



Dr. Martin Anthony Ryan

September 1, 1941 - April 4, 2017

Dr. Martin Anthony Ryan, age 75, of Dunwoody, GA, passed away April 4, 2017, at Hospice Atlanta following a short period of declining health. Martin is preceded in death by his parents, Edward Ryan and Nancy Flannigan Ryan and sister, Ann Ryan Paton. He is survived by his wife, Janet Shaw Ryan; children, Elizabeth (Gregory) Roach, Jane (Brian) Bascle, Michael Ryan, and Helen (Chris) Hawkins; grandchildren, James Roach, Robert Roach, Mary Anne Roach, Michael Bascle, Teresa Bascle, Katie Hawkins, Jamie Hawkins, and Andrew Hawkins; sister, Margaret Vallance; brothers, John (Angela) Ryan and Edward (Marion) Ryan, and several nieces and nephews.

Martin was a longtime member of All Saints Catholic Church in Dunwoody, GA. Martin received his Bachelor of Chemical Engineering from the University of Edinburgh in Edinburgh, Scotland. He also earned his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Leeds in England. Martin started his career as a researcher in the plastic bottling industry. As he advanced, he later became the president of two American subsidiaries of French and Japanese corporations. Martin will be missed by all who knew him, especially his family.

The family will receive friends at Northside Chapel Funeral Directors on Friday, April 7, 2017, from 7 to 8 PM. A funeral mass will be held on Saturday, April 8, 2017, at St. Peter Chanel Catholic Church beginning at 10:30 AM, followed by interment at Arlington Memorial Park in Sandy Springs, GA. In lieu

of flowers, donations may be made to the general scholarship fund at Blessed Trinity Catholic High School, 11320 Woodstock Rd, Roswell, GA 30075.

Cemetery Details

Arlington Memorial Park

201 Mount Vernon Hwy NW
Atlanta, ga

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 7. 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Northside Chapel Funeral Directors and Crematory
12050 Crabapple Road
Roswell, GA 30075
(770) 645-1414
info@northsidechapel.com

Mass of Christian Burial

APR 8. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Peter Chanel Catholic Church
11330 Woodstock Road
Roswell, GA

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Martin Anthony Ryan*

October 08, 2022 at 11:37 AM



“ *We are so sorry for your loss. May the God of all comfort continue to be with you and your family during this difficult time. We all look forward to a better day when death will be no more-Rev 21:4. Our prayers are with you.*

Boyd Family - April 17, 2017 at 07:33 AM

“ Eulogy, Part I

In the summer of 2013, Jane and I decided to replace the deck behind our house. By then it was 30 years old, falling apart, ugly, completely dangerous, etc. It was a big project and we didn't quite know how to go about beginning it. So as was the case with many large complicated questions in our lives, Jane decided, well, I'll call Dad. Being who he was, he was generally knowledgeable about all things, and had recently done a few projects where he needed to buy lumber, so we thought, We'll just run it by him, get his advice. So she called him one day and asked, "Hey dad, where do you get your lumber?"

That was all she asked.

Less than a week later I found myself rolling around in the backyard in the mud with Ganga, taking apart the old deck, building the frame for the new deck, spending long days measuring, sawing, nailing wood that he had gone and selected and purchased himself (we reimbursed him of course), and I learned more about circular saws, nail guns, air compressors, what sets good wood apart from crap wood, than I ever knew before.

But that was Ganga. He wouldn't just lend a hand, but take on your project, bring it home to Wyntercreek, research it to within an inch of its life, Google the supplies needed and/or products available, and turn it into a military campaign all his own. Of course, sometimes this required some patience on our part -- his assuming a project meant being subject to his timeline and his thoroughness -- but during all of it, you had no doubt that in going above and beyond in these cases, he was showing you he cared.

Ganga was an extraordinary person who lived an extraordinary life.

Ganga, aka Martin Anthony Ryan, was born in 1941 in Bathgate, Scotland into an Irish heritage Catholic family. He was the eldest of

five children with humble beginnings. With no money to spare, he was always very resourceful and inventive. As a kid, if he needed something, he would go to the town dump for parts and build it, including his own bicycle, and a gun — plus bullets — to shoot his father's cabbages.

His first job was at the age of 12 riding a bike delivering groceries all over the hills of Bathgate for the local grocer. His parents believed in education and hard work and it showed in their sacrifices, and he and his two brothers attained PhD's — a chemical engineer (Martin), another chemical engineer (Edward) and a physicist (John). From a very young age he wanted to come to America as his three aunts and cousins had already done. So in 1968, for a better future for his family, he and his wife Janet and their young children emigrated for their great adventure.

Martin worked very hard at his various jobs in plastic industry research, being mostly responsible for the widely recognized 2-liter soda bottle, and other plastic containers. He then moved to the business side of the plastics industry and was very dedicated and successful, eventually becoming the president of two separate American subsidiaries, first with the French and then with the Japanese.

And he greatly enjoyed all the international travel that came with those jobs.

Brian Bascle - April 09, 2017 at 01:12 PM

“ Eulogy, Part II

He was a good and generous boss as we have heard from several of his past employees.

Martin was a strong believer in Catholic education, and his four children all went to Marist here in Atlanta and then on to University, resulting in who we have sitting in this room today, two CPAs, two MBAs, and a civil engineer. He made no distinction amongst his one boy (Michael) and three girls (Liz, Jane and Helen) when it came to education or anything else in life...so the frequent calls for “everyone down to the basement or garage for cleanup” or “everyone into the creek for a cleanup!” were equal-opportunity orders in the Ryan household. This resulted in four very independent and self-reliant children.

His love of gardening he passed along to the family. His other interests included books, music and antiquing.

When he retired, Martin had a lot more time to devote to his family, and he became the go-to person to solve any problem from a leaky faucet to a broken heart. He always had lots of ongoing projects, he loved to build and fix things. Being very Scottish, he never threw anything away, he saved everything to repurpose it. He never bought anything or made a decision before researching it thoroughly.

Ganga was an engineer, so that was his way of showing care and love for family. Problems and projects and life itself are puzzles to be solved. "Very complicated." "You must do this in the correct way it's very complicated"... "I must go back home my schedule is very complicated right now, I have many very complicated projects underway"... I think he thrived on the 'complicated', but Family -- And history of family, and heritage — were still the most important things to him. So the way he showed love and appreciation of the value of family, was to serve family.

Shouldering burdens, facing crises, assuming projects, diving in and getting down in the mess of what you found complicated. He thrived in serving that way, and went above and beyond, so many times in so many ways.

Granted, he was complicated to know. Maybe even complicated to live with sometimes. But as he knew -- and as he would have us know -- 'complicated' is worth it.

But his engineering, analytical brain was complemented by a generous and poetic heart.

In later years his greatest joy was his 8 grandchildren and their education, all students of Blessed Trinity Catholic High School. He enjoyed being a part of both their achievements and their personal interests. He was very proud of all of them and enjoyed spending time with them. He believed that family was one of the most important things in life, he enjoyed the family get-togethers. Ganga will be greatly missed by us all.

And so Ganga, among many things you gave us, I would personally like to: ...

Brian Bascle - April 09, 2017 at 01:11 PM

“ Eulogy, Part III

Thank you for the 1995 Ireland trip and introducing me to Smithwicks Ale (this was before you could get it here).

Thank you for the times you'd come over unannounced on a Sunday afternoon and talk over tea about your childhood filled with building vehicles and weaponry, and these afternoons would occasionally turn into evenings drinking red wine and looking for Chieftains videos on YouTube.

Thank you for asking me to help you play Swiss accordion music on your laptop just a couple of weeks ago while housekeeping was trying to clean your hospice room.

Thank you for the aforementioned deck.

Thank you for moving your family to America so I could meet your daughter.

Thank you for always being there for all of us.

Thank you for all the above and beyond.

After a lifetime of going above and beyond for others, you are today above and beyond us for the final time. And we will now have to fend for ourselves with our various complicated projects. But we are better able to do that now because of you.

At the risk of sounding completely corny and utterly predictable, I was thinking about you and looking through some Irish blessings and came upon this one, really one of the simplest of them all, but it sounded like something completely appropriate to wish for you, and something that you, in your providing and practical way, might have wished for us:

May you always have walls for the winds,

a roof for the rain,

tea beside the fire,

laughter to cheer you,

those you love near you,

and all your heart might desire.

And Ganga, Martin, we take comfort in the faith that you are now in a place where you are taking long, deep, true breaths of the very sweetest air, you're finally getting a cup of Real Tea, every tear has been wiped away, and things are mercifully no longer complicated.

Brian Bascle - April 09, 2017 at 01:11 PM

LR

“ *When I was young you held my hand. When you were old and sick I held your hand. I trust in the Lord that we will hold hands in heaven. Bye for now. Your darling Liz.*



Liz Roach - April 07, 2017 at 10:36 PM

BB

“ 1 file added to the album *Memorial Video*



Brian Bascle - April 07, 2017 at 09:56 PM

MR

“ *I'm missing my grandfather's funeral because I am currently on a mission trip in Nicaragua, and we aren't able to return early. So I just wanted to say a few words in his honor. My grandfather was belligerent and stubborn, but he could also be incredibly loving and kind. The most important thing he gave me was the idea that if you foster a love of knowledge and a disposition of persistence (even in the face of the impossible) you can accomplish anything, from the mundane (getting a very large couch through a very small door frame) to the incredible (rising from poverty into a successful business man and setting up the future generations for better lives). I love my grandfather very very much and I always will. I'll see you again someday granda. -Mary Anne Roach*

Mary Anne Roach - April 07, 2017 at 05:45 PM

BB

“ 16 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Brian Bascle - April 07, 2017 at 12:55 PM

BB

“ 15 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Brian Bascle - April 07, 2017 at 09:19 AM

AI

“ *Arthritis Foundation, Inc. purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Dr. Martin Anthony Ryan.*



Arthritis Foundation, Inc. - April 06, 2017 at 05:15 PM



“ *Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Martin Anthony Ryan.* ”



April 06, 2017 at 10:38 AM