



Frank Martin Harmon

December 13, 1951 - November 18, 2025

The author of six non-fiction books, Martin Harmon, passed away on November 18, 2025, at his home in Senoia, Georgia, after a lengthy battle with two types of cancer. A veteran writer with extensive experience in newspapers, collegiate sports communications, and public relations/marketing, he was 73 years old and preceded in death by his father, Rev. Frank M. Harmon, and mother, Evelyne R. Harmon. He is survived by his wonderful wife of 54 years, Sharon Woody Harmon, and a great family: two sons, Matthew Martin (Danielle) and Andrew Phillip (Jeannine) Harmon; four grandchildren, Bailee (Camden) Busby, Joshua, Ethan, and Lucas Harmon; and a younger brother, Dr. Harold R. Harmon.

A graduate of Motlow State Community College and East Tennessee State University, Harmon began his sports writing career at two daily Tennessee newspapers, the Johnson City Press-Chronicle and the Nashville Banner. He then moved into collegiate sports information at three mid-major, Southern universities, Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tenn., Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, La., and lastly Georgia State University in Atlanta, where he served as a Venue Press Chief during the 1996 Summer Olympics and was instrumental in the recruitment of Hall of Fame Basketball Coach "Lefty" Driesell to head the Panther program.

Next, he transferred his love of American History to the Public Relations

Director's job at Georgia's Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation, the world-famous polio rehab center created by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1927, where Harmon won 16 state and/or national awards for marketing, publications, fund raising, and tourism before retiring in 2012 to devote full time to his six non-fiction books. These include in published order, *The Warm Springs Story: Legacy & Legend*; *Charles "Lefty" Driesell, A Basketball Legend*; *The Roosevelts and Their Descendants: Portrait of a Great American Family*; *Long Haul Legacy: SMC3 and The Evolution of Motor Freight*; *Presidents by Fate: Nine Who Ascended through Death or Resignation*; and *Presidents Versus Senators: Conflicts and Rivalries That Shaped America*.

Born in Maryville, Tennessee, Harmon spent most of his childhood years in that state, but also his junior high and early high school years in Denton, Texas, before his family moved back to Tennessee (Manchester), where he graduated from high school and met his future wife, Sharon. His professional life also included a five-year stop in Louisiana before ultimately settling in Georgia, first in Stone Mountain and Snellville, and later in Senoia. A lifelong fan of the Dallas Cowboys from his formative years in Texas, Harmon also became a dedicated Atlanta Braves follower and loyal Georgia football fan while spending a decade on the Bulldog home game stats crew. His favorite hobby was travel photography, which he once compiled in a limited-edition coffee table book entitled "Lasting Impressions." He especially loved traveling to the magnificent National Parks in the U.S. and Canada.

The memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2025, at 2:00 PM at Newnan Presbyterian Church, 38 Greenville Street, Newnan, GA 30263, with Rev. David Jones officiating. The family will receive friends from 12:30 PM until service time at the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made to The National Park Foundation, <https://www.nationalparks.org/how-you-can-help>.

Condolences can also be expressed to the family online at www.mckoon.com.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

Cemetery Details

Senoia City Cemetery

715 Stallings Road
Senoia, GA

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 6. 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Newnan Presbyterian Church
38 Greenville St/P.O. Box 1107
Newnan, GA 30264

Funeral Service

DEC 6. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Newnan Presbyterian Church
38 Greenville St/P.O. Box 1107
Newnan, GA 30264

Tribute Wall

WS

“ Sharon, I thought so much of Martin. He was such a talented communicator and preserved so much rich history of Warm Springs and the Roosevelt family. I am praying for all of you and will make a contribution to the National Parks Foundation, remembering Martin and happy times we spent together.

Winston Skinner

Winston Skinner - December 05, 2025 at 10:15 PM

SH

Thanks Winston!

Sharon - December 13, 2025 at 06:34 PM

RF

“ Ruth F. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frank Martin Harmon.

Ruth F. - December 05, 2025 at 04:26 PM

RP

“ So grateful for my time with Martin...He was a Man For All Seasons and such an interesting storyteller! Thank you for giving me a grad assistant job and mentoring me into a career in sports. We attended/worked countless college, Olympic and pro sports games together. Above all the man was an incredible historian and writer...so appreciate all the Southern lore he introduced me to! Thank you for all the “meat and three” lunches, the countless sports stories, the daily sports debates & hijinks...no matter the sport!! I'll never forget how happy he was when his team won...that Braves World Series parade was an unforgettable day. Fond memories of the visit with you and Sharon here in Charleston. RIP Friend and our deepest sympathies to the entire Harmon Family.



Rob Preiditsch - December 05, 2025 at 08:47 AM

SH

Thank Rob. So glad we had a great visit with you and Merry a while back in Charleston.

Sharon - December 05, 2025 at 10:25 AM

AS

“ Sharon, I am so very sorry for your loss. Tony and I both so enjoyed getting to know you and Martin over the years. We loved our conversations with Martin on everything from travel to sports to everything else. Please know that you and your family are in our hearts and prayers. We are here for you for anything you may need.

Amy & Tony Stankosky

Amy Stankosky - December 04, 2025 at 11:26 AM

SH

Thanks Amy & Tony

Sharon - December 05, 2025 at 10:26 AM

WF

“ *with love from your SMC3 Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frank Martin Harmon.*

with love from your SMC3 Family - December 01, 2025 at 11:28 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Frank Martin Harmon.*



December 01, 2025 at 11:28 AM

JM

“Ginger and I extend our heart-felt sympathy to Sharon and her entire family during this time of grief. They are ALL at the top of our thoughts, and in the deepest chambers of our hearts.

This earth was a much better place while Martin was among us. He contributed in several giving ways to many. We wish to pay tribute to this model of a man. If the average man gains 5-notches, then Martin gained ten. He was a strong Christian, a model husband, father and friend. You always knew exactly which Martin would show up, as he always presented himself in the same way.....a gentle man, always positive and polite.

We have both known him for many years as he quickly gained both our respect and admiration. Sharon was my long-term Administrative Asst. and we enjoyed dinners and other times together. However, I had the privilege to get to know Martin even better over the 10-months we collaborated during 2015 about the 80+ years of history and successes of SMC3. All of that resulted in the book he authored about the company entitled: "Long Haul Legacy." Once it was agreed upon to commission a book, I knew exactly who would write it. I was familiar with many of Martins previous books, and had read two of them. He was the skilled and talented writer we wanted. I have the very first copy off the press that he personally signed for me. I cherish it, just as I cherish our long-term friendship with Martin & Sharon.

And speaking of Long Haul Legacies.....Martin certainly carved his out to be one that Sharon and his family will always be so very proud of.....

Jack & Ginger Middleton

Jack E. Middleton - November 28, 2025 at 12:51 PM

SH

Thanks so much Jack. Martin always appreciated the way you and Ginger considered him a part of the SMC3 family and the many friendships he built because of that.

Sharon - November 29, 2025 at 10:46 PM

BR

“ Sharon and family, so sorry to hear of Martin’s passing. Susan and I always loved catching up with both of you at the SMC gatherings. We were thrilled to have you come to see us and mark off the LAST state on your extensive travel list. Please know our prayers are with you.

Brent & Susan Holliday.

Brent - November 21, 2025 at 12:32 PM

SH

Thanks Brent

Sharon Harmon - November 24, 2025 at 07:06 PM

TS

“*Martin and Sharon were among the very first members of the SMC³ family to welcome us to Peachtree City when I joined the company. From the start, Martin’s kindness and willingness to help stood out. Whether it was carrying a box or tracking someone down during a busy conference, he never hesitated to lend a hand. Very quickly Martin became a true friend.*

We shared a love for history and sports, and I will always cherish the conversations, the laughter, and the inside stories he seemed to have ready for every occasion. Martin had a gift for making people feel valued and connected, and that’s something I’ll never forget.

We will deeply miss Martin—he was truly special. To Sharon and the family, Faith and I are heartbroken. Please know that our prayers are with you as you mourn the loss of a wonderful husband, a caring father, and a dear friend. God bless each of you -- Tom & Faith Swinson and Family

Tom Swinson - November 21, 2025 at 10:17 AM

SH

Thank you Tom and Faith.

Sharon Harmon - November 24, 2025 at 07:06 PM

BS

“*Sharon and family: so very sorry to hear about Martin.*
Gail and Bill Shults

Bill Shults - November 21, 2025 at 09:56 AM

SH

Thank you Bill

Sharon - December 05, 2025 at 10:27 AM

JB

“ Sharon, I am so sorry to hear the news about Martin. My prayers are with you and yours during this time of mourning.

Jeff B

Jeff Boyd - November 21, 2025 at 08:17 AM

SH

Thanks Jeff!

Sharon - December 05, 2025 at 10:27 AM

AR

“ I worked with Martin for many years at GSU. A kind and honorable man is what I remember. Years later he was influential in helping get my sister into the Warm Springs rehabilitation center after her stroke. God surely has gained an angel 🙏

Awilda Ragland - November 20, 2025 at 10:35 AM

SH

Thank you, Awilda
Sharon

Sharon Harmon - November 20, 2025 at 03:25 PM

WS

“ I am so sorry to learn of Martin's passing. He was a talented writer with a deep understanding of history and a gift for storytelling. I am so thankful our paths crossed. In addition to his many gifts, he was a great guy!

Prayers for all his family.

Winston Skinner

Winston Skinner - November 19, 2025 at 06:47 PM

SH

*Thank you Winston
Sharon*

Sharon Harmon - November 20, 2025 at 03:26 PM

JT

*Sharon,
I was saddened to read this. I loved working with Martin at RWSIR and getting to know him. He was always so supportive of me and my ministry at warm springs and later. He was a good one.*

Jan Tolbert - November 21, 2025 at 10:33 AM

HH

“*I am so sorry to hear this news! He was a great mentor to me and so many others at Georgia State. I have tried to pay his encouragement and lessons forward as my way of repaying him.*

Keeping your family in my prayers.

Heather Czeczok Hirschman

Heather Hirschman - November 19, 2025 at 04:15 PM

MH

Thank you, Heather. Much appreciated. Go Panthers!

Matthew Harmon - November 19, 2025 at 06:19 PM

MW

Martin was the first to think of calling Lefty Driesell when we had a coaching vacancy. It was the birth of the modern age of GSU Sports.

McRae Williams - November 20, 2025 at 02:19 PM

BH

*Sharon and family, so sorry to hear of Martin's passing. Susan and I always loved catching up with both of you at the SMC gatherings. We were thrilled to have you come to see us and mark off the LAST state on your extensive travel list. Please know our prayers are with you.
Brent & Susan Holliday.*

Brent & Susan Holliday - November 21, 2025 at 12:31 PM

NG

Sharon, so sorry to hear about Martin. I remember visiting with you and the family when I came down to Uncle Frank's and Aunt Evelyn was in the hospital. Please know you and your family are in our prayers for God's comfort 🙏💕💕

Nancy Guinn - November 21, 2025 at 02:03 PM

SH

Thank you, Nancy. I'm glad you received the news about Martin. Please pass it along to all the family you can.

Sharon Harmon - November 24, 2025 at 07:04 PM