



Lawrence "Rick" Martindale

June 16, 1955 - January 21, 2026

Remembering Lawrence Richard "Rick" Martindale

June 6, 1955 – January 21, 2026

It's with love and deep respect that we share the passing of Lawrence Richard Martindale — known to everyone simply as Rick. He left us peacefully on the morning of January 21, 2026, in Costa Mesa, California, at the age of 70.

Rick was born on June 6, 1955, in Toronto, Canada, to Anna and George Martindale. When he was nine years old, the family made the big move to the United States, building a new life in California. Later, when his parents settled in Utah, Rick followed after college began, attending the University of Utah. There, he not only earned his Bachelor of Science degree, but also began what became a lifelong calling — serving his country through ROTC and later the Army National Guard.

Anyone who knew Rick knows how much he loved flying. He found his true passion in the sky as a helicopter pilot, first in the military and later in law enforcement. After starting his law enforcement career with the Murray, Utah Police Department, he returned to California to join the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, where he became part of the Aero Bureau and spent many memorable years piloting and serving his community.

Rick's career reflected his dedication and love for service. Over the years, he rose through the ranks to Lieutenant in the Sheriff's Department and Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Cavalry. Along the way, he also earned a Master's degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and went on to teach there — something he took great pride in.

Even after being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, Rick's sense of humor and resilience never faded. He faced every challenge with courage, grace, and an ever-present twinkle in his eye. His family and friends often marveled at how selfless and strong he remained, even on the hardest days.

Rick will be remembered with great love by his siblings Charles Martindale, Paula Geer, and Robert Martindale; his brother-in-law Bryan Geer; and his nieces Alexa Geer, Mackenzie Geer, Hennessy Martindale, and Athen Martindale — along with countless friends, fellow officers, and military comrades who were like extended family.

He lived a life of purpose, laughter, and unwavering loyalty — a man who cared deeply for others and never hesitated to lend a helping hand.

In honor of Rick's memory, the family invites those wishing to pay tribute to consider donating to one of his favorite causes: The Michael J. Fox Foundation <https://www.michaeljfox.org> OR Tunnel to Towers Foundation <https://t2t.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Reflecting on Memories created a Tribute Video in memory of Lawrence "Rick" Martindale*



Reflecting on Memories - January 26 at 03:40 PM



“ *47 files added to the album Rick's Memories Album*



Reflecting on Memories - January 26 at 03:40 PM

BR

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



bryangeer - January 25 at 12:26 AM

BR

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



bryangeer - January 25 at 12:23 AM

BR

“ 1 file added to the album Rick's Memories Album



bryangeer - January 23 at 08:21 PM

MI

“ Love you brother
Patrol cars, helicopters, boats etc.
My friend Rick.
Air-4. Patch dropped, frequency clear.

Michael - January 23 at 07:59 PM

KL

“ I was Rick's executive officer when he commanded 1-18 Cav. He was a soldier's leader. One of the best commanders I ever served with. He understood people and he understood the missions and this made him very effective. I was always amazed by his ability to think beyond the common. His family has lost a son, a brother. We have all lost a person of great integrity and ability. Rest in peace my friend have a drink at fiddlers Green.

Keith Lochner - January 23 at 11:45 AM



“ Rick was my best friend after meeting in the Sheriff's academy in 1981. We roomed together on several different occasions. He helped me through alot of tough times and we enjoyed alot of good times. I got a Motorcycle, then Rick got one too. We would ride to work at Central Jail and often take rides along the coast. We did a one week trip up the coast to Carmel and San Jose, sometimes camping on the beach. In 1987 we went to the boat show and bought a brand new boat. We kept it in Long Beach and would often jump on for a Catalina run. He was a regular at my dinner table and helped in raising my three sons. Two of whom joined the military after high school, in large part due to his guidance. Later in life we both got into old British sports cars. He bought a 1971 Jaguar E-type and we would spend almost every Saturday morning driving to "Cars and Coffee in Irvine. We lived one house away from each other, so we spent alot of time together. He loved golfing and watching old war movies, that was another reason we got along so well. He will be missed by everyone who knew him. RIP my friend.

Alec MacArthur - January 23 at 09:12 AM

RR

“ To the Family of Lawrence “Rick” Martindale,

On behalf of all who had the privilege to know him, please accept my heartfelt condolences on the passing of an extraordinary man—a devoted Army Veteran, a trusted helicopter pilot for the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department, and a steadfast servant in search and rescue for some decades.

Rick’s life reflected courage in both the air and on the ground. His dedication to service, his calm mastery at the controls, and his unwavering strength through years of living with Parkinson’s disease remain an inspiration to all who knew his journey. Even in his final chapter, Rick’s adventurous spirit could not be grounded. Through a virtual flight over Long Beach and visits to sacred memorials, he soared once more—his smile and words, “That was awesome,” capturing the pure joy that defined his life.

The entire Green Meadows Hospice team was deeply honored to walk beside Rick and his family in those final days, offering care and compassion as he completed his remarkable journey. It was a privilege to serve him as his chaplain, to share in his stories, and to witness his courage and grace.

I set up this memorial website for the family and know that there are many people shared heart stopping experiences with Rick through his rescues and many harrowing experiences can find peace in knowing that Rick’s spirit continues to lift others just as he lifted so many throughout his life—guiding, rescuing, and inspiring. His legacy of service and heart will not be forgotten.

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02HSFtKzCFSkQdLn6ptkQi5zw49h3jk26FbTSa2TLsEby5aL893MYFUPZCEQKtjfHMI&id=1294842850&mibextid=wwXlfr&_rdr

With deepest sympathy and respect,

Chaplain Rustad and the Green Meadows Hospice Team

Roger Rustad - January 21 at 02:00 PM



“ 3 files added to the album *Rick's Memories Album*



Reflecting on Memories - January 21 at 01:53 PM