



## Stephen Wallace Simmons

April 15, 1944 - April 11, 2020

Stephen Wallace Simmons, of Denair, passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 11th in Modesto, CA, surrounded by his loving family. He was 75 years old.

Stephen was born in Oakland, CA to Robert Wallace Simmons and Lois Winifred Simmons on April 15, 1944. He lived in San Leandro and attended Cal State Hayward. A member of the Navy Reserves, he worked at a gas station while he completed school and went on to become a respectable and celebrated teacher. Stephen taught at Hilmar High School for 28 years, often moving furniture during his time off in the summers. He then went on to finish his career at Delhi High School.

On November 28, 1970, he married the love of his life, Marianne Seferina Middleton Simmons. Together they raised a family and, in their later years, enjoyed spending time with their grandkids. Stephen also loved to take walks and frequently enjoyed baseball, football and fast cars. A man of faith, Stephen was a member of the Catholic Church. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister and brother. Stephen is survived by his wife, Marianne Simmons of Denair; his children, Christopher Simmons, Laura Simmons, Melanie Simmons and Danielle (Ryan) McShane, all of Denair; and his grandchildren, Devan, Payton, Brianna, Lila, Tatum, Taylor, Madison and Camden.

At this time, private services will be held for Stephen's family.

# Comments

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“ Mr.Simmons was by far the best teacher i ever had. He made middle school rock. Mr. Simmons was down to earth and totally understood us . I still to this day tell my kids storie about my favorite teacher from hilmar. It is sad to here that such a great person like Mr Simmons is no longer here to put smiles on everyones faces. Cause thats how i remember him. No matter what was going on with my home life ,when i entered his class room it all magicaly disapered, and even if just for that little bit of time life was happy and good. Rest in peace. Mr Simmons . You will allways be a ledgon to me.

**Melanie Valdez** - June 19, 2020 at 02:08 AM

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“ Me. Simmons, one of the best. Always welcomed every kid the same, we all meant something in that class. Say hi to Grandma for me. Simmons taught my dad and then me. Couldn't have asked for a better teacher.

**Tonya Pruett** - May 24, 2020 at 02:47 AM

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“ My condolences to the family. Mr. Simmons was my teacher in junior high. In more recent years, I would see him at mass on Sunday evening at Sacred Heart. He had his favorite spot in church and would always greet everyone with a smile and kind words. Rest In Peace Mr. Simmons.



**Tracy Younkin** - April 21, 2020 at 04:12 PM

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“ My heart breaks for your family. I was probably the most broken student you ever taught, and yet you helped me to feel peace. I know you didn't know in life what you meant to me and how much you helped me begin the journey of healing that has been my life; but I believe- now you do. Thank you for being a light in lives of those lost in the dark.

- The woods are lovely, dark and deep  
But I have promises to keep  
And miles to walk before I sleep  
And miles to walk before I sleep - Robert Frost

Deborah (Figley) Jackson

Deborah Jackson - April 17, 2020 at 06:20 PM

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“ Mr. Simmons was one of the few teacher to believe in me and give me a positive view in life. I swear I could always joke with him and he would joke back. You and the rests of the teachers at Shattuck made me feel welcomed. May you Rest In Peace.

Ben Fuentes - April 17, 2020 at 02:23 AM



“ Mr. Simmons was my favorite teacher. I was new to the town and school. He never made me feel like an outsider. Thank you. You are already missed.

Tommy - April 17, 2020 at 03:24 AM

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“ Mr. Simmons was one of the Greatest teachers I ever had the pleasure of being a Teachers aid for in the 70's at Hilmar High. He will be greatly missed. God Bless you all and have faith that you will see him again. Robin Smith Scesa, Class of 1975

Robin Scesa - April 17, 2020 at 01:35 AM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Stephen Wallace Simmons.



April 17, 2020 at 01:33 AM



“ Mrs. Fields Nibblers Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Stephen Wallace Simmons.



April 16, 2020 at 07:06 PM

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“ With Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Stephen Wallace Simmons.



April 16, 2020 at 02:33 PM

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“ Steve Simmons had the unique gift, of connecting with every student, who was fortunate enough to be in his class.

**Adrianna(Lundquist) Rodrigues** - April 16, 2020 at 02:32 PM



“ Rest In Peace Steve Simmons. Our family won't forget the comforting words you spoke to us at the viewing of our loved one, Jim Cantrell, in 2008. You were respected colleagues. I'm so happy to know you too derived great joy from time spent with your grand children. Blessings to you all.

The Jim Cantrell family

**Sandra Cantrell** - April 16, 2020 at 11:46 PM

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“ Ghirardelli Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Stephen Wallace Simmons.



April 16, 2020 at 02:11 PM

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“ Me. Simmons was a great human being he loved his students he new how to talk to them , I was a shy kid a loner he made a difference in my life he didn't give up on me and helped me graduate 8th grade 1974 he also taught my children they loved him he surely has a seat in heaven God bless his family at this time and comfort them RIP.MR SIMMONS Rock on , Antoinette Silva class of 78



**Antoinette Machado (Silva)** - April 16, 2020 at 02:18 AM

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“ He was an amazing teacher...I really liked him...I still have the letter he wrote to my parents with my report card...God bless his family and RIP Mr Simmons

**Connie Irish** - April 16, 2020 at 12:17 AM

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“ With Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Stephen Wallace Simmons.



April 15, 2020 at 11:20 PM

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“ Mr. Simmons was one of my favorite teachers. He was always telling jokes and we all loved that he would wear those bell bottomed jeans and turtle necks and keep that comb in his pocket. He was always so happy and cheerful that you couldn't help but feel the same way when you were around him. He took the time to get to know you and make you feel like any problem no matter how big or small was always something that you should talk about and pray about. I remember many times him praying with me because of something going on in my life. I truly felt special just knowing that he cared and I feel that he made a difference in my life. I wish all teachers made their students feel the way he did. He will be missed and never forgotten. Soar high Mr. Simmons. We will miss your amazing laugh and smile.

Always,  
Amanda C.

Amanda - April 15, 2020 at 09:23 PM

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“ Cheryl's Classic Treats Box was purchased for the family of Stephen Wallace Simmons.



April 15, 2020 at 09:13 PM

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“ If it wasn't for you Mr. Simmons I never would of graduated high school or made it through basic training. I still have all of our letters that you wrote to me. Thank you for everything you did for me and continue to do. You were the one who made me see my own writing talent. I'll always love you and keep you close to my heart

joshua neilson - April 15, 2020 at 08:33 PM

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“ So many wonderful memories with you growing up, you were a one of a kind teacher, with a special and unique way of teaching that we all loved, I enjoyed coming to your class everyday and looked forward to it. May you rest in peace, you will always be remembered and loved.

Donna Dixon - April 15, 2020 at 07:41 PM



“ Mr. Simmons

You were one of my favorite memories and teacher at Hilmar. Always encouraging and made us feel we had a purpose in life .You are now walking with God.

**Rebecca Rush Porterfield** - April 15, 2020 at 07:22 PM

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“ Mr. Simmons you will be missed very much! You brought laughter into the classroom you made me feel accepted always. You put your heart into teaching everyday. Rest in peace I will see you on the other side.

**Terri May** - April 15, 2020 at 06:42 PM

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“ Happy B~Day to you MR Simmons. You were one of a kind. At an age when we were all trying to fit in, you made us feel special just the way we were. You touched so many lives. Hard to believe it's been so many years since I saw you last. R.I.P.

**Michel N Tristant** - April 15, 2020 at 05:07 PM

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“ I feel this loss very much. Mr. Simmons was a wonderful man, not just a great teacher, but also a friend to his students. He would use this friendship to guide and help them. I loved hanging out with him and talking about school, college, and my future. He always made me feel like I could accomplish absolutely anything, and that I was destined for big things. My favorite memory, though, is how he would always say that I reminded him of Jim Morrison from The Doors. He said that he and I had the same spirit. My prayers and deepest condolences to his family. See you later, Simmons.

**Amber Dunnell** - April 15, 2020 at 04:56 PM

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“ What can I say about Mr. Simmons? Like most, he touched my life as a long haired, bell-bottom wearing, Rolling Stones listening, coolest teacher at Hilmar Jr. High. His class was one you always looked forward to. Always had fun in. Always felt respected and loved by your teacher. No matter who you were. Rest in peace Mr. Simmons. You touched a lot of students in a positive way that we all have carried with us into our adult lives.

**Scott Chaffee** - April 15, 2020 at 04:53 PM

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“ Our condolences go out to the family of Stephen Simmons....What a man to know and enjoy him each time we saw him in Denair, his hometown. There is nothing a person can say about him that isn't delightful. We will miss seeing him walking the streets of Denair. This man was one of a kind. May he rest in peace and enjoying seeing his many friends from Kristi Dr. that left before him. I didn't realize how much he liked Mick Jacquer, who happens to be our favorites too. Gone but never forgotten.....

Enjoy the golden road you are walking.

Louisa & Ron Allen

Denair, CA.



**Louisa Allen** - April 15, 2020 at 04:50 PM

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“ I am sorry for your loss. Mr Simmons was definitely one of a kind - a dynamic and innovative teacher. Please know that my prayers go out to you as you grieve his loss. May the sorrow be short lived and the smiles of his memories last.

**Karen Ellington** - April 15, 2020 at 04:31 PM

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“ Mr Simmons boy where should I start, mr Simmons was not just an amazing teacher, mentor and most of all he was a dear friend to all of his students. He went above and beyond on make sure everyone had a hello or good morning as soon as he saw u. From his crazy hair to his bell bottom pants he loved to share all his unique music.. for some reason he was crazy for mick Jagger and should try to do his dance moves on the floor just to give a smile to someone that made need one.. mr Simmons was a one of a kind for sure and I for one will miss him dearly



**Tammy Luke ( Himenes)** - April 15, 2020 at 04:00 PM

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“ Steve was more then a teacher his was a great friend and mentor- he was a great influence in my life and the class of 77

**Calvin** - April 15, 2020 at 03:47 PM

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“ Mr. Simmons was my history teacher back in like 1978 what an amazing man. He made learning fun. He encouraged us. He supported us. He made it known that we were all worth it. From his crazy hair to the bell bottom jeans, I will never forget how he made me feel as a student. I was blessed to have him for a teacher. Heck, we all were. May his light be brighter than ever, keeping watch over all of his students. Soar with angels Mr. Simmons.

**Lisa (Rodrigues) OdomClass of 1983** - April 15, 2020 at 03:11 PM

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“ Simmons was a great teacher and Mentor for me at Hilmar schools. He made great impacts on me and my peers. We have great memories of him. he helped shape me into the person I am today. You will be missed Simmons!

**Debi Dains** - April 15, 2020 at 01:29 PM



“ Mr Simmons first I want to thank you for your love and dedication to your students...my condolences to your family. You touched so many young people in your time with your kindness your compassion. In a world of uncertainty you helped so many of us. My class of 88 was enthralled with you and your wacky ways..you will be missed and loved..forever.. you had all six of my siblings and myself.. Simmons Rest In Peace..

**chris vierra** - April 15, 2020 at 06:09 PM



“ Mr Simmons I will always remember you for what you were and would be real. You made all your students feel like you were their friend. You always had a smile on your face I can still see you walking across the lawn at Hilmar High your long hippy hair and those famous bell bottom pants blowing in the wind. You made such a positive influence on many at Hilmar High and know will be greatly missed by many. Rest in Peace Mr. Simmons and Happy Birthday in heaven. Cindy Freitas (Beni)

**Cindy** - April 15, 2020 at 08:01 PM



“ I was one of the lucky ones that had Mr. Simmons for a teacher. I'll never forget catching the chalk he tossed at me. He thought I wasn't paying attention. From one ADD kid to another we were always paying attention. That bundle of energy had to go somewhere.

**Peter** - April 16, 2020 at 10:04 AM



“ Steve and I walked the streets of Denair for many years. He would always have a big smile and a pleasant story to share about life.I offer ny condolences to the family and a deep sense of gratitude for having him as a part of my life. I deeply miss him and will always remember him as a amazing person.

**Ken** - April 16, 2020 at 10:10 PM



“ I miss the many students I had contact with over the years but I especially miss cherished colleagues I held dear. He smiled on my heart. We worked together on common goals. He is missed. I finally gave away my beloved bell bottoms. Thank you for sharing him with us. God bless you all.

**Marilyn Bennett** - April 29, 2020 at 12:26 AM