



Mr. John Samuel Simmons Sr.

February 17, 1947 - November 13, 2021

John Samuel Simmons Sr was a devoted husband, father, poppa, brother, uncle and friend. He died on Saturday, November 13th at the age of 74 after a valiant fight with Alzheimer's. He was ushered into the presence of the Lord while surrounded by his son and his favorite person on the planet holding his hand, his beloved wife of 47 years.

John was born on February 17, 1947 in Carlton, Georgia to the late, John Thomas 'JT' Simmons Jr and Mary Odessa McCallum Simmons. As the son of a railroad foreman, John regaled his family with fond stories of living on the railroad in various towns throughout Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. He graduated with a finance degree from the best school in the country, the University of Georgia, in 1968. He later received a Master's degree in history from Georgia State University. After graduation, he had a job already lined up for himself with Uncle Sam, a great all expenses paid trip to Vietnam. John served his country proudly in the United States Navy aboard the USS John A. Bole and USS Blueridge. In his grand story-telling nature, John shared countless hilarious stories of his time in the Navy, our favorite being the story about the hijinks that occur with sailors when they cross the equator.

Once back home from the Navy and interviewing with Southern Bell, John reported to his prior employer in Athens, A&P grocery store. It was there that

he met the love of his life, Carolyn. John had a wonderful career as a telecommunications engineer, working at BellSouth, Nortel Networks and later retiring from AT&T. With their three children, Sammy, Missy and Susan, they built a wonderful life on their farm in Commerce. They loved traveling the world on family vacations.

Many Commerce residents will remember John as an avid walker. Religiously through rain or shine, John would walk his routine, three mile walk through downtown Commerce. He was always on the go and couldn't sit still because, as he loved to say: 'You can sleep when you are dead.'

As a follower of Christ, John was a devout member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Commerce, Georgia. He served in various aspects as a deacon, Sunday School Director and as part of the Mission Committee. John had a love for adventure and travel, going on mission trips around the US and Kenya. He loved UGA football, giving unsolicited advice, growing incredible tomatoes and corn in his garden, banjo-playing, telling funny stories, and a nightly bowl of ice cream. But what he loved the most was his wife, whom he called 'an angel.'

He was the very best dad and grandfather to his three children, three children-in-law, and seven grandchildren. He was their hero and they adored him for his wisdom, wit, love and dedication. Easter morning won't be the same without his very early and very off-key rendition of 'Up from the grave He arose!'

John is survived by his wife, Carolyn Prickett Simmons of Commerce; daughters, Melissa Madden and Susan Goins both of Jefferson; son, Dr. Sammy Simmons of Commerce; sister, Esther Ruth Simmons of Smyrna; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 2 PM, Tuesday, November 16 at Mt. Olive Baptist Church with Dr. Sammy Simmons and Rev. Verlin Reece officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Monday from 5 to 7 PM.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to Mt. Olive Baptist Church c/o Missions Fund, 190 Mt. Olive Church Rd, Commerce, Georgia 30529.

Little-Ward Funeral Home, Commerce is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Olive Baptist Church Cemetery

190 Mt. Olive Church Rd.
Commerce, GA 30529

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **15**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Little-Ward Funeral Home
115 State Street
Commerce, GA 30529
(706) 335-3175
lwfh@windstream.net
<https://www.little-wardfuneralhome.com/>

Service

NOV **16**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Mt. Olive Baptist Church
190 Mt. Olive Church Rd
Commerce, GA 30529

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. John Samuel Simmons Sr.*

October 09, 2023 at 05:17 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. John Samuel Simmons Sr..*



November 16, 2021 at 05:45 AM



“ *You are in my thoughts and prayers*

Kelsey Crook - November 15, 2021 at 05:19 PM



“ *Kelsey Crook lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Samuel Simmons Sr.*



Kelsey Crook - November 15, 2021 at 05:18 PM



“ *Carolyn- So sorry to hear of your loss. Thinking of you during this difficult time.*

Cheryl L. Mealor - November 15, 2021 at 02:28 PM

SB

“ *Sammy - so sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. You and all of your family are in my prayers. May God grant you peace and comfort.*
Selby Bearden

Selby Bearde - November 15, 2021 at 01:40 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. John Samuel Simmons Sr..*



November 15, 2021 at 01:09 PM

BO

“ *Betty and Doyle Overcash purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. John Samuel Simmons Sr..*



Betty and Doyle Overcash - November 15, 2021 at 12:39 PM

BS

“ *Brink's Canada SLT purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Mr. John Samuel Simmons Sr..*



Brink's Canada SLT - November 15, 2021 at 12:36 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Mr. John Samuel Simmons Sr..*



November 15, 2021 at 09:54 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. John Samuel Simmons Sr..*



November 15, 2021 at 09:46 AM



“ *Tony Beatty lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Samuel Simmons Sr.*



Tony Beatty - November 15, 2021 at 08:38 AM



“ *Dianne Matthews lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Samuel Simmons Sr.*



Dianne Matthews - November 14, 2021 at 11:26 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. John Samuel Simmons Sr..*



November 14, 2021 at 08:54 PM



“ *Baltimore Baptist Association purchased the Divine Light for the family of Mr. John Samuel Simmons Sr..*



Baltimore Baptist Association - November 14, 2021 at 08:04 PM



“ *Carolyn and family, I am so sorry for your loss. May God guide you through this difficult time by showering you with His love and your good memories.*



Shirley Alexander-Gabriel - November 14, 2021 at 04:59 PM