



Mr. Donald L. Simmons

November 29, 1937 - November 2, 2023

Donald “Top” Louis Simmons, a true hero and patriot, peacefully passed away on November 2, 2023, in Greenville, NC, with his family by his side. Born November 29, 1937, in New London, CT, the son of the late Henrietta (Carter) Simmons and Thomas Simmons, he devoted his life to service, honor, and love.

Donald dedicated his early years to the call of duty, setting the foundation for a remarkable career whisking him off to locations such as Alaska and Germany. A Vietnam War veteran, he served not one, but three tours with unwavering commitment. His bravery on the battlefield was matched only by his compassion off of it. A beacon of guidance to his fellow soldiers, Donald took on the role of a mentor with passion and purpose. This path led him to the White House on a special assignment, where he contributed to the workings of the nation during the Johnson Administration. His leadership, both in war and peace, left an indelible impact on those fortunate enough to serve alongside him.

Beyond his remarkable military career, Donald dedicated himself to the well-being of his fellow veterans, serving as the devoted President of the Greenville, NC, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 272. Through his voluntary efforts, he continued to impact lives as a mentor to fellow soldiers, sharing his wisdom and experience with a generosity that left an enduring mark on those he guided.

Yet, it was in his role as a husband that Donald found his truest joy. Adoring

his wife with a love that stood the test of time, their bond was a testament to the strength of partnership. His role as a husband and father brought him immeasurable joy, and his family was his greatest source of pride and joy, cherishing every moment spent with them.

In addition to his immediate family, Donald extended his fatherly love, becoming a bonus dad and papa to those in need of a guiding hand and a loving heart. His kindness and guidance touched the lives of many, leaving an enduring legacy of compassion and support.

In his later years, Donald found immense delight in being smitten with his grand and great grandchildren. Their laughter and presence brought immeasurable joy to his life, creating cherished memories that will live on in the hearts of those who knew him.

He is survived by his wife Eleanor (Barnhill) Simmons of Winterville, NC, and a blended family of 11 children: Larry Nauls, Charles Nauls, Robert (Patricia) Simmons, Donald Simmons Jr. , Paul Anthony (Glenda) Simmons, Cheryl Jean (Prentiss) Johnson, Vincent (Pam) Barnhill, Kenneth (Brandi) Barnhill, Caryn Tate, Vaughn (Stacie) Tate, and Michael (LaDonna) Barnhill, 26 grandchildren, 27 great grand children, 1 great great grand child, many nieces and nephews and a host of relatives and friends.

Donald is preceded in death by his brothers Thomas Simmons, Herbert Simmons, Ralph Simmons, Edward Simmons and sister Emily (Simmons) Coleman.

As we bid farewell to this exceptional man, let us remember Donald for his courage, leadership, and the love that defined his existence. May his legacy inspire us to serve others with dedication and to cherish the bonds of family and community that he held so dear.

Funeral services will be held at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA, date pending.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Washington, DC

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

American Legion
403 St. Andrew Drive
Greenville, NC 27834

Tribute Wall

RF

“ *Rev Milton & Delorse Staton Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald L. Simmons*



Rev Milton & Delorse Staton Family - December 16, 2023 at 11:19 PM

AF

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



AL F FURBUSH - December 06, 2023 at 07:01 PM

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“ *May Mr. Simmons Rest In Eternal Peace and Love*



Evangelist V S Moore & Family (WDC) - November 25, 2023 at 11:48 PM

AH

“ Uncle Donny when you found out I was your great niece you welcomed me with open arms. There was no hesitation. Your words “I don’t care what the DNA says you’re ours” You welcomed me into your home and gave me a tour of North Carolina and “The Hut” where retired Veterans hung out. Thank you for your outstanding service in the Military where you nearly lost your life, fighting for a country that didn’t give you or your comrades a hero’s welcome. I love and miss you dearly. You will always be one of my hero’s, and salute you.

At Ease soldier and rest well.

Love

Angela

angela hoffman - November 22, 2023 at 06:28 PM

EH

“ My Thoughts And Prayers Are With The Family



Evangelist Gwen Hudson - November 15, 2023 at 05:55 PM

CS

“ Congleton Funeral Home and Staff wishes to express our sincere condolences on the passing of your love one. We light this candle in their memory.



Congleton Funeral Home and Staff - November 08, 2023 at 10:24 AM

EH

“ *My Thoughts And Prayers Are With The Family*



Evangelist Gwen Hudson - November 08, 2023 at 04:44 AM