



Jo Ann Martin

February 10, 1936 - February 19, 2026

Jo Ann Martin passed away on February 19, 2026. Born on February 10, 1936, she lived a life defined by resilience, generosity, faith, and unwavering devotion to her family.

Jo Ann's home was a place of warmth and welcome. She was known for her cooking. Whether coming for a family meal or just a visit, no one ever left hungry. Anything she cooked was guaranteed to be the very best version of it you had ever tasted. Whether it was a simple meal or a holiday feast, her food brought comfort and joy to those she loved. Jo Ann had many talents. She loved working in her garden, where beans were snapped on the porch and corn was shucked fresh from the stalk. She enjoyed preserving food for her family, perfecting recipes for pickles, strawberry jam, and apple butter, to name just a few. She also enjoyed growing African violets indoors and they thrived under her care. Jo Ann delighted in having photographs developed into slides and gathering family to project treasured memories onto the wall—long before digital albums existed. She was skilled with a needle and thread, teaching quilting to the next generation and creating keepsakes that will be cherished for years to come.

Jo Ann was also a teacher in everyday life. She passed down practical skills—from cooking omelets to preparing treasured family recipes—and offered wisdom, encouragement, and steady counsel. Many found in her a listening ear and thoughtful guidance that left them feeling heard and supported.

Her own story reflected determination and grit. Growing up on her father's farm at the end of the Great Depression, she experienced hardship early in life, including the loss of her mother as a child. She learned the value of hard work, sometimes leaving school to help with demanding farm tasks. She later left the farm in Norwood and created her own path, moving to Muskogee to live with her sister. It was there, while riding her bicycle, that she caught the eye of the man who would become her husband, Hobert Martin.

Jo Ann and Hobert shared a devoted partnership. Though traditional in many ways, Jo Ann was determined that her children would have opportunities she did not, including the choice to pursue higher education. She worked faithfully throughout her life to help make those opportunities possible—at Brockway Glass, as a Southwestern Bell telephone operator, and later as a cafeteria cook for Ft. Gibson Public Schools.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Hobert Martin; her father, Ona Hilger; her

mother, Edith (Sanders) Hilger; her brothers, Don, Johnny, Sam, and Charles Hilger; her sisters, Velma Shimel, Norma Bartlett, Vesta Perkins, and Clara Todd; her grandson, Blaine Martin; and her great-grandson, Lathan Michael Holuby.

Jo Ann is survived by her son, Ben Martin and wife Linda of Fort Gibson; her son, Chester Martin of Park Hill; and her daughter, Susan VanZant of Fort Gibson. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Lana Holuby and husband Michael of Muskogee; Dawn Travis and husband Greg of Duncan; Jenna Roberson and husband Dustin of Yukon; Cliff Psomas and wife Kristin of Fort Gibson; and Jon Psomas and wife Desiree of Greeley, Colorado; her sisters, Mary Jane Goad of Muskogee and Martha Brown of Fort Gibson; her brother, James Hilger of Jenks; and eight great-grandchildren.

Viewing will be held Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home in Fort Gibson from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with the family receiving friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A graveside service will be held at Fort Gibson Citizens Cemetery on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. with Brother Butch Cook officiating.

Jo Ann Martin will be remembered as strong, spunky, hardworking, and deeply loving—a woman who left a lasting example of perseverance, generosity, and devotion to family.

The family of Jo Ann Martin has entrusted her care, service and burial to Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home, Fort Gibson. 918-478-2555.

Online condolences may be left for the family at clifforddgarrettfamilyfh.com.

Previous Events

Viewing

FEB **24.** 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home (Fort Gibson)
1224 E Poplar St
Fort Gibson, OK 74434
(918) 478-2555

Visitation with Family to Greet Friends

FEB **24.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home (Fort Gibson)
1224 E Poplar St
Fort Gibson, OK 74434
(918) 478-2555

Celebration of Life

FEB **25.** 11:00 AM (CT)

Citizens Cemetery
Fort Gibson, OK 74434

Tribute Wall

EB

“ *Eunice Brown lit a candle in memory of Jo Ann Martin*



Eunice Brown - March 04 at 02:11 PM

CS

“ *Connie & Sherry purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Jo Ann Martin.*



Connie & Sherry - February 24 at 10:57 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jo Ann Martin.*



February 23 at 03:32 PM



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

February 23 at 03:32 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Jo Ann Martin.*



February 23 at 02:48 PM



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

February 23 at 02:48 PM

PC

“ Pleasant Valley Health Care Center lit a candle in memory of JoAnn Martin



Pleasant Valley Health Care Center - February 23 at 09:32 AM

RC

Sorry to hear of your loss Ben May God be with you and you family!

Roy Campbell - February 25 at 12:38 AM



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

February 22 at 09:06 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jo Ann Martin.



February 22 at 09:06 PM

RA

“ We were blessed to know JoAnn for the past couple of years. We have spent a lot of time in Fort Gibson helping with the care of JoAnn’s great-granddaughter, Chloe. Any time we would go over to JoAnn’s house, she would welcome us like family.

JoAnn’s love for her family was very obvious. She shared many stories with us about raising her children and the times spent with her grandchildren. She was very proud of the house that Hobert built for their family. JoAnn would often laugh in telling about their trips to Colorado and camping.

We learned that JoAnn loved gardening and playing in the dirt as she would say. She loved shelling and picking out pecans and would be so happy when she had pecans to pick out to share with her family.

Her great-grandson, Cole loved spending time with his Grammy (Susan) and Grandma Jo (JoAnn) when he spent time at his Fort Gibson home. Cole has learned so much from these 2 very special people in his life.

When we would ride bikes by JoAnn's house, we would wave as we rode by knowing that JoAnn was probably sitting in her chair looking out the window.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Susan, Cliff, Jon and the rest of the family for the loss of JoAnn. Her obituary was such a beautiful, heartwarming tribute of her life. Please remember that each of you carry pieces of JoAnn’s life within yourself in lessons taught, strength passed down, and lots of memories. JoAnn’s legacy will live on in the lives of each of her family members.

Much love,
RB & Brenda Alexander

RB & Brenda Alexander - February 22 at 08:23 PM

GG

“ Greg & Sonia Gallegos planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of JoAnn Martin.

Greg & Sonia Gallegos - February 22 at 04:50 PM

GG

“ Greg & Sonia Gallegos purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Jo Ann Martin.



Greg & Sonia Gallegos - February 22 at 04:50 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jo Ann Martin.*



February 22 at 01:47 PM

LF

“ *Love Billie and family purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Jo Ann Martin.*



Love Billie and family - February 22 at 12:34 PM

LF

“ *Love Billie and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of JoAnn Martin.*

Love Billie and family - February 22 at 12:34 PM

JM

“ *Judith and Curt McEvers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joann Martin.*

Judith and Curt McEvers - February 21 at 02:10 PM

JM

“ *Judith and Curt McEvers purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Jo Ann Martin.*



Judith and Curt McEvers - February 21 at 02:10 PM