



Raymond Douglas Simmons Sr.

June 2, 1942 - July 16, 2019

Florence, South Carolina

Raymond Douglas Simmons, Sr., 77, of Florence died on Tuesday, July 16, 2019.

A celebration of life service will be held on Saturday, July 20, 2019 at 11:00 AM at the Bethea Baptist Home Chapel in Darlington. Dr. Rev. Jeff Cockrell and Mr. Simmons son, Reverend Raymond Douglas Simmons, Jr. will be officiating the service. The family will receive friends following the service in the in fellowship hall.

Raymond was born in Rogersville, TN and was raised in Surgoinsville, TN. He was the son of the late William "Bill" and Constance Brice Simmons. Raymond graduated from Volunteer High School in Church Hill, TN and also attended college at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN. He served his Country in the Vietnam War in United States Air Force and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross medal. Raymond worked as a Court Reporter for the US District Courts. He was a member of the VFW in Rogersville, TN Post Number 9543 and the American Legion Post Number 172 in Columbia, SC. Raymond was also an avid golfer.

Surviving are his son, Reverend Raymond Douglas Simmons, Jr. and wife, Terry of Darlington; his brothers, Isaac Simmons (Sylvia) of Rogersville, TN; Billy Joe Simmons of Smithburg, MD; Bobby Dean Simmons (Martha) of Gate City, VA; and Lance Simmons of Surgoinsville, TN; and his sisters, Noel Westberry of Daytona Beach, FL; and Mary Simmons of Lake City, FL; and

longtime friend, Vince Rowland.

Raymond was preceded in death by his parents listed above; and by his sister, Brenda Gail Cupp.

Memorials may be made to Bethea Baptist Home, 157 Home Ave, Darlington, SC 29532; Palmetto Rural Fire Department, 1304 E. McIver Road, Darlington, SC 29532 or to Darlington Rescue, 107 S. Sycamore Street, Darlington, SC 29532.

Arrangements are being handled by Kistler-Hardee Funeral Home & Crematory of Darlington, SC.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.kistlerhardeefuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

BB

“ Raymond always had his radiant smile. He was always up for a good prank. One such time was when the flight crew found a jack rabbit out West, loaded him on the plane. The jack rabbit was release on the flight line in Florida. It hopped away unharmed. His love of animals was touching. He was always in motion whether it be walking, going to historical sites, fishing, golfing, playing ping pong or badminton, bowling. He loved touring the vineyards of Napa Valley. He truly loved South Carolina. He received his second set of wings, and now soars free. Ditto Baby Doll!

Brenda Moses Simmons Bethea - July 20, 2019 at 09:27 AM

JM

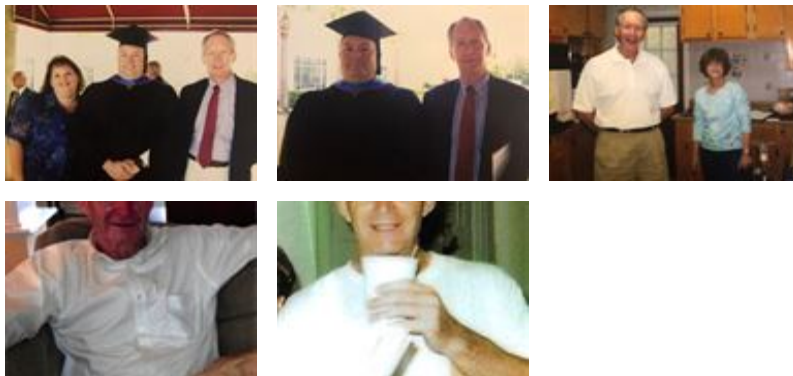
“ John & Susan Martin lit a candle in memory of Raymond Douglas Simmons Sr.



John & Susan Martin - July 20, 2019 at 09:03 AM



“ 29 files added to the album Life Tributes



Kistler-Hardee Funeral Home - July 19, 2019 at 04:00 PM

MJ

“ *Marcia Jones lit a candle in memory of Raymond Douglas Simmons Sr.*



Marcia Jones - July 19, 2019 at 03:24 PM

KM

“ *Mr. Ray was the kindest man and was a truly generous soul. I am so blessed that he was a part of our lives for the last 5 years. I so loved to hear his stories from growing up in TN and when he served. Holidays will not be the same, but I will cherish the time we had with him. He had a special love for dogs and he was a happy part of their lives when he walked in with the leash in the afternoons :) You are missed by many, Mr. Ray, but i know you are in a better place.*

Kelly Morris - July 19, 2019 at 10:03 AM

MS

I'm sure he had some good stories to tell about growing up in TN! He was a kind and generous soul. Thank you for sharing.

Mary Simmons, - July 19, 2019 at 12:28 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raymond Douglas Simmons Sr..*



July 19, 2019 at 08:58 AM

VM

“ *The few times I saw uncle Raymond he always said how proud he was of me. He was so kind and smart. My husband enjoyed his conversations with Raymond, because he appreciated how smart he was. I did not know he served in Vietnam. I would have loved to have heard his stories and I know he would have loved to tell them.*

Here's a story my mom, his sister Mary, told me this week. When her dog died last year, Raymond told her she needed to get another dog because everyone needs a dog. She mentioned a woman she met who was selling a cute dog, but it was expensive. My mom could not believe it when a check showed up in the mail from Raymond for the exact cost of the dog. That's how Raymond was. So kind. He was always sending my mom cakes for her birthday or holidays. I think that's where she got the idea because now she always sends me cakes.

My mom is really missing uncle Raymond and I hope everyone who reads this will say a prayer for her.

Valerie Orr McEnroe - July 19, 2019 at 08:44 AM

PH

“ I was Raymond's dental hygienist and I am completely heartbroken reading of his passing. I only got to see him once every 6 months and I was very attached to him and looked forward to my visits with him, so I can't imagine how his family and close friends must feel right now. My heart goes out to all of you. He and I always talked about the military since we were both veterans. We talked about Johnson City, TN because I still have family there. We both had a love of animals and I would see him walking a little dog in my neighborhood all of the time. He was so compassionate, had a strong work ethic, and was just a joy to be around. He stopped my husband in the neighborhood once just to make sure he knew he had a brake light out. He asked about a house in our neighborhood that looked like it had roof damage and he was concerned that maybe the people were away and didn't know about it, and that it was getting worse. He said he was even willing to pay to have it fixed if need be. He just had the biggest heart. I will miss Mr. Simmons so much my heart hurts. My prayers and condolences for the family.

Patti Haun
Florence,
SC

Patti Haun - July 19, 2019 at 07:14 AM

JL

“ Ray, was a wonderful man. He had a tender heart that made one feel cared for and about. His loving and kind ways have made a life long lasting impression upon me. I look forward to seeing him again in heaven and get to sit around chatting like the good ole days. You were loved and will be missed Ray. God bless your family.

Jessica Lawrence - July 18, 2019 at 06:30 PM

MP

“ So many wonderful memories and experiences with our ‘Huggie Bear’. A true decorated American Hero, witty, smart and great friend! I know how to open champagne bottles, properly thanks to him. Always providing the best recommendations for wine pairings with our meals in the former ‘Grotto’ Chapter. So many adventures and laughs over dinner. Love and miss you very much, my world is smaller yet again!

Michele Pridgen - July 18, 2019 at 05:35 PM

VW

“ To Raymond's family: I'm so sorry for your loss. Raymond and I were second cousins on Mom's side of the family. Although we did not see each other much, I have a few memories of him visiting my family when my grandparents Joe and Ardis Simmons were still living. Daddy Joe and Uncle Bill (Raymond's dad) were brothers. Raymond and I kept in touch by e-mail when my late husband Delmer Wallen and I were married. I pray that God will comfort your family.

Vicki Wallen - July 18, 2019 at 05:34 PM

PF

“ Words cannot express our sorrow at the passing of Ray, who we considered a part of our family. He was a kind, gentle, generous beyond measure man who took his responsibilities very seriously. He will be missed terribly and not a day will go by that we don't think of him.

Peggy Fleiner - July 18, 2019 at 04:16 PM

PF

“ *Peggy Fleiner & Family purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Raymond Douglas Simmons Sr..*



Peggy Fleiner & Family - July 18, 2019 at 04:11 PM

VW

“ *Vicki Wallen lit a candle in memory of Raymond Douglas Simmons Sr.*



Vicki Wallen - July 18, 2019 at 03:07 PM

 Libby Wiersema

“ *Sad beyond words to have lost my dear friend. What a gentle, kind and wise man - I'll miss you forever.*



Libby Wiersema - July 18, 2019 at 01:28 PM

TC

“ *Doug, So sorry to hear of the passing of your father. We are all thinking about you and our prayers are with you. Miss Peggy doesn't do so much on the computer so she ask me to pass on to your her condolences and love to you, also! We all at Welsh Neck love you.*
Terry Chapman



Terry Chapman - July 18, 2019 at 11:36 AM

HS

“ Heyward & Tammy Shoemake sent a virtual gift in memory of Raymond Douglas Simmons Sr.



Heyward & Tammy Shoemake - July 18, 2019 at 08:07 AM

LM

“ Uncle Raymond was a kind and gentle man, my favorite uncle. We always looked forward to his visits and his stories that made us laugh over and over again! My family and I will miss him dearly.

See you at the sunset, Uncle Raymond!

Lindsay Markham - July 18, 2019 at 06:36 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Raymond Douglas Simmons Sr..



July 18, 2019 at 06:07 AM

MS

“ Raymond was a loving brother and a wonderful friend. He had a very kind heart and a love for animals. Although, I have wonderful memories of him, there will be a great void in my life. I already miss him terribly.

Rest In Peace,.

Mary Simmons - July 17, 2019 at 07:46 PM

SD

“ Ray was one of the most kind hearted and generous person I've ever known. I will miss him greatly. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. Just know that he touched many, many people, and we were blessed to have known him.

Sallie Dixon - July 17, 2019 at 09:58 AM

LB

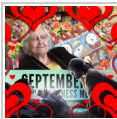
“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family at this most difficult time. May the God of comfort give you peace .

Laurin Boyce - July 16, 2019 at 08:56 PM

DS

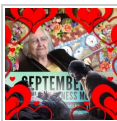
“ I'm thankful for the memories throughout my life, the forgiveness, the influence, and the love he showed me! It's great to look around & see the impact my dad made in the lives of others...not to mention his service to our country! I will always grateful to the Lord for allowing me to sit by his side, for giving the words to say, and the faith in trusting in Him! #Ephesians6:1-3

Doug Simmons - July 16, 2019 at 06:30 PM



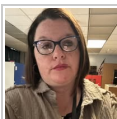
So sorry for your loss praying for you and family

Bobbie Miller - July 16, 2019 at 06:38 PM



Prayers and love

Bobbie Miller - July 16, 2019 at 06:38 PM



I'm so sorry! We are leaving Friday for Myrtle Beach. Let me know if you need anything

Hayley Cupp - July 16, 2019 at 07:59 PM

HJ

My wife and I will miss Ray dearly. Miss playing bad golf and laughing about it . Miss working with him. RIP Ray

Howard Jackson - July 17, 2019 at 03:39 PM

NS

My brother and I were separated by distance but bonded by our common memories of growing up together. I loved him and my heart is aching that he's passed. He was upbeat with a great sense of humor. Rest In Peace dear brother.

noel westberry, sister - July 18, 2019 at 07:54 AM

RS

My deepest sympathy to the family of my cousin, Raymond. I have a lot of memories of growing up with him. I'm sure he will be greatly missed.

Randall Simmons - July 18, 2019 at 02:35 PM

JR

i have good memories of playing with cousin Raymond & his brothers & sisters in our childhood. I saw him as a young adult & father of a young son, what seems like just a few years ago. We had become reacquainted in January of this year through Ancestry. I was looking forward to possibly getting to get together with him and our many other cousins in East TN. It's a shock to know that won't happen on this earth. My sympathy to all the family. Joanne Mayo Rice

Joanne Mayo Rice - July 18, 2019 at 02:51 PM

HG

Doug so sorry to hear the passing of your father. May the God of peace and comfort be with you during this difficult time. Just know we love you and Terry and you will be in our prayers.

Henry and Bonnie Griggs - July 18, 2019 at 06:00 PM

DE

Ray and I spent many an evening on the back porch enjoying a good cigar, listening to good music and discussing everything from politics and religion to comedy, books, the military and philosophy.

I still glance over for his car across the street out of habit. I will miss you old friend.

To Ray's family: You are in mine and Ella's prayers. If we can do anything for you in your time of grief, do not hesitate to let us know.

Dan and Ella Breeding

Dan and Ella - July 19, 2019 at 11:24 AM