



## William "Bill" "Whip" Martinez

January 28, 1929 - April 9, 2014

William J. Martinez Sr. "Bill" "Whip", age 85, passed away in his home in Crown Point, IN on April 9, 2014. Bill served in the US Army and retired as Battalion Chief from the Gary Fire Dept. after 23 years of service. After retirement, he moved to Tampa, FL where he began his 2nd career with the Florida Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigation, retiring as Law Enforcement Captain. He loved traveling with his family to Europe. Bill also loved fishing and had the ability to fix or build anything. By setting an example of hard work and always putting family first above anything else, he was able to teach his children and grandchildren how to live. To get into community college, he sat down and studied the encyclopedia front to back, using the same strategy to learn carpentry, and eventually building and installing everything from the beautiful tile installations to sturdy sheds and fences for our family's homes. He had a great sense of humor, always telling stories and making his grandchildren laugh. Bill is survived by his wife of 62 years, Elaine; son-Bill Jr. (Jay) of Miami; daughter- Debbie Back of Crown Point; grandchildren-Mark William, and Hillary Elaine Back of Crown Point; 5 brothers and sisters of Tampa. Friends may visit with Bill's family Sunday, April 13, 2014 from 4-7pm at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, IN. Funeral service, Monday April 14, 2014 at 12:30 pm at Burns proceeding to St. Matthias Church, 101 W. Burrell Dr. Crown Point, IN for a Mass of Christian Burial at 1:00 pm. Rev. Joseph Vamos officiating. Interment Calumet Park Cemetery, Merrillville, IN. [www.burnsfuneral.com](http://www.burnsfuneral.com)



# Cemetery Details

## Calumet Park Cemetery

2305 W. 73rd Ave.  
Merrillville, IN 46410

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **13**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point  
10101 Broadway  
Crown Point, IN 46307  
(219) 769-0044  
info@burnsfuneral.com  
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

## Visitation

APR **14**. 12:30 PM - 12:45 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point  
10101 Broadway  
Crown Point, IN 46307  
(219) 769-0044  
info@burnsfuneral.com  
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

## Mass of Christian Burial

---

APR **14**. 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Matthias Catholic Church  
101 W. Burrell Drive  
Crown Point, IN 46307

# Tribute Wall

SC

“ Dear Martinez Family,

*I am sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Martinez. Debbie, I remember when I went to Tampa with you and stayed with your parents. What nice people! Even though I didn't know him well, it was clear that he was a lovely person. He'll never leave you. He'll be in your hearts forever. I will pray for all of you.*

*With Love,*

*Sharon (Badovinac) Cech*

---

**Sharon Cech** - April 12, 2014 at 08:06 PM

DR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



---

**Danene Martinez Rice** - April 12, 2014 at 01:49 PM

DE

“ Debbie lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" "Whip" Martinez



---

**Debbie** - April 12, 2014 at 12:20 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of William "Bill" "Whip" Martinez.*



---

April 12, 2014 at 10:03 AM



“ *Thanks Martinez family for sharing Bill with us. Bill was more than my Lieutenant. he was my mentor in fire investigation. I was in my genesis and he was in the twilight of his when I was hired by the State Fire Marshal's Office (1998). With Bill there was Never a dull moment. He made the profession "Fun" although he was very serious about the work we did. Great memories, he will be sorely missed. God Speed my Friend.*

---

**Randy St. Clair** - April 11, 2014 at 08:47 PM

MS

“ Bill was my mentor, dear friend, and like a second father to me. So many friends from the fire services in Tampa have shared their sadness and fond memories of Bill this evening. Bill had keen investigative abilities and always sought the truth during all of his investigations. A true teacher and leader.

*My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Bill loved his family and especially his grandchildren, Mark and Hillary. He was was such a proud man who always spoke so fondly of all the family members.*

*Love you, Bubba! We will see each other again some day. Until then, rest in peace. The good Lord has you now.*

*Mark Sauls*

---

**Mark Sauls** - April 11, 2014 at 08:15 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of William "Bill" "Whip" Martinez.



---

April 11, 2014 at 04:15 PM