



## Mr. Finis Roderick Austin

May 24, 1960 - June 23, 2024

Finis Roderick Austin, affectionally known to his family as Rod, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, June 23, 2024, at Devine Nursing Facility in Toledo, OH. He was born in Pittsburgh, PA on May 24, 1960 and was the son of Rev. Finis Austin and Mary Hawkins-Austin. He was the youngest of 8. Rod moved to Toledo, Ohio with his parents and 2 siblings in 1966, where he and his 2 siblings attended school.

Throughout his younger life, Rod enjoyed hobbies such as singing, martial arts, watching movies, listening to music, etc. He actually sang in a group at school talent shows. Rod was blessed with a beautiful voice. He also acquired a 10th degree blackbelt in martial arts, which he practiced daily to try and keep healthy and toned. Rod was an outstanding high school graduate of Start High School in Toledo, OH. He was a straight A student graduating with honors. After graduating from high school, he attended RETS Electronics school in Toledo, which he completed with a certification in electronics. Shortly after Rod ventured out to California and successfully completed an electronics program in San Diego. He returned to Toledo to be with his family around 1980.

Rod was preceded in death by his loving parents and older brothers, Hugo Austin and Warner Austin.

Rod is survived by his brothers Joe Hardin, Steve Hardin, Fernando Austin, MD, Pennimen Austin, and his sister Mini'imah Garrett (Sharon), and a host of loving nieces and nephews and many other relatives and friends who all cherish his memory. He would be so happy to see them when they came to visit him at his nursing facility.

# Cemetery Details

## Historic Woodlawn Cemetery

1502 West Central Avenue  
Toledo, OH

# Previous Events

## Wake Service

JUL 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Dale-Riggs Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
572 Nebraska Avenue  
Toledo, OH 43604  
(419) 248-4254  
info@dalefh.com

## Funeral Service

JUL 6. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Dale-Riggs Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
572 Nebraska Avenue  
Toledo, OH 43604  
(419) 248-4254  
info@dalefh.com

# Tribute Wall

“ I was shocked to hear of my brother Rod's unexpected death, and at this time, would like to share some of my favorite memories of him.

*When they brought my little brother home from the hospital in 1960, he had a reddish brown complexion and a cherubic face. It was fun having a younger brother with whom to play. It was fun to watch him take his first steps, speak his first words, learn to read and write, and learn phrases in other languages.*

*Our older brother, Warner, used to read us bedtime stories in different languages. I remember him reading the story of "Little Brave Sambo" to us in Spanish, and watching Rod's eyes grow as big as saucers at the line, "No, no, Señor Tigre, favor de no me comer!" [No, no, Mr. Tiger, please don't eat me up!]*

*Speaking of eating things up, as a child Rod developed the practice of putting ketchup on everything, including ice cream, to "make it taste better."*

*We became fast friends as we grew up together. We fought, as all siblings do, but always made up again. When we moved to the Appalachians, we used cardboard slides to ride down the hill outside of our house on the thick pile of leaves which landed in the Fall. We shot arrows from bows - both homemade and store-bought. We played with electric trains, GI Joes and Transformers, and watched countless hours of cartoons together.*

*Warner and I taught Rod martial arts, starting with Judo and Jiu Jitsu, then moving on to Karate. One of my favorite things to do with Rod was to watch Bruce Lee movies. He developed a lifelong passion for Karate and the martial arts lifestyle. [I stopped sparring with him when he earned his black belt.] (smile)*

*The whole family was proud of Rod's academic achievements, and our Mom took him on a trip to Hawaii to reward him for his*

*graduation from high school with honors. He made friends wherever he went, and was always generous with what he had. One of his friends said, "Rod would give you the shirt off his back, if he thought you needed it."*

*Our father, Rev. Dr. Finis H. Austin, was a Baptist minister and Chaplain in the United States Army. One summer, while our father was performing his Reserve duties at Fort Belvoir in Virginia, Rod and I went to the base chapel. He sat in one of the pews while I delivered a fiery sermon. At the end, He smiled at me and said, "Amen!"*


*May the soul of Finis Roderick "Rod" Austin, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

*Penniman Bryce Austin*

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**P B Austin** - July 05, 2024 at 11:19 PM

BM

*Amen.... Rod was my Friend starting from 1970 when I first moved to Toledo... Living on Prospect also, we became close Friends as Rods Family Treated me Like Family... Going on Vacation once with Rod and Mrs. Austin... to Pittsburgh staying with her Sister over a Funeral Home... Rod had been there before but being Young, we acted up some with scary notions of being that close to the Funeral Home... Nevertheless, we had a Great Time.... Rod and I shared an Interest For Singing in which In The 5th Grade, 1970-71 we formed a Singing  Group Called The 5 Sticks Of Dynamite and Performing In School Talent Shows...Rod was my Best Friend In That Era as we were like Brothers.... RIH Finis Roderick Austin..... Brett Miles.....*

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**Brett E. Miles** - July 08, 2024 at 12:08 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mr. Finis Roderick Austin.*



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July 05, 2024 at 11:45 AM



“ *Your Divine Toledo family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Finis Roderick Austin.*



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**Your Divine Toledo family** - July 05, 2024 at 10:15 AM



“ *May your heart find comfort knowing that your love one is at home with the Lord  
Love Gwendolyn E.March Jones and Family*



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**Gwendolyn E.March Jones** - June 29, 2024 at 04:57 PM