



Bernard Simmons

June 3, 1932 - November 15, 2004

Mr. Bernard R. Simmons, age 72, of 16308 Old Jonesboro Road, died peacefully Monday, Nov. 15, 2004, in Bristol TN at the Wellmont Hospice House. He was born in Red Ash, Va. June 3, 1932, a son of the late Roy William Simmons and Wanda Short Simmons of Richlands, VA. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by one brother, George Thomas Simmons. Survivors of his immediate family are Dennis Simmons, Norma Lee, Bill Simmons, Jack Simmons, Sandra Spruell and Renee Simmons.

He served in the U.S. Army in the Korean conflict. He was a member of the Richlands Masonic Lodge. He was a member of the Shriners Organization (Scottish Rite), Roanoke Chapter. He was commissioned a Kentucky Colonel by the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. He was honored by the Richlands area Chamber of Commerce as Citizen of the Year in 1972. He also served as Director of Industry, Manufacturing and Transportation for the Chamber. He was on the Advisory Board of Directors for Dominion Bank of Richlands. A leader in the field of business, Bernard R. Simmons founded S&S Machinery in 1955 where he designed battery-powered, underground machinery for use in the mines of his native Tazewell County. S&S Machinery later became S&S Corporation the world's leading manufacturer of rubber-tired, underground mining equipment. In 1976 his corporation became part of the worldwide Ingersoll-Rand Company. He retired from Ingersoll-Rand in 1983. In 1987, upon the request of Ingersoll-Rand's Management, he became Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer in a joint venture

with Simmons-Rand Company, overseeing the operations from the corporate headquarters in Bristol, VA. In recognition of his distinguished contributions to society, education and the college, as well as outstanding leadership in the field of business, he received an honorary degree, Doctor of Humanities, from Ferrum College. He was well respected for his leadership as well as his integrity and concern for his fellow man. Special recognition is given to the late Ralph B. Davis for his partnership and brotherhood with Bernard. Mr. Simmons always spoke of his success depending on each and every employee at the corporation. Survivors are his loving and loyal wife of 52 years, Loretta Price Simmons; sons, William B. Simmons of Bristol, VA. and Bryan K. Simmons of Radford, VA.; daughters Bernetta Saunders and husband Graham M. Saunders and Alisa Simmons-Snapp and husband Keith D. Snapp both of Atlanta, GA. and Vanessa Endicott of Richlands; grandchildren, Bridget and Brooke Snapp, Adrienne Mullins, Lindsey, Mastin, and Noah Simmons, and Ashley and Ryan Vandyke. One great-grandson, Devin and one great-grand-daughter Savannah. To our special and gracious friends Delphine Dupree, Caroline and Dale Stoots, and Doris Price, you have our deepest gratitude. Funeral services for Mr. Bernard R. Simmons will be conducted Thursday at 2:00 pm. at the Hurst Scott Funeral Chapel in Richlands, with Dr. Charles Massey officiating. Entombment will follow in the Greenhills Memory Gardens at Claypool Hill, VA. Pallbearers will be Michael Simmons, Jeff Simmons, Dennis Lee, John David Jackson, Billy Ray Simmons, John Simmons, Skip Kidd, Timothy Salyers and Henry A. Foster. Honorary Pallbearers are Kyle Matney, John McGinnis, Richard Farthing, Sparkie Watson, Les Ballard, Dr. Jim McVey, Harry Carter, Billy McCall, John Lazar, Jim Lindsey, Ronald Thomas, George Cox, Michael Ray Bales, Dusty Ballard, Gene Hearl, Carol Davis, Diana Queen and Phyllis Watson. Members of Casey-Shortt VFW Post #9640 of Richlands, Virginia and Disabled American Veterans Tazewell County Chapter 31 will conduct military graveside rites. Friends may call at the Hurst-Scott Funeral Home in Richlands from 6:00-9:00 pm Wednesday. In lieu of flowers the family asks for

memorial contributions to Wellmont Hospice House, 280 Steeles Rd., Bristol, VA., 37620, in recognition of their exceptional care and compassion. Those wishing to express sympathy online please e-mail ASIMMONSSNAPP@aol.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Bernard Simmons*

January 14, 2023 at 04:24 PM



“ *Bernard Simmons*

January 14, 2023 at 02:26 PM



“ *Dear Simmons Family:*

Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you. I was not aware of Bernard's passing until recently. Hopefully you will see this tribute at some point. Dad and Mom were always fond of Bernard and I have many happy memories of Bernard and your family during my childhood years. I always thought of him as a great, respectable, and kind man. To Loretta and family, I am truly sorry for your loss and will keep you in my thoughts and prayers always.

*Love
Amy*

Alisa - November 15, 2004 at 12:00 AM



“ *Loretta and family: I will not be able to attend the services due to my health. I want all of you to know how much Bernard meant to me. May God Bless you all. You will be in my heart and in my prayers!*

Nell L. Simmons Ballard - November 15, 2004 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ *To Family Of Bernard Simmons
Just wanted to say I am so sorry for your loss. We are sorry we
wasn't able to come to the Funeral Home. Just wanted you to know
that you all are in our thoughts and prayers.*

God Bless all of you,

Paris and Louise Shelton

Paris & Louise Shelton - November 15, 2004 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ *I never really knew Bernard, but recently introduced myself at the
funeral of another cousin. I have never heard anything but good
things about him, and my love and sympathy goes out to his family.*

Patricia Cordill Hynes - November 15, 2004 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *Bernard will live on in the hearts of family and friends. He will
always be missed. Hopefully, we will all meet again someday where
there is everlasting peace & joy.*

Margaret

Margaret Simmons Sabato - November 15, 2004 at 12:00 AM

DQ

“ I never imagined in March of 1977 when I first met Bernard & Ralph Davis that over a quarter of a century would pass so quickly and I would be saying goodbye to not only an employer, but to a good friend! Bernard cared deeply about his family, the company he founded & loved (S & S Corporation and later Simmons-Rand Company), his many friends and associates. Those of us who knew him well had tremendous love & respect for him. He appreciated honesty and loyalty and surrounded himself throughout his career with people he could trust!! WE HAVE ALL LOST A TRULY "GREAT" PERSON! I personally will sadly miss his presence in my life!!

Diana Queen - November 15, 2004 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ Dear Loretta and Family,

Our thoughts are with you. Bernard was a wonderful person. I remember his kind, loving ways going back to our childhood days growing up together. He will be missed by all who knew him.

*We will be remembering you in our prayers in the days ahead. Please know that we love you and that we are here for you. With deepest sympathy and heartfelt prayers,
Gloris and Bob*

Tom and Melissa Woodford - November 15, 2004 at 12:00 AM

RT

“ I celebrate the life of my dear friend of almost 30 years, you will be missed and thought of daily. To you I dedicate the following:

HYMN OF PROMISE

by Natalie Sleeth

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, and apple tree; in cocoons,
a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!*

*In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a
dawn in every darkness, bring hope to you and me. From the past
will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its
season, something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is
believing; in our life eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at last, a
victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

Ronald Thomas - November 15, 2004 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ *William and family:*

I wish to express my deepest condolences at the loss of your father, husband, and friend. Bernard hired me in 1977 and I worked for him at both S&S and Simmons-Rand. I only came to know him better after he left Simmons-Rand. He was genuine, down to earth and a good man. I do not know of anyone who did not like and respect him. I will always have fond memories of working with him, Ralph Davis and the other colleagues at Claypool Hill and Bristol.

Please know that GOD has a purpose for us all and that all is well.

Let me know if I can be of any service anytime and GOD BLESS you all.

Sincerely,

James R. Allison

Global Environmental, Health and Safety Manager

DBT America

Phone 540 980 4530

Mobile 540 729 0584

Fax 540 994 3889

Jim Allison - November 15, 2004 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *He was a sweet, compassionate and generous person who made a difference in his community and in the world. I will miss him.*

Carol Simmons Smith - November 15, 2004 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ *To my loving uncle with whom I have shared so many special moments and times, you will always be in my heart and I will never look at a sunset without thinking of you.*

Deanis L. Simmons - November 15, 2004 at 12:00 AM