



LaVern Delmar Martin II

March 18, 1946 - January 16, 2015

L. Delmar Martin

March 18, 1946- Jan. 16, 2015

L. Delmar Martin was born in Flagler, CO. on March 18, 1946 to LaVern and Madge Martin. When Del was five years old, the family moved to Hermiston, OR.

Delmar broke his neck July 21, 1962 swimming at Hat Rock Park just off the Columbia River. He graduated Hermiston High School with his many friends in the class of 1964. Del attended Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton, OR and graduated OSU with a degree in teaching. He taught 7th and 8th grade science at Western View Middle School. One of many things Del did was to start a chess club where his students won several State Championships.

Delmar married Elizabeth Kalowski in August, 1990. They had a wonderful life together and loved to travel. New Mexico, Chicago to visit relatives, Eastern Oregon, Arizona, and California were favorite travel spots.

Del enjoyed hunting, fishing, shooting, boating, and rabbit hunting with his beagles at E.E. Wilson; he also loved to read and work in his shop. Del was active in Albany Rifle and Pistol Club, Mary's Peak Hounds Club and the OPVA, Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America, trap shoot competition guys that were held mostly in California.

Del passed away at his home and went to his Creator on January 16, 2015.

Del is survived by his loving wife of 24 years, Elizabeth Kalowski, step-sons, Peter and Alex Moeller; his mother, Madge Martin and foster son, Gordon Wordon. He was preceded in death by his father, LaVern Martin.

Family and friends are invited to a Celebration of Life to honor Del at 1:00 p.m., Friday, January 30th at McHenry Funeral Home, 206 NW 5th Street, Corvallis. Please share your thoughts and memories for the family at www.delmossdurdan.com

If desired memorials in Del's name made be made to www.Oregonpva.org or Mary's Peak Hounds Club, 800 NW Meadow View Drive, Corvallis, OR 97330.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 30. 1:00 PM (PT)

McHenry Funeral Home
206 NW 5th Street
Corvallis, OR 97330

Tribute Wall

ET

“ *Del was so very generous to share his love of nature with us neighbor kids (Gary and Yvonne Thomas' kids). He would let us come and fish off of his dock and go in his boat and just enjoy ourselves. Now that we are all older and parents ourselves, my sister, Cora's boy, Duke would look forward to going fishing with Grandpa and Del each summer. Thank you so much Del. May you rest in peace and know you will be missed.*

- Emily Thomas

Emily Thomas - January 31, 2015 at 03:09 PM

AH

“ *A lifetime of respect, admiration and now a sudden loss of one of the worlds finest.*

With guts and determination Del forged a rich, rewarding and interesting life; for himself and those who knew him.

There is no better example of a friend, husband, father, teacher, citizen and patriot.

Del fiercely fought adversity, and won; then taught us all with his gentle spirit.

Del has gone with his God...and He was glad to see him!

Alan Holcombe

Alan Holcombe - January 30, 2015 at 02:04 PM

CS

“ I remember Del Martin from middle school in Corvallis. He was a really great teacher, and always made science lessons fun! Looking back to those school days, he is the only teacher that really stuck out. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

Carrie Sether - January 30, 2015 at 01:39 PM

JS

“ I have such fond memories of Del. We once attended an overnight conference in Portland for officers of the Oregon chapters of an educational fraternity. We left early so we could do some antiquing. This warehouse antique store was just packed with merchandise but Del manouvered around it all, and went straight to this huge rickety elevator and headed to the third floor. We had a great time shopping, attending meetings, and banqueting. My prayers are with Del and his family. Don't stop talking and running, Del!

Julie Sutherland

Julie Sutherland - January 30, 2015 at 11:33 AM

RF

“ What a great inspiration to all of us who got to know Del Martin .There are not enough words to describe what a great Man he truly was. It was an Honor to call him a Friend and spend the times we had together . We Love and miss you Rest in Peace Friend

Rick & Susie Farthing

Rick Farthing - January 30, 2015 at 11:02 AM

ES

“ *Mr. Martin was my science teacher at Western View Middle School when I came through in the early 1990s. I have very fond memories of my time in Mr. Martin's class and he is the principle reason I remain interested in astronomy and other sciences. Reading through the comments and thoughts of others, it's not at all surprising why he had that effect on me. God speed, Sir.*

Evan Sether - January 30, 2015 at 10:09 AM

JS

“ *Del was one of our son's "best" teachers. We came to know Del when he visited our business and became a friend of John's. Their first meeting set the stage for a friendship. Our son had mentioned to Del that his Dad was a welder. Del drove to the shop. John was working on a job and yelled out the door saying "come in". No one came in. John went out to greet the person and Del told him "it was a little difficult as he had to remove his wheelchair..." To say that John was embarrassed would put it mildly. Del laughed at his discomfort and brushed it off. They collaborated on several projects: a lift to get Del into his boat safely, a stand so that Del could shoot decoys.*

*We will miss Del. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.
John and Hazel Stratton*

John Stratton - January 29, 2015 at 02:05 PM



“ *Delmar has always been a special classmate for all of those who grew up with him. Not because of what happened to him, but because of in spite of his accident he was as viberant, knowledgable, inventive, loyal and as a supportive friend as anyone would ever know. I'm so thankful that on that Saturday morning last September a few of us guys took time out from our reunion to tour Hermiston one more time with Delmar at the wheel of his new truck. It definitely took us all back to the sixties: laughing, telling story, and soaking up the warmth of our good friend. Delmar is of those rare people that makes you better because you knew him. It has been a privilege.*

Brad Cermak

Bradley Cermak - January 29, 2015 at 12:09 PM

GL

“ *Del was a wonderful friend and fellow science teacher at Western View Middle School. He inspired the love of science in his students and was an outstanding role model for them to follow. He will be greatly missed.*

George and Kathy Long - January 28, 2015 at 12:34 AM

“ Certain people cross your path as you are growing up and leave large footprints on your way. Delmar was one of those people. I can't think back to my childhood in Hermiston without remembering him and the impression he made on me. We were all crazy kids doing what kids had the freedom to do some 50 years ago—going to ballgames, classes, summer activities, horseback riding, swimming at the river, first jobs, first loves—and believing that life was just waiting for us to take it on. Del was involved in all that.

Then one fateful summer day Del had that swimming accident that changed everything. I remember hearing about his injury and not being able to comprehend how it happened, why, and what would be the outcome for Del. I remember going to Portland and visiting him at Emanuel Hospital. At times it seemed as if Del was trying to make us visitors comfortable while we were struggling with what to say.

One of my most vivid memories of our high school graduation occurred when Del rolled across the stage in his chair to receive his diploma. He was so determined to regain his independence and live the type of life he wanted as soon as possible, and graduating from OSU and teaching school were other big steps in that direction. Del must have experienced frustrations and disappointments, but he rarely appeared to feel sorry for himself and seemed to take on challenges with determination.

As the years slipped by, Del continued to be a part of our class. When we had class reunions, Del would be there. And not just be there, but he'd come sailing in on a motorcycle! He attended our 50th reunion this past September and was again engaged and participating in events, armed with his warm smile and sense of humor in a circle of friends.

I so admire Del for all he achieved in his life—too short though it was... His easy going attitude, friendliness, and ability to put others at ease were qualities that drew people to him. Del made an

important impression on many people and I am one of the many who will never forget him. May God grant him peace and the joy of running as fast as he can wherever he wants to go....

Sandi McJunkin Blackaby - January 23, 2015 at 12:24 PM

RZ

“ *I remember when Mom told us he had broken his neck. It was such powerful news, Then what I remember is that did not stop him from living--he lived life! I did not see him often but hearing of the things he was doing, college, teaching, fishing he was a role model of living life. I have a picture that he drew and I treasure it. His zest for life will be missed.*

Ruth Zablow (cousin)

Ruth Zablow - January 22, 2015 at 01:14 PM

JC

“*Del and I were friends for 60 years. He was always up to something. I often saw him pass my home out by the old red bridge on the Umatilla River. He would ride his bike out and usually had either his fishing pole or be his bb gun with him.. Some times he swam at the swimming hole by the rope on the tree. As we got older, he often rode a horse out.*

At OSU I watched him time and time again have to wheel over to the business office to get his classes changed to the 1st floor. Even then he had to be met and carried up the stairs into the building as there were no elevators. But he rolled his eyes and did it with a smile on his face.

I saw him often after college and watched him load his amphibious duck boat and go duck hunting. Later when we were involved in the new BMX race track that went in in Corvallis, Del volunteered to bring out his retrofitted tractor and groom the track during the season. He could pretty much load and unload his tractor by himself and drove it around the track. The kids all loved him. Later, it was a motorcycle with a side car which he drove all over Oregon sitting in the side car.

I used to stop by Corvallis High to say hi after school when he was teaching. His students loved him and his class room was full of activity.

He was quite down after he broke his femurs a few years ago as he liked to go into town every morning and have his coffee. He felt like he had lost his independence as he could no longer drive his van. But soon we heard from him. He wanted us to come down and see his new Silverado pickup. We had lunch but he was so excited, he could hardly eat. It was a beauty and allowed him to drive from his wheelchair. He had wheels once again!

Del has been an inspiration to me. Everything he did involved way more effort than it did me. He was always cheerful and kind.

He once asked me about a chronic health issue I have. He said he worried about me. I said there was no point in worrying. He then replied that he was so grateful that he had always had good health. I will miss him and feel privileged to have known him.

Julie Cochell - January 22, 2015 at 12:46 PM

DP

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Dan Wardwell - David Proudfoot - January 22, 2015 at 11:46 AM

DP

Dan Wardwell sent this photo of 2-cars Delmar restored last summer.

Dan Wardwell - David Proudfoot - January 22, 2015 at 11:47 AM

DP

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Dan Wardwell - David Proudfoot - January 22, 2015 at 11:45 AM

VE

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you. From Virginia Estal, cousin.*

Virginia Estal - January 22, 2015 at 09:50 AM

DD

“ Though Del and I went to school together in Hermiston, we really didn't get to know each other until Oregon State when I helped him to classes in the days prior to even thinking about access. Never a complaint and always a positive attitude. I'd jump on the back of his chair as we went down the hills singing "Strangers in the Night". On the weekend, we'd take his latest "toys" out and see how far he could push before getting in trouble. He honored us by being our Best Man. He'll be missed.

Don Dickinson

Don Dickinson - January 21, 2015 at 11:28 PM

DS

“ Many of us in the Hermiston High School class of 1964 grew up with Del. I first met him in the first grade. We were cub scouts together and remained friends all of our lives. The Class of 1964 recently celebrated its 50th reunion and Del was there. I don't think he missed a single reunion or opportunity to see his Hermiston friends. He was admired and loved by all of us.

His accident was shocking to us because we were all so young and invincible. He returned to school as if nothing had happened to him. He would not accept pity or special treatment of any kind. When he was 16, barely a year after the accident, he got his drivers license and cruised on weekend night like the rest of us. He graduated on time with the rest of us. The entire assembly stood and cheered as he wheeled across the stage and accepted his diploma. He went on to college and graduated from Oregon State.

He did everything that the rest of us did ..only with more grace. We became better people by being in his orbit of strength and courage.

The news of his death spread amongst his Hermiston friends rapidly. His death was almost as shocking to us as his accident. We had just seen him a few months ago full of life. I know we are all stunned and saddened now, yet so proud of the wonderful man he was and the full life that he lead.

Several years ago when he broke his femur, he was fearful that he might lose his independence and mobility .Don Shirilla and I went to see him at his home in Corvallis. During the course of our visit, I asked him how he had been able to achieve so much. He said that all he waned to be was normal. He was far from normal. I don't think I've ever know someone quite so extraordinary.

David Smith

david smith - January 21, 2015 at 06:24 PM

“ I became fast friends with Delmar (no-one called him Del during the time I knew him) when I attended Hermiston Jr. High School (the Bull Pups) in 1958-59. We both played tackle football for the Bull Pups (Hermiston was one of the few Jr. High Schools at the time that allowed tackle football; most other Jr. High Schools played flag football). Delmar was a talented athlete and appeared fearless. He had a great sense of humor and was never observed to be mean or petty with others. He was the type of guy that easily made friends and he had many.

Delmar came out the ranch on Butter Creek a few times and we raised some hell and had a good time being together.

During the summers when I was busy working on the ranch Delmar and friends made a habit of hanging out at Hat Rock State Park, a few miles north of Hermiston on the Columbia River. One summer while having fun at the Park he and others were running down the sand dunes and leaping into the water. Delmar misjudged on his last leap and dove into water that was too shallow and broke his neck. When I visited him at Emmanuel Hospital in Portland, Oregon he told me he was lying on his back with about 2" of water covering his face and was concerned he was going to drown because he couldn't move. He was in good spirits even then, after breaking his neck. I remember he sneezed during my visit and it was a tiny sound. He looked at me and said 'Pretty powerful sneeze, huh'? I looked up at the tall ceiling and there were numerous paper sipping straw covers dangling from the ceiling. During his time in bed he would dip an end of a straw cover in water and blow it as hard as he could to make it stick up on the ceiling.

I cant remember how many times I was able to visit him in the hospital, but since it was in Portland and I lived on the ranch on Butter Creek in Eastern Oregon it wasn't many.

I left Hermiston schools and started attending Heppner schools and lost track of Delmar.

I learned later that he got his driver license in a specially equipped vehicle that had all hand controls. Delmar was never one to let something get him down and was always reaching further than most.

A good friend of mine, Dan Wardwell, whom I met when I went to school in Heppner, moved to Hermiston to attend school and became friends with Delmar.

A year or so ago I re-connected with Dan and learned that he and Delmar were friends and kept in touch. I was able to obtain Delmar's email address from Dan and I emailed him from time to time.

Delmar only lived about 26-miles from my office in Harrisburg, and I was always planning on driving up to see him, but I never did.

Obviously, now I wish I had.

A childhood friend is always a friend. Rest in Peace Delmar; I will miss you.

David J. Proudfoot

David Proudfoot - January 21, 2015 at 01:49 PM

SG

“ *I remember a fabulous and inspiring science teacher. I remember him and his motorcycle with the side car. How he adapted everything to work for him. We went boating with him. Hank helped him rig up his chair for the target range. I admired his beautiful artwork. He could do anything!*

Most of all I remember the Alaskan Cruise we all took together. It will truly be my fondest memory of the time shared with him and the connection he made with my family. God Bless you Del and you will be missed! Sandy Grzeskowiak

Sandra Grzeskowiak - January 21, 2015 at 11:38 AM

DA

“ *Mike and I will remember Del's zest for life! What an inspiration to us all.*

Mike & Dana Strowbridge

Dana - January 20, 2015 at 10:08 PM

CS

“ Our sympathies to Aunt Madge, Elizabeth and family - We didn't get to visit with Delmar very often over the years but we were always proud to call him our cousin. He accomplished so much in his life and know that his faith guided him. May God comfort those who mourn his loss, knowing that he's earned his Heavenly reward. - With sympathy and prayers, Randy and Carolyn Stevens (Madge's niece)

Carolyn Stevens - January 20, 2015 at 09:04 PM

NP

“ So sorry for your loss. Thank You Del and Elizabeth for the wonderful time I was blessed to share with you. - Niles Potts (homecare)



Niles Potts - January 20, 2015 at 01:49 PM

ST

“ Sarah And Edward Treuer lit a candle in memory of LaVern Delmar Martin II



Sarah and Edward Treuer - January 19, 2015 at 07:24 PM