Carol Molinari-Monks lit a candle in memory of Derik Martin



Carol Molinari-Monks - July 15, 2025 at 08:08 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Derik Martin.



July 14, 2025 at 06:26 PM

CH

“ Outside of a couple friendly words/gestures in passing I really didn't know Derik all that well ...This , I guess, is more condolences for Paula and Mike as I can't express enough sympathy for the loss of a child. They say time heals all wounds. I'm not sure that statement holds true here...I guess you just hold on the good memories and hopefully time will ease some of the pain...god speed...
Chip

chip - July 14, 2025 at 04:13 PM

RH

“ Robin H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Derik Martin.

Robin H. - July 14, 2025 at 04:03 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Derik Martin.



July 14, 2025 at 02:01 PM

EL

“ The best thing I got out of working as a security guard was meeting you. Even though we only had 3 years to have all the fun in the world, I will cherish every adventure we had. From fishing to kayaking to four wheeling to shooting. You will be greatly missed. Rest easy bro. -Emily

Emily Lamia - July 14, 2025 at 01:35 PM

CC

Emily it was nice to meet you at Derik's service last night. We have truly been blessed for having been able to call Derik "Friend."

Carol Ceglia - July 16, 2025 at 08:48 AM

JJ

“ Jerry Sr, Edith and Jerry Jr purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Derik Martin.

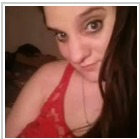


Jerry Sr, Edith and Jerry Jr - July 13, 2025 at 08:29 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss,
my heart💔 4 U💔
Sending 💖 & 🕊️'s.
💖, Maureen Cohen

Maureen Dunleavy-Cohen - July 13, 2025 at 10:26 AM



“ I always loved our talks our laughs and we always joked around but never got mad at each other I was always calling you crying and you would brighten me up and you talked to me for hours on the phone and lot and that helped me heal and I miss you man fly high man love you bestie aka bro man 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏💔💔💔



Lynn Pestritto - July 13, 2025 at 09:47 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Derik Martin.

July 13, 2025 at 09:15 AM



“ Rip Derik. I really appreciated how you would check in on me in my classroom always asking if I needed anything. I was so happy that you and Emily became close friends and enjoyed hanging out. You truly brought so much joy into her life! Emily would always share with me how much fun she had with you. You will be so missed by my family but I know that you are a special angel who will continue to watch over us. Love, Cindy Vaccaro

Cindy Vaccaro - July 12, 2025 at 11:08 PM



“ May his memory be a blessing.

Norman Lenchitz - July 12, 2025 at 09:50 PM



“ Derik was a true friend and Brother who lived by the oath he took. Always willing to help others and gave his support to so many people. I witnessed firsthand what a huge heart he had when I was laid up after surgery only to hear his mower running and cutting my lawn. He will be missed by many but will always be remembered as a kind and caring man. God only knows why rest easy brother until we meet again in the lodge on high.

Andrew Zeugner - July 12, 2025 at 07:54 PM

LC

“ Since I first met Derik, working at The Hangar together for a few years...from then I called him my Lil Brother. He always gave the best hugs... he never knew a stranger...my deepest condolences and prayers to all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Derik may be gone from this earth but will NEVER be forgotten!

Lisa A Coulter - July 12, 2025 at 07:03 PM

JB

“ To the Family of Derik, I am sorry for your.loss.I am Heartbroken

Jemie Brown - July 12, 2025 at 06:51 PM

JB

“ Jemie Brown lit a candle in memory of Derik Martin



Jemie Brown - July 12, 2025 at 06:48 PM

JB

“ Derik,you filled my.life with many happy memories. Always a Happy Heart you will truly be missed.Love you to the moon and back.
MOM MOM

Jemie Brown - July 12, 2025 at 06:44 PM