

## Martin J. Tuczinski

Martin J. Tuczinski was born November 6, 1932 to Martin and Irene (Ryan) Tuczinski, Sr. in Hudson, NY. Raised in Chatham, he attended Chatham Central School and graduated high school in 1950 from Christian Brother's Academy in Albany, NY. Attending Albany Business College, he went to work for the NYS Health Department as a projectionist.

Martin entered the United States Army on December 11, 1952. After basic and advanced training (Aberdeen, Md), Corporal Martin Tuczinski was assigned to the 48<sup>th</sup> Ordnance Company in Baumholder, Germany. He was honorably discharged on November 30, 1954 at Camp Kilmer, NJ.; earning the German Occupational Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

Returning home Marty worked for the State Insurance Department as an investigator until 1965. For the next 24 years he was the NYS Veteran's Councilor in Hudson, NY where he retired in 1989. He met and married Carol (Charron) on June 11, 1953, raising three children: Daniel, Deborah and Dale.

Marty served as a committeeman for the Town of Ghent (1968-70), Town of Ghent Supervisor (1970-81) and Columbia County Republican Chairman (1990-02). In April 1998 Marty was appointed Vice President of Off Track Betting for Schenectady and Albany until December 2002, when he continued as secretary to the board until his death. He was Past Commander of Ghent VFW Post 5933, Past President of Chatham Stanford W. Smith Hook and Ladder Fire Co., board member of the Public Employees Federation, the Chatham American Legion Post 42, the Chatham Rescue Squad, and Glencadia Rod and Gun Club.

Marty died on April 15, 2003 after a courageous battle with cancer. Recognized for his service to country and community, he was eulogized as an "extraordinary leader and man", a "great leader and friend" known for "fairness, strength and compassion, fostering partnerships", a "diligent worker", "an astute politician", a "humanitarian" and "family man", and a "devout, Roman Catholic". Then Governor George E. Pataki said, "The Capital Region lost a true public servant and friend . . . no one more committed or who fought harder for the interests of Columbia County".

Marty was laid to rest at St. James Cemetery, Ghent, NY. He left behind his loving wife, a sister, (Lorraine Bowes), three children, and seven grandchildren. He was 70 years old.