



Victor Raymond Martinek

May 29, 1950 - May 9, 2017

Martinek, Victor Raymond, 66, of Crestwood passed away May 9, 2017. He is survived by his loving family: Wife, Susan nee Lehtinen; Son, Victor (Kristin) Martinek; Grandson, Dylan Martinek; Brother Rev. Robert Martinek; Sisters: Patti (William Tyner, Kathryn Errion, Judy Blankenship and was preceded in death by his parents: Victor and Lillian Martinek. Mr. Martinek retired in 2004 from Lucent Technologies after 35 years. He was a graduate of Bogan High School in Chicago and was a true Chicago Blackhawks Fan. A Memorial Visitation will be held on Friday, May 12 from 11:00 a.m. until the time of Memorial Service at 12:00 p.m. at Heartland Memorial Center, 7151 183rd St. Tinley Park, IL 60477. Memorials may be directed to the Les Turner ALS Foundation at 5550 Touhy Ave. #302 Skokie, IL 60677.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 12. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Heartland Memorial Center (183rd just off Harlem Ave)
7151 183rd St
Tinley Park, IL 60477
(708) 444-2266

Funeral Service

MAY 12. 12:00 PM (CT)

Heartland Memorial Center (183rd just off Harlem Ave)
7151 183rd St
Tinley Park, IL 60477
(708) 444-2266

Tribute Wall

“ In Loving Memory of my father, my best friend, Victor R Martinek
May 29, 1950 – May 9, 2017

Part 1

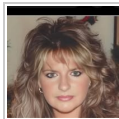
I stepped outside Wednesday morning May 10th and was struck by how brilliant the sun shone. It had been rainy and gray for days on end previous to that morning. I drove my son to school and noticed a field full of dandelions. The sun almost seemed to bounce right off of them. The entire field was glowing in the sunlight. It was the moment I realized my father, who had risen up to heaven the day before was alright. The sunlight was a gift from my dad and the gray clouds of ALS were no more. On May 9th at 2:30am my father's hard fought battle with ALS came to an end. In the presence of my mother, his sister and myself he was finally free from this illness that he had so bravely battled for five hard years.

What I write now is very raw and from the heart. I could work on this for the rest of my life and never come close to telling everyone how much he meant to me and always will. My father worked very hard to take care of my mother and I. He shouldered the sacrifice, the burden of his work-life to provide for us and never complained. It was only long after he retired did the tales of injuries, dangers and daily hazards start to come out. He never wanted us to worry while he was going through it all. He was well respected by his peers, managers and customers as an expert "Installer". They knew if there was an issue to just get Vic because as my dad put it to me many times, he would "always find another way" to fix something. If the 1st thing doesn't work out just find another way. A lesson I wouldn't fully grasp until his battle with ALS. As ALS unfairly took things from him, he simply found another way. I was so happy when my Dad was able to retire at 55, after working so hard he could simply enjoy his family, music and movies.

My father was a kind, generous and very simple man. He was my best friend. Most kids grow up and fight for distance and independence. I always wanted to do everything with my dad. I am

proud of how we spent the time given to us together. From the moment I arrived here on this Earth my head was being filled with the sounds of the music of KISS, Aerosmith and Alice Cooper. As the 80's rolled around, it was my dad showing me the way to the next cool thing in rock n' roll. I remember we went to Musicland in Orland Mall and my mom said we could both get records. I was stuck on the band KISS. I got their debut record, but my dad bought "Motley Crue – Theatre of Pain". I was like "Oh my god, that's great!!!" I have many great memories of sitting downstairs in his "lair" listening to music. When I got old enough he took me to my first KISS concert. It was 1988 at the UIC Pavilion. Again my dad showed me the way. As I stood there watching the show wide-eyed with my jaw on the floor, my dad turned me and went "You gotta scream...wooo!!!" He was howling in the air!!!! He had such a wonderful sense of humor and made everyone laugh. The very last concert we saw together was Ace Frehley at the Arcada Theatre in St. Charles. We didn't know it was our last show together. I'll never forget it. He was walking with a cane at the time and was really concerned about how this would go. I called the theater and got us great front row seats in the balcony, so he didn't have to stand. He was absolutely touched by how nice everyone was to him. Staff and fans helped him get to his seat, down the stairs, anything he needed...people can be really wonderful. He talked about it for a long time. It was a great last show for us! He really enjoyed it!

Victor Martinek - May 15, 2017 at 07:31 PM



He loved Kiss... and I am sure he is so proud of you

Linda VanWitzenburg - May 23, 2017 at 10:28 PM

“ In Loving Memory of my father, my best friend, Victor R Martinek
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Part 2

While that was the last show that he and I attended alone, he actually did attend one more show after that. He got to take my son to his very first rock concert, a Beatles Tribute band called American English. Looking back it was the passing of the torch. My dad had gone full circle. His first love for rock n' roll was the Beatles and now the absolute last show he would see was “the Beatles”.

Our other big thing together was movies...the weirder the better!!! Of course we loved watching all the blockbusters, but bring on the ghouls, ghosts and monsters! We would have such a great time watching things like “Paranormal Activity”, “The Babadook”.....freaking out and screaming at the TV! He was the master of uncovering the absolute weirdest movies. In fact many of you reading this were most likely tricked by him into watching “Tusk” and are now shuddering at the memory!!!!

We talked on the phone every single night until ALS took his voice. But then my Dad found another way and we texted. In some ways texting was cooler because we could talk throughout the entire day instead of just the one phone call. But I missed and will always miss the sound of his voice.

My father was an incredibly brave man. On the day he was officially diagnosed with ALS we sat at his kitchen table, he looked me in the eye and without fear said “I will do everything I can to battle this disease”. And on the morning of May 9th as I held his hand I told him he had done more than fulfill that promise. It was OK to stop fighting. He, with my mother, had battled and defeated ALS for over 5 hard years. According to science you're not supposed to be able to do that, but with the help of my mother he did. Despite ALS I know he had a great 5 years doing the things he loved and being with his family he loved so much.

I will miss him every day for the rest of my life. At 41 years old, if I'm lucky, I could be living without him for as much time as I was so blessed to live with him. It's such a long time to be without my best friend. I don't know how I'm going to do this, but I'll start by being incredibly brave and find another way.

*Victor Andrew Martinek
May 15, 2017*

Victor Martinek - May 15, 2017 at 07:30 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Victor Raymond Martinek.*



May 10, 2017 at 12:32 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Victor Raymond Martinek.*



May 09, 2017 at 03:34 PM