

Brigadier-General Robert L. Martin (ret'd)
BA, BCL, LLD (Hon), OMM, CD, QC
Judge Advocate General of the Canadian Armed Forces

December 31, 1932 – December 26, 2011
Ottawa, Ontario

Bob passed away surrounded by the love of his family at the Queensway Carleton Hospital on Monday December 26, 2011 after living with Parkinson's disease for almost 40 years. He is survived by the love of his life and loving wife of 56 years, the former Yvonne Landry, and his three daughters, Anne Matthews, of Oshawa, Ontario, Michelle (Tim) Dymont Fanning of McLean, Virginia and Carole Martin of Salt Spring Island, British Columbia. He was a proud grandfather to Arielle Dymont, Samuel Dymont, Phillip Dymont, Rachel Dymont, Isaac Matthews, Brianna Matthews, Robert Matthews, and Daniel Matthews. Orphaned at a young age, he remained devoted to his sister Mona Martin and his brothers, Rudy (Joan) Martin, Norman (Henrietta) Martin, Jimmy (Cindy) Martin and Danny (Donna) Martin. He is also survived by his half sisters, Jackie Judge, Patsy Judge and Elizabeth Middleton, his half brother Neal Wetmore, his sister-in-law Josephine (Nelson) Bujold as well as nieces and nephews who were very special to him. He is predeceased by his parents Gerald and Marianne Martin.



He was born in Martins, New Brunswick. He held a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Thomas University and a Bachelor of Civil Law degree from the University of New Brunswick. He was life member of the Law Society of New Brunswick and in 1959-60 attended the University of Paris where he studied Public International Law. In May 1989, the University of St. Thomas awarded BGen Martin an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

While attending university, he enrolled in the Canadian Officers Training Corps (Infantry) Canadian Army, joined the Royal Canadian Air Force, Regular Force in 1957 and served in Quebec City, Paris and Metz, France, Ottawa and Montreal. In the Office of the Judge Advocate General in Ottawa, he was Director of the following sections: Pensions, Advisory, Operations, Property, and Military Justice. After his promotion to Colonel, he was Deputy Judge Advocate General/Advisory; Deputy Judge Advocate General/Chief Judge Advocate, responsible for courts martial and appeals; and Assistant Judge Advocate General, Eastern Region, Mobile Command Headquarters, Montreal. He was the Director of Personnel Legal Services at National Defence Headquarters between 1980 and 1985, directly responsible to the Assistant Deputy Minister (Personnel) providing legal advice on personnel matters and, in particular, redress of grievances, appeals against the severity of sentence imposed by courts martial, boards of inquiry and summary investigations involving deaths and injuries. He was actively involved as Legal Adviser during the 1969 Montreal Police Strike; the 1970 October Crisis; the 1971 Kingston Riot; and the 1976 Montreal Olympics. From 1972 to 1985, he was the Permanent DND Coordinator for the Special Voting Rules and was responsible for arranging and administering the voting for members of the Canadian Forces and, where applicable, their dependents at federal and provincial general elections.

BGen Martin attended the Royal Canadian Air Force Staff College in 1965-66 and the National Defence College prior to his promotion to Brigadier-General (October 1986) and his appointment as Judge Advocate General of the Canadian Armed Forces in November 1986. He was appointed to the Order of Military Merit in the grade of Officer in January 1976 and as Queen's Counsel in January 1987.

Special thanks to his family and friends for their love, laughter and support. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to his homecare workers, Don, Janetta, and Gus, for their gentle care, to the medical staff at the Queensway Carleton Hospital and to the many people who cared for him over the years.