



William Edward Simmons, Jr.

August 14, 1966 - July 25, 2016

William E. Simmons Jr.

August 14, 1966 to July 25, 2016

Born in West Philadelphia (Wynnefield) PA , Bill's beloved parents Joan Marie Simmons and William Simmons Sr. deeply mourn his passing.

He is survived by his mother, father and siblings, Craig Simmons, Loren Lee, Debbie Dumas and Anthony Simmons. He loved his family... Aunts- Ruth Cameron, Joan Andersonville and Linda Olivier and Uncles- Brian Olivier, Richard Simmons, Fred and Reece Olivier,

Known to most as Bill or Billy (family only)- or Big Bill and \$Bill he married Lynda Dufresne on July 21, 1990 and just celebrated their 26th wedding anniversary!

Bill was proud to have been the President of the 243rd class at Central HS in PA and a was graduate of Carnegie Mellon University where he received a BS

degree in Business and an MBA from the Tepper Business School at age 22.

Bill met Lynda while attending Carnegie Mellon University in 1985 and were inseparable ever since. Not even death can separate them.

God blessed Bill and Lynda with two children Candace Anaya Simmons and Lucas Isaiah Simmons. Other than our wedding day, the 2007 adoption was the happiest day of our married life.

Bill suffered a devastating stroke in 1997 and valiantly struggled each day to overcome his limitations. He found profound strength in the Bible and was a child of God.

It is said that no parent should have to bury their child. Please keep Joan Simmons and William Simmons Sr. in your prayers that they may in time heal from the loss of her son and our family from the loss of our beloved husband, father, brother, uncle and friend. Brother Bill is sitting at the right hand of our heavenly and eternal father.

Our prayers for his salvation have been answered.

Just a few of Bill's favorite bible verses...

2 Corinthians 5:8 "Absent from the body, is present with the Lord."

Philippians 4:6 KJV "Be careful for nothing but in every thing by prayer supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God and the peace of God that passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Psalms 23:4 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for art with me; thy staff they comfort me."

Rocky (our dog) misses you so much!

With all our love....

Lynda, Candace-Anaya and Lucas-Isaiah

Cemetery Details

Serenity Gardens - Cemetery

3350 Mall Hill Drive
Lakeland, FL 33810
(863) 853-5959
t.hall@gentry-morrison.com
<https://serenitygardensoflakeland.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **29.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - Serenity Gardens Chapel
3350 Mall Hill Drive
Lakeland, FL 33810
(863) 858-4474
t.hall@gentry-morrison.com
<https://www.gentry-morrison.com/>

Funeral Service

JUL **30.** 10:00 AM (ET)

Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - Serenity Gardens Chapel
3350 Mall Hill Drive
Lakeland, FL 33810
(863) 858-4474
t.hall@gentry-morrison.com
<https://www.gentry-morrison.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of William Edward Simmons, Jr.



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - July 28, 2016 at 06:20 PM

AS

This was beautiful I Love you bro from the bottom of my heart RIP

anthony Simmons - July 28, 2016 at 09:21 PM



James Simmons

Very beautiful video.

James Simmons - July 29, 2016 at 09:35 AM

BW

This was beautifully done. A wonderful tribute for a life well-lived, yet ended short. He will truly be missed! R.I.P. Billy!

Brad Woodson - July 29, 2016 at 10:22 AM

CH

This is BEAUTIFUL .. RIP CUZZIN

Christel Bryant Holloway - July 29, 2016 at 10:27 AM

RW

This is a beautiful video. May he rest in Paradise. He will be missed by all.

Renee' Williams - July 29, 2016 at 10:33 AM

CM

Billy I love you! Family I love you! I pray that God will stay in our hearts. Fill each heart with his love and to know that God is always there for us. May God fill our thoughts with good memories and that the joy will fill our hearts. Love cousin Coy.

coy meekins - July 29, 2016 at 10:35 AM

MI

Beautiful home going service for a great man that GOD brought under his eternal wings to live the rest of life for eternity.

mike - July 29, 2016 at 11:15 AM

MS

Beautiful home going service for a great man that GOD brought under his eternal wings to live the rest of life for eternity- The Snead Family...

Michael Snead - July 29, 2016 at 11:25 AM

LF

Beautiful video love you Bill rest in peace . The Felder family.....

lonnie felder - July 29, 2016 at 12:14 PM

AB

*From labor to reward...
A beautiful tribute to a life that was our obviously well lived. In Jesus he lives now as the word of God promises.
Much love to the family.*

Angela BobVaughn - July 29, 2016 at 12:24 PM

SC

S.L. Crowder

An angel has earned his wings ;My Rest in Heaven. My condolences & sympathy to you all during this period of grief , Prayers for comfort going up.

S.I. Crowder - July 29, 2016 at 01:26 PM

BW

*That was really beautiful. R.I.P.
Brenda W*

Brenda Watkins - July 29, 2016 at 02:17 PM

CS

Rest in Peace little brother. Daddy told me, "God must have wanted you more than we did". To me that must mean boundless, boundless love awaits you considering the love you had on this earth. Craig

Craig Simmons - July 29, 2016 at 04:52 PM



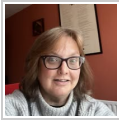
Beautiful tribute cousin , I will always remember you and fun times on Ruby Street. Blessings and love to my Aunt Joan and Uncle Billy, cousins Craig, Loren, Debbie, Tony and his wife Franchella, Blessings and love to Billy's wife, children, nieces, nephews, Aunts, Uncles, cousins and to all that were blessed by his life. I will miss you.

Angela Simmons - July 29, 2016 at 07:03 PM

JR

To God Be The Glory, Billy had a life full of Love and Happiness. To his wife, Children, Son Tony ,Loren,Debbie,Craig,His Mother and Father and Entire Simmons Family,Live on with your Beautiful memories. You Loved Him but God Loved Him Best. Such a Beautiful Tribute to Billy. The Robinson and Medley Family , Sends their Love.

Joyce Robinson - July 31, 2016 at 06:47 AM



I went to grade school with William (Greenfield School). I remember him as a gentle, kind, soft-spoken boy. I'm so sorry to hear of his passing. My thoughts are with you all.

Susan DuMars - August 02, 2016 at 09:54 AM

DD

Praise God!!!! God loves BEST and knows BEST!!!! My little brother will be forever missed by all that has ever come in contact with him here on earth. The angels are singing up in heaven because they now have another ANGEL, LITTLE BILLY! Rest in peace!! This video tribute is BEAUTIFUL like my brother Billy!!!!!! We will always love you and keep you in our hearts.

Debbie Dumas - August 08, 2016 at 10:24 AM

MS

It is exactly seven years ago - August 8 that I commented on this site. My brother-in-law Bill will never be forgotten. I think of him often with fondness. Marlene

Marlene Smith - August 08, 2023 at 01:10 PM

CA

“ Thinking about you....
I forever love you. 🌹



Candace - December 07, 2024 at 11:14 PM



“ William Edward Simmons, Jr.

November 17, 2022 at 10:14 AM

DD

“ God is love!!!! My brother Billy exemplified Love!!!!!! Billy was a very SPECIAL AND DEAR BROTHER to me; I am his other BIG SISTER, Debbie. To have little brothers that you can share love with and take care of is soooooooo special! We shared that bond!!! To God be the GLORY!!!! Billy was a sweet and caring brother. He was a crazy great Uncle to my children, DORIAN JR., DANTE, DANIELLE, DOMONIQUE AND DANA. Billy was a trooper!!!! He had lots of ambition and he LOVED THE LORD!!! I remember asking my husband Dorian(Goo) to pray with me for the salvation of my brother's soul when Billy was in his early twenties. We prayed for him and his wife, my beautiful sis-in-law, Lynda!!! Hallelujah for the prower of prayer!! Amen!!!! Billy adopted his two children and loved his children, Candace and Lucas with ALL OF HIS HEART as he did his wife, Lynda. Again, he was a Man of God and to God be the Glory!!! Rest in peace, little brother Billy, REST IN PEACE!!!! WE LOVE YOU!!!!.....until we see you again, that is GOD's promise!!

Debbie Dumas - August 08, 2016 at 10:09 AM



“ My brother-in-law who was my sister Lynda's best friend, companion, husband... They were always together. The loss will be felt daily as she goes about her days.

Love what you meant and still mean to my sister.

Love you,

Marlene Dufresne-Smith

Marlene Smith - August 08, 2016 at 09:12 AM

RB

“ Dear Tony, Boosie and Simmons family,
We are sorry for your loss. My family and I would like to express our deepest most heartfelt sympathy. I pray that God will keep you all in His perfect peace during your time of bereavement.
Sincerely your cousins,
John & Rochelle Dixon and family

Rochelle Bailey-Dixon - August 03, 2016 at 08:45 PM

JP

“ Sorry for your loss Loren. We miss you at work and will be here when you are ready to come back. Jenn P



Jennifer Pignetti - August 03, 2016 at 09:01 AM

CF

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of Billy. I remember him from Mann School and we would cross paths going to high school, him to Central and me to Girls' High. I last saw Billy when we had our 10 year reunion. Central was having theirs the same time and place as we were. He saw me first and greeted me with the biggest hug! We talked about our years growing up in Wynnefield. Simmons family, you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Caron Forman - August 02, 2016 at 05:16 PM

LL

Thank you!

Loren Lee - November 28, 2016 at 11:21 PM

SP

“ Bill was a great guy. He took a moment to talk to me my freshman year when I was having the worst day of my life (parent were divorcing) and made me laugh so hard that snot busted out of my nose and I stopped crying. He always made a joke about it with me but never told anyone else. Rest in Peace and make them laugh up there in Heaven

Shawn Parker - August 01, 2016 at 07:48 PM

DD

Thank you for that smile, Shawn. That is a child's worst day of their life. I shared that in my life when it happened to us Simmons kids. We kept that loving bond that was shared amongst us siblings. Let God and his love be the foundation for all of his creation. God bless you all!!!!!!

Debbie Dumas - August 08, 2016 at 09:36 AM

CL

“ Thinking of you & your family, Loren. God bless. Sending a great big hug from the South PACU- Love, Carolyn

Carolyn Lynskey - August 01, 2016 at 09:16 AM

CM

“ Billy I love you and Family I love you. I pray that God will stay in our hearts. Fill each heart with his love and know that God is always there for us. May God fill our thoughts with good memories So that we may find peace and comfort. Love your cousin Coy & family

Coy & Tara Meekins - July 30, 2016 at 08:40 PM

WH

“ Sending condolences to the Simmons family. Love you all and keeping the family in prayer. The Houston family.

Wanda Houston - July 29, 2016 at 08:51 PM

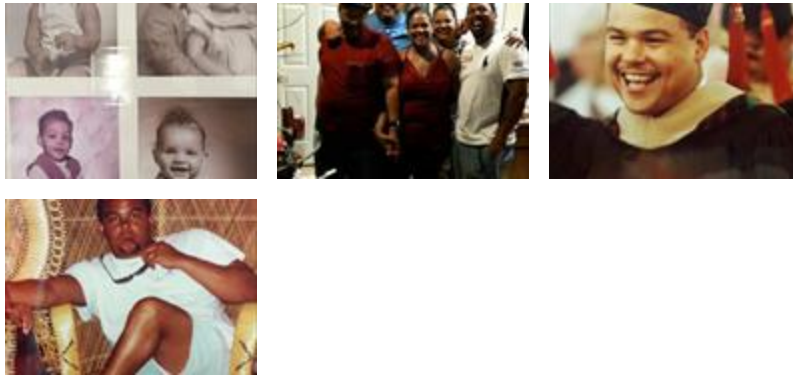
PG

“ May God wrap his arms around the Simmons family, give them the strength to endure. Our deepest sympathy in your sorrow.
The Garris Family

Patricia Garris - July 29, 2016 at 07:35 PM

LS

“ Luv you my handsome brother Billy we will always have such great childhood and adult memories we all shared 😍 You are truly a man of God so we know you are in the best hands! R.I.P little Brother ❤️❤️



Loren Lee Billy's big sister - July 29, 2016 at 06:59 PM

DD

Nice tribute of pics Sis!!!! I love you!!! I love Craig, Billy and Tony!!! Mom and Dad we all love you, we know your hearts are heavy. We love you!! Our brother will be forever cherished and missed. We will hold his Love forever in our hearts and memories!!!! Lynda, Candace, Luke, Anaset, Rocky and all of our loved ones, TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!! BILLY REST IN PEACE BRO!!!! LOVE YOU!!

Debbie Dumas - August 08, 2016 at 09:45 AM

RM

“ To Loren & Family: Please accept my condolences on the passing of your brother...I am deeply sorry for your loss...I pray that God comfort you in the way only He can...I will keep you & your family in prayer & if there's anything I can do, please let me know...Sincerely & God Bless!

Regina McCoy - July 29, 2016 at 04:33 PM

AK

“ Loren,

Joe, Mike and I want to send our condolences and prayers to you and all your family. From all your stories about your wonderful brother makes us feel like we knew him. Your HUP work family miss you and will do everything to support you through this time. -Amy

Amy Kim - July 29, 2016 at 04:22 PM

RC

“ Roxanne Contee purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of William Edward Simmons, Jr..



Roxanne Contee - July 29, 2016 at 02:17 PM

TF

“ THE FITZGERALD LAW FIRM purchased the My Fair Lady for the family of William Edward Simmons, Jr..



THE FITZGERALD LAW FIRM - July 29, 2016 at 10:51 AM

JD

“ John m D. purchased the Lavender Reflections S
pray for the family of William Edward Simmons,
Jr..



John m D. - July 29, 2016 at 10:41 AM



“ 16 files added to the album Life Tributes



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - July 28, 2016 at 06:05 PM

AS

*I will always Love you Bro and never forget the times we shared
together you were a true big brother and I know that RIP and I will see
you again someday keep my bunk bed warm bro smile I know you will
be watching over me bro all day everyday*

anthony Simmons - July 30, 2016 at 08:34 AM

DD

A brother's Love is BEAUTIFUL!!

Debbie Dumas - August 08, 2016 at 10:27 AM

YL

Hey little brother I love you and miss you dearly! I pray all day everyday that I can get pass this pain from missing you! I can hear you now saying " Don't be sad for me for I am in the Best Hands Ever a complete Paradise! 😍 I could tell by the smile on your face you are totally at peace and as sad as I am at peace knowing you will never have any kind of sufferring again! When I think of you I am smiling and crying together, because our memories bring such joy I can't help but to smile! We knew you were with us at the crabfeast we just went to because the rapper Doug E. Fresh played n sang Play that Funky Music White Boy one of your favorite songs. That was so ironic considering Deb spoke of that at your service 😊 It bought the biggest smile to my face n such hapiness and Tony and I wore your favorite color Blue! I could talk forever about our family fun times full of love but I am sure there is a limit. 😞 I am sure GOD knows best and took you so soon for a Good reason. I will always luv you and feel your presence near me. I can also hear that laugh all the time and it gives me happiness and peace and makes me smile. Rest in Peace little Brother Bill. Luv you with all my heart! ❤️❤️❤️💙💙💙💙💙

Your Big Sis Loren? - August 11, 2016 at 07:25 AM