



## Thomas Edna Martin

December 10, 1923 - April 18, 2012

Judge (Ret) Thomas Edna Martin of Rockdale, passed from this world on Wednesday, April 18, 2012. Tom "Buddy" Martin was born on the family ranch, December 10, 1923 in Pleasant Hill, the youngest child of James Alfred and Lillie (Carter) Martin. He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers, L.R. "Bud", A.O. "Babe" and Robert Hervey "Coot" Martin. Sister, Lillie "Lillie" Havens and two nieces and a nephew. Judge Martin is survived by his wife, Jo Ann (George) Martin, sisters-in-law, Bonnie Belle George and Lavelle George, numerous nieces and nephews and two faithful friends, Margie Gates and J.D. Morrison. Tom was a man of varied interests, and his life ran the gamut from chopping cotton during the Depression to help sustain his family, World War II Navy duty, working the pot rooms at Alcoa and serving as president of the United Steelworkers Local #4895, then a stint as municipal judge. In between, he found time to become an honored member of Rockdale Masonic Lodge #414 and was also a Shriner. He had quite an interest in cars, owned all brands at one time or another and even raised eyebrows by driving around in a cherry-red Dodge Prowler while he was the municipal judge of Rockdale. Tom graduated from Lexington High School and went to work in Kingsville for the Missouri-Pacific Railroad. In 1942, he joined the Navy and spent the remainder of World War II traveling the world, serving as an armed guard. He proudly served on five different ships, including the USS Star King, which was shot out from under the crew. Martin worked for Standard Oil in Houston after being discharged from the Navy, then when Alcoa opened the

Rockdale facility, he went to work for them, putting in 32 honorable years until his retirement in 1985. In 1958, Tom married Jo Ann George, and they have been inseparable since. Together they have had a remarkable impact on their community and families. They had no children together, but raised one nephew, Jimmy Havens and had a major influence on the lives of many of their nieces and nephews. In 1985, Martin decided to try something different in life, and became a municipal judge in Rockdale. He was known to be hard, but an extremely fair judge and was a friend to many. He retired as judge in 2003. It has been said that "Success is not found in what you have achieved, but rather in who you have become." With all the achievements in his life, and based upon the person he became, Tom Martin was a very successful man. Services are as follows; Visitation; 5PM to 7PM Thursday, April 19th, in the funeral home. Graveside services 10:00 AM Saturday in the Lower Spring Creek Cemetery near Danville, Arkansas. Memorials may be made in Tom's name to the charity of your choice.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Edna Martin*

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**Christina Strobo** - April 20, 2012 at 01:04 PM



“ *Thomas Edna Martin*

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**Cynthia Galbreath** - April 20, 2012 at 09:27 AM