



*Marla Michelle*  
*Martin*

**Dec. 31, 1963 - Nov. 23, 2024**

Marla Michelle Martin (60), born, on December 31st, 1963, in San Diego, CA daughter of James R. Martin and Grace M. Martin, chose to end her journey on this earth Saturday, November 23, 2024.

Marla was a devoted wife, nurturing mother, and follower of Christ. She was first married, in 1984 to David A Stevenson, the father of her beloved children. Marla was a renowned Behavioral Specialist for Burke County Public Schools. She also served on the board of directors for South Mountain Children's Home. During retirement, she enjoyed traveling the country, experiencing adventures, and learning new hobbies.

She is survived by her family, as follows; her brothers Ronald Martin of Holland, MI and Robert Martin of Kansas City; daughter, Kamaren A. Stevenson (37) and partner, Heather Swinehart (38); and grandchildren, Cooper McGarey (23) Tristen Swinehart

(19), Kolton Swinehart (16), Austin Swinehart (13), Autumn Swinehart (12), Cannon Swinehart (11), Jordan Swinehart (10), and Lilly Crank-Chan (7). Her Son, Preston M. Stevenson (34) and wife Mandy P. Stevenson and grandchildren, AnnaGrace Stevenson (7), Noah Stevenson (5), Ezra Stevenson (3), and Jude Stevenson (1).

The family will receive friends on Sunday, December 1, 2024 between 1 - 2 p.m. at Sossoman Funeral home in Morganton, NC.

If anyone reading this is experiencing suicidal thoughts this season or any personal mental health crisis, know you are not alone. There is help available and people that love you.

Suicide Lifeline: 988 or <https://988lifeline.org>

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

# Tribute Wall



–Shannon Gragg

I had the privilege of working with Marla at Glen Alpine Elementary School. She was so kind and compassionate to those she served. I always enjoyed working with her and talking to her about our families. My deepest condolences to her family and friends.

–Amy Halford

To the family, Marla made me so welcome in her home one Thanksgiving holiday. She is a beautiful soul. Her smile was contagious. I pray for the kids and grand kids and all the family. I send my heart felt love to you all. I will be praying for comfort, strength in the days to follow. With love Lee Crissman

–Les Crissman



I knew your mother through Burke County Schools. She was a brilliant woman. There are many who were blessed by her knowledge and dedication to the challenges of mental health and special needs. She gave hope to so many. May you find peace in her legacy. Marshalle Caushy, Burke

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County Public Schools, Retired.

–Marchalle Causby



I had the privilege of being Marla's high school teacher. Marla was always one of the best in whatever endeavor she did. A standout in athletics and scholastics. She was a friend to many and was loyal to each and every one of them. The pleasure of being her teacher and friend was all mine. Rest in peace, my friend. Steve Finch San Diego, CA

–Steve Finch



–Sheila



Our thoughts and prayers are with this family. May God's gifts of peace, comfort, and acceptance be your guiding light.

–David and Beth Dickens, Edenton, NC