



# Ernest William Simmons

JAN 24, 1931 - JUL 23, 2020



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## **Ernest William Simmons**

JAN 24, 1931 - JUL 23, 2020

**E**rnest William Simmons (Bill) passed away the morning of July 23rd, 2020 at his home surrounded by his loved ones.

Bill's great life loves were his family and his faith. A tender soul, he was beloved by his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, siblings, nieces and nephews as well as any animal that crossed his path. Bill was a Boy Scout and was very proud of the badges he earned. He enjoyed the outdoors - a love he later instilled in his children whom he would take hiking and camping, much to their great joy. Bill was a life-long faithful member of the LDS church and served the church in many capacities throughout his life.

Bill was born in Driggs, Idaho January 24, 1931 to David and Isabella Simmons, the second of eleven children. Born during the depression, Bill learned the value of hard work young, but his passion was in academics and, despite the occasional teasing, was a deep thinker and did well in school. After he was married he diligently sought to learn his wife's native tongue, Danish. Bill enlisted in the Navy at 19 and served honorably for four years. His naval friends and adventures left an indelible impression on his life. After receiving his honorable discharge, Bill enrolled at BYU from which he earned a degree in Economics. After graduation, Bill started working at Utah Employment Security as a statistician/labor market economist, where he had a successful career until retirement 35 years later.

Bill met his lively life-long companion, Hanne, at a church dance, while living in the Avenues in Salt Lake City. Hanne was funny and Bill had a great sense of humor. They both also appreciated music. Bill enjoyed singing and sung in public frequently in his youth. As an adult his love of music ranged from Wagner to Louis Prima with the Highway Men in between. Bill and Hanne were married within a year after they met and later sealed in the LDS Temple. They raised four children in their home in Cottonwood Heights. 60 years after their marriage the two were still laughing and dancing together.



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Bill is survived by his wife, Hanne, children Michael, Rebecca (Tim Walden), Diane and Kathryn (Stephen Newell), eight grandchildren, three great grandchildren and seven siblings. He is preceded in death by his son Mark Christian, his parents and three siblings.

There will be a private viewing held Thursday, July, 30 from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM at Premier Funeral Home, 67 East 8000 South, Midvale, followed by a private graveside service at 10 AM at Veterans Cemetery and Memorial Park, 17111 South Camp Williams Road, Bluffdale. Complete obituary at [premierfuneral.com](http://premierfuneral.com).



## Tribute Wall

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KM

**Kathleen Marshall** posted:

I'm sorry I didn't see this until now. I sent my condolences and love to Hanne at the time Bill died, but haven't told you children how much I loved Bill. He was always kind and a fun person to have a conversation with. It was sad that although Covid-19 wasn't responsible for his death, in a way, it was. So sad that he couldn't have visitors when he needed them the most. And the "Thinking of you" cards I sent him kept coming back even after I called the rehab place to be sure I had the right address and room number. Just want all of you children to know I care.

December 9 at 4:24 PM

BP

**Brett Paulsen** posted:

Sorry to learn of Bill's passing. We were on the Oriskany (CVA34) together. We were in the leadership of the LDS group and had good relationships with the other members of the group. He shared his notes of the time on board with me. He kept good records. He was a great guy.

July 30 at 2:41 PM

KN

**Kathy Newell** August 1 at 12:16 PM

Thank you for sharing that.

JG

**Jennifer George** posted:

Sending our love and condolences to the Simmons and Newell family. We are thinking of you all. What a beautiful life and family.

July 29 at 6:57 PM

KN

**Kathy Newell** August 1 at 12:15 PM





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**Marlys Brown** posted:

There are no words to express feelings at a time like this. I have thought about the Simmons family frequently. Many years ago Dick and I visited their home. Bill thought we might like to live in their neighborhood. You see, Dick and Bill had a long relationship, Bill hired Dick to work at Employment Security. They car-pooled to work for a long time. It is very hard to lose someone who has been a part of your life. But good memories are worth keeping. May the Lord bless you Hanne ,and your family, as you begin a new phase of your life. Love, Marlys & family

July 29 at 4:16 AM



**Becky Walden** August 5 at 6:32 AM

Thank you Marlys. You're kind words mean so much. ❤️



**Diane Simmons** August 3 at 4:51 AM



**Kathy Newell** July 29 at 6:23 AM



**Premier Funeral Services** shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.



July 27 at 8:05 AM



## Media

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July 27 at 8:05 AM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Ernest by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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