



## Joseph Leander Simmonds

February 19, 1931 - March 27, 2020

Joseph Leander Simmonds aka “Mr. Joe and Simmo” was the youngest born on February 19, 1931 on Frederiksted St. Croix, USVI to Alexander Simmonds and Veronica Aaron Simmonds. He was preceded in death by his sisters Althea Simmonds John and Anne Simmonds Schou, and brothers Lawrence and Louis Simmonds. He attended Saint Patrick Catholic School in Frederiksted and upon his graduation from high school, he moved to Puerto Rico to live with his sister Anne and studied Accounting before he enlisted in the United States Army, having served during the Korean War from 09/1951 to 09/1953 Rank: Private First Class.

After his years of service he returned to the US Virgin Islands and moved to the island of St. Thomas to work and met his wife Maria Clause Simmonds and they had six children Roberto, Nyda (deceased), Jose, Melissa, Joseph (Joe) and Laurice. Joe took advance classes in accounting and worked as an Governmental Accountant for Virgin Islands Housing and Community Renewal as the Deputy Director of Business and Management of the entire US Virgin Islands until his retirement in 1982. Upon retirement he stayed busy as a Tax Accountant and worked part-time as a US Customs Officer at the Cyril E. King Airport on St. Thomas to be close to his wife Maria “Baba” who worked at American Airlines.

In addition, his past-time included caring for his grandchildren, foster children,

and traveling. Eventually Joe became a caregiver to his wife Maria in the challenges she faced as a type II diabetic. On September 27, 2017 after two category five hurricanes Irma and Maria struck the Virgin Islands, Joseph evacuated to Fayetteville, Ga along with his wife Maria and daughter Melissa where he resided until his passing with his daughter Laurice. Over the years, he has fought and overcame various ailments. Several things remained as an integral part of him, his catholic faith, his love for his family, a great sense of humor, good island food and his zest for life. He was a father to many.

He is survived by his wife Maria, children Roberto, Jose (Leslieann), Melissa, Joseph and Laurice (Eric). adopted children: Genevieve Allen, Leslie "Q-Ball" Smith, Debra Cuffy, Maritza Stephens, Aleth Toussaint, & Matthew Joseph; nephew: Homer D. Cornelius, cousin: Angela Durant; sister-in-law Janice Clause-Stephens; brother-in-law Rudolph Clause; Grandchildren: Symra Chinnery Wilkinson (Everette), Nyda, Cinque, Leilani, Jasmine and Angela Simmonds. Special Friends: Diana Avery, Toi Barbel, Clifton, Yvette and Vernon Finch and many other relatives include Patricia Blake-Simmonds, Ruth Brannigan, and Dunlop, Milliners, Attles, Seargants, Breedy, Johnsons, Jacksons families, too numerous to mention. Josephs was given many many nicknames: Joe, Mr. Joe, Simmo, Bossman, Casanova, Pops, "Handsome", and "Newsy" because he loved CNN.

A private family service will be held. Condolences may be sent to the family online at [www.mckoon.com](http://www.mckoon.com).

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory | 770-253-4580

# Cemetery Details

## McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory

38 Jackson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263  
(770) 253-4580  
care@mckoon.com  
<http://www.mckoon.com>

# Previous Events

## Service

**APR 4 (ET)**

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel  
38 Jackson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263  
(770) 253-4580  
care@mckoon.com  
<http://www.mckoon.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Webcast in memory of Joseph Leander Simmonds*



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**McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory** - April 04, 2020 at 01:13 PM



*Volume too low*

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**Vettie Finch** - April 04, 2020 at 02:50 PM

AS

*Awesome Homegoing Tribute and Service and I grieve with your family.*

*Ariel Smith and Family*

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**Ariel Smith** - April 04, 2020 at 03:05 PM



*RIP Uncle Joe, from Antonio Simmonds Henley grandson, Kim*

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**Kim Anthony Jones- Kip** - April 04, 2020 at 03:10 PM

DS

*Really enjoyed the ability to be there despite the miles.*

*I share the concerns over the audio level.*

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**Daryl Sargeant** - April 04, 2020 at 04:28 PM

SM

“ This was such a beautiful home-going service and I am so glad that I was able to see it I will truly miss papa he was full of life and liked to tell jokes. Papa enjoyed riding with me to different places and the sweets I would prepare for him and Eric which brought me a delight to do. I know that I will see him again when it is time for me to go home to my heavenly Father. Papa is at rest and enjoying his new life. May his family find comfort in the life he lived.

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**Shirley Ann Maynard** - April 12, 2020 at 07:30 PM

LS

*It's was always a pleasure witnessing the joy you brought him with your homemade cookies and outings*

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**Laurice Simmonds-Wilson** - March 27, 2025 at 10:01 AM

LO

“ I can remember as a teenager in St Thomas the many talks that I had with Mr Simmonds early Sunday mornings as he did the family laundry. He was such a diligent person. He was always so attentive to what I had to say and encouraged me when I complained about the unfairness of life. I will never forget how Mr. Simmonds and his family took me under their wings and showed me love when I felt like no one cared enough to. I will never forget the way he showed his kindness. So much thankfulness in my heart. He has made a big impression on my heart. He taught me how to be kind and encouraging to others. I am so glad that I had the opportunity to have known him! He will be dearly missed!! Rest now, Mr. Simmonds.

*Lornette*

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**Lornette** - April 07, 2020 at 12:14 AM

BS

“ *Simmonds Family, thank you for sharing this final tribute of your Father with us. Barbara and family, Bronx, New York.*

Barbara Salahuddin-Grant - April 04, 2020 at 04:27 PM

DJ

“ *I can still picture you sitting there with your pipe. The many times we'd all pile into the car to pickup aunty from her job at American Airlines. You will be missed.*

Dalma Romeo Guishard Jr - April 04, 2020 at 02:42 PM

TO

“ *Uncle Joe, more of a father to me. The beach picnics, growing up in Savan, then up on the hill. I can still see him with his pipe hanging out the side of his mouth or telling some joke. Sitting reading the paper or just listening to us complain about one thing or the other. May your soul rest in peace.*



*Your niece,*

*Dereese A. Dunlop-Harley (Tonia)*

Tonia - April 04, 2020 at 02:07 PM

PA

“ *REIP Mr. Joe.*

*Condolences to the Simmonds family from the Norford and Edwards families and the entire Upper Hospital Ground - Hillside extended family. Mr. Joe will be missed by us all.*



Paula - April 04, 2020 at 02:07 PM

AS

“ Loved your giving spirit, loved your cooking, loved sitting on your porch during our chats and loved spending time with your creating the memories that will live on.

Your were cherished and you will be missed.

Love Ariel M. Smith and Family

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**Ariel Smith** - April 04, 2020 at 01:40 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Joseph Leander Simmonds.



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April 04, 2020 at 01:37 PM

SW

“ Best Daddy in the WORLD!

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**Symra Chinnery Wilkinson** - April 04, 2020 at 10:59 AM

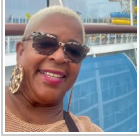
AP

“ Aleth,Anika, Amecia, Erik, Kain & Princess purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Joseph Leander Simmonds.



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**Aleth,Anika, Amecia, Erik, Kain & Princess** - April 04, 2020 at 06:55 AM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Vettie Finch - April 03, 2020 at 01:10 PM

DC

Dear Mr. Joe,  
You are the father that I was blessed to have. I thank God for the upbringing that I received and the major role you will always play in my life.  
I shall carry you in my heart and remember the disciplinarian input that shaped me into the person I am today. I'm thankful to God for receiving you into His heavenly kingdom, as you've truly earned your heavenly wings. I love you for all you've done. Blessings.

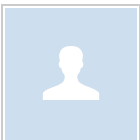
Debora Maria Cuffy - April 04, 2020 at 01:54 PM



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph Leander Simmonds.



April 03, 2020 at 06:24 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph Leander Simmonds.



April 03, 2020 at 12:47 AM

“ We were truly heartbroken and saddened to learn of the passing of a member of our extended family Joseph Leander Simmonds. “ Pops”, as we affectionately called him was a gentle giant, slow to anger, but a force to be reckoned with if you antagonized him. Pops was also a very caring and giving person. He was a man steadfast in his faith, never missing a Sunday mass at the cathedral. As neighbors, we battled many challenges together, from the loss of family members, devastations of hurricanes, fires, etc. We also celebrated many wonderful memorable moments, such as births, graduations, weddings, etc. For several years, prior to relocating to Atlanta, Clifton, alongside his other adopted son, Matthew, became Pop’s caregivers, assisting in taking care of his personal needs, transporting him where he needed to go and helping in any way needed. In August 2019, our family traveled to Atlanta to celebrate our Aunt Althea Adams’ 93rd birthday. We were all truly blessed to have Pops, Granny and Melissa share in this celebration with us. Thank you, Joey and Laurice, for making this possible. Althea in particular was extremely happy to see them. Our neighborhood has never quite been the same without the presence of Pops, calling out to Matthew or Symrah, or even calling his dogs, Cookie and Abbie. To Granny, Tito, Jose, Laurice, Melissa the grandchildren, family and close friends, our thoughts and continued prayers are with you. May each day bring memories of happy years spent together, individually and as a family. Know that when each new day dawns and when you say Goodnight, your guardian Angel watches over you with Heaven’s shining light. May our extended dad, Joseph Leander “Pops” Simmonds rest in eternal peace.

*The Finch’s: Larry, Vernon, Clifton, Lindsay and Yvette;  
Althea Adams  
and Matthew Joseph.*



**Yvette M Finch** - April 02, 2020 at 11:37 PM

KP

“ *I remember how Mr. Joe loved to eat! He had a great sense of humor, too! He was a blessing to many and he will be missed.* 🙏

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**Kia Poulson** - April 02, 2020 at 11:35 PM

RB

“ JUST A THOUGHT OF 🙏  
DAD JOSEPH LEANDER SIMMONDS

*Just a thought of sweet remembrance  
Just a memory of a kind hearted gentle soul so true  
Just the love of sweet devotion  
Of those of us who think of you  
May the winds of love blow softly  
And whisper so you will hear  
We will always love and miss you  
And wish that you were here  
The swift departure blow was great  
The instant shock severe  
We little thought  
Your death so near  
Only those of us who have lost can tell  
The sorrow of parting without farewell  
But you were patient in your suffering  
And when no hand could give you ease  
God the helper of the helpless  
Saw your pain and gave you peace  
God saw the road was getting rough  
And the hill was hard to climb  
So Joseph closed his weary eyelids  
And whispered peace be thine  
Someday we hope to meet you  
Someday we know not when  
But we shall meet in a better land  
and never part again  
Rest In Eternal Peace Dad Simmonds*

*Forever Your Family: Rev. Toi A. Barbel,  
The Entire Barbel Family,  
The International Gospel Center of St. Thomas &  
World Wide Community of Faith*

*“Ministering Love In A Hurting World”*



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**Rev. Toi A. Barbel** - April 02, 2020 at 09:20 PM

SA

“ *Condolences to my co-worker/friend, Symra Chinnery-Wilkinson & classmate Lauris Simmons on the lost of your grandfather and father respectively. May you find comfort in your faith and joy in your fond memories. You are in our prayers.*

*Best regards, Stephanie Anderson-Roberts & Family*

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**Stephanie Anderson-Roberts** - April 02, 2020 at 12:52 PM