



# Norman "Bruce" Simmons

OCT 8, 1949 - DEC 9, 2020



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## **Norman "Bruce" Simmons**

OCT 8, 1949 - DEC 9, 2020

**N**orman "Bruce" Simmons, 71, of Mystic, passed away on December 9, 2020 at Mercy One in Des Moines, Iowa with his family at his side.

Bruce was born to Chester and Lela Prue (Fullheart) Simmons on October 8, 1949 in Albia, Iowa. He graduated from Centerville High School in 1967. Bruce worked side by side with his dad building homes in Centerville for many years.

Bruce married the love of his life, Deborah Kay Salasberry, on November 17, 1972 in Mystic, Iowa. This union was blessed with three daughters: Jennifer, Carrie, and Sharon.

Bruce went on to earn his Bachelor's Degree in education from Union College, graduating in 1979. Bruce taught elementary school for 18 years where he was a delight to his young students.

Bruce, with his family, moved back to Iowa in 1997 where he worked construction and served as a substitute teacher for local schools until he retired in 2012.

In his spare time, Bruce loved kayaking, canoeing, and camping, and his love for nature and the outdoors was contagious. He enjoyed watching and participating in sports, his favorite sport being basketball.

In addition to his love for outdoor activities, he also cherished spending time with his pets. Bruce was a kind and compassionate friend, husband and father. He was a member of the Centerville Seventh-day Adventist Church where he served as an elder and teacher.

Left to cherish Bruce's memory are his wife Deborah Simmons, daughters Jennifer, Carrie and Sharon Simmons, sister Judy (Simmons) Morris, Fredonia, Kansas, his mother Prue Simmons, Centerville and beloved aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. Bruce is preceded in death by his father Chester Simmons and sister Linda Simmons.



## Obituary

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In respect for Bruce's request he will be cremated and there will be no services.

To honor Bruce's love for kids, nature and God, a memorial has been established for Pathfinders, a Christian organization for youth to enjoy adventure while developing lifelong skills and character. Condolences may be shared at [www.facebook.com/thomasfuneralhome](http://www.facebook.com/thomasfuneralhome) or at [thomasfh.com](http://thomasfh.com). To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Norman "Bruce" Simmons please visit our Sympathy Store.



## Tribute Wall

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**Thomas Funeral Home** posted:

October 21 at 1:27 PM



**Thomas Funeral Home** shared an album called **Obituary Wall**.



December 10 at 7:00 PM



**Dorothysimmons** posted:

I will always remember him with a smile and took the time to visit with me ... he always asked about the family showing how much he cared about people, I can still hear him asking hows Freddie my oldest brother as it always made me smile for him asking and calling him that... he was such a kindhearted cousin and He will be missed by many ... sending love and hugs to Aunt Prue, Debbie and the girls

December 29 at 7:00 PM



**David Simmons** posted:

Sure am going to miss my cousin and friend. He was an incredible husband, father, cousin and just a great guy. Always smiling, even when he didn't feel good. Really enjoyed our talks, fishing at the pond, hiking, volleyball, and his love of the Lord. Peace my brother, my cousin, my friend. See you in heaven!

December 29 at 7:00 PM



**Kate Simmons** posted:

I'm so sorry and sad to hear about Bruce's passing. He was always a kind, easy, fun presence at church, at work, at family gatherings. His compassion was constant, and I don't think there was ever a person he couldn't be friends with. He is already greatly missed.

December 12 at 7:00 PM



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RJ

**Ruth Jochims** posted:

I really liked Bruce. When I moved here, he made me feel welcome. He was a great man!

December 12 at 7:00 PM

GS

**Gwen Simmons** posted:

In all the years I knew Bruce, I can honestly say I can't remember seeing him without a smile. He enjoyed people, and it was very important to him to be honest and genuine about his life experiences and beliefs. A special memory I have is playing church volleyball Saturday nights. He loved fellowship and sports, and our little grass court was where those two things came together perfectly. I'm looking forward to having an eternity of fellowship together.

December 11 at 7:00 PM

MS

**Mark Simmons** posted:

Bruce was my older cousin by 8 years. Growing up he never treated me like the younger tag-along kid that I would have been. He was cool and when there would be any family gatherings or church socials it was always more fun if Bruce was going to be there. We shared a love for motorcycling and pro football and many enjoyable conversations about each. Bruce was tender hearted and truly had a burden for others especially youth. He is greatly missed but I have every confidence we will see him again soon. Rest in peace my cousin and my friend. Mark Simmons

December 11 at 7:00 PM

JS

**Jon Simmons** posted:

Bruce was a great guy. Over the years I've had the pleasure of having some great conversations with him. From fun topics like sports to deep conversations about religion, Bruce was always someone who was so easy to talk to and was never judgmental. He was a great Christian man which is why I find some slight comfort in looking forward to seeing him again when this life is over. Some of my fondest memories of Bruce were at church get togethers. He was always so fun loving and I will miss that. I can't wait until the day we can stop having to say good bye to the ones we love. We miss you, Bruce. Can't wait to see you again.

December 11 at 7:00 PM



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SS

**Sarah Simmons** posted:

Bruce was one of the most generous and kind people I've ever known. He always had a smile on his face and greeted everyone with love. He would go out of his way to make others feel welcomed and included. Bruce lived his life with Jesus by his side and was always studying the Bible to further his knowledge and relationship with the Lord and then share that with others. We miss Bruce so much but can take heart in knowing he will be resurrected when the trumpet sounds. Prayers for Debbie, Jennifer, Carrie, Sharon, and Prue.

December 11 at 7:00 PM

MS

**Mark Simmons** posted:

Bruce was my older cousin by 8 years. Growing up he never treated me like the younger tag-along kid that I would have been. He was cool and when there would be any family gatherings or church socials it was always more fun if Bruce was going to be there. We shared a love for motorcycling and pro football and many enjoyable conversations about each. Bruce was tender hearted and truly had a burden for others especially youth. He is greatly missed but I have every confidence we will see him again soon. Rest in peace my cousin and my friend. Mark Simmons

December 11 at 7:00 PM

LS

**Linda S Seddon** posted:

Debbie and girls - so sorry to hear about Bruce. I didn't know his real name was Norman, only knew him as Bruce for all these years. Debbie I know how your heart hurts right now. It's hard to lose your friend and partner after all those years. Trust me the days are rough but you will learn to carry on with your life. Always remember the good times you had and never forget all bad times too. Little things will remind you of him, hearing a song will bring back memories. If you need to talk call me sometime. Thinking of all of you. Take care Linda Seddon

December 11 at 7:00 PM



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AT

**Ana Taylor** posted:

We were saddened to hear the passing of Bruce. Even now as I type this I can see the smile that was always present on his face. Bruce was truly a man who loved his wife and cherished the time spent with his daughters. I fondly remember church socials where Bruce would always be the one ready to play a game of volleyball or just sit and talk with us kids. Or heading Bruce sing during song service. We are praying that the Simmons family feel Gods grace and presence through this difficult time. May you find reassurance in knowing that we will see Bruce again. When the trumpet sounds so we can all be together in paradise. Blessings and healing to you all, Venito and Ana (Christensen) Taylor and family

December 11 at 7:00 PM

JC

**Jeannie Cruse** posted:

So sorry for your loss. Bruce was a kind and gentle sole. Missed him at the YMCA.

December 11 at 7:00 PM

ED

**Edward** posted:

Bruce. What a guy! Always had a big smile on his face and had joke ready to tell. Dedicated husband, father, son and friend. One of the fondest memories with him was playing Saturday night volleyball or basketball with him. As everyone knows Bruce was a social butterfly so he was usually the one behind the helm orchestrating these socials. To the Simmons family. I know you all are going through this storm but know this, that God is on His way!! Edward & Erica Christensen

December 10 at 7:00 PM

DL

**Dennis & Beverly Sisul Laurson** posted:

So sorry for your loss. He was a gentle guy, a classmate. May your loving memories give you peace.

December 10 at 7:00 PM

FC

**Frank Christensen** posted:

I knew him and he helped me do construction. He was always cheerful and good worker. I knew him in church, he was a dedicated Christian and a good man. He will be missed. Frank and Mary Christensen, Sartell MN

December 10 at 7:00 PM



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**Bob Rosencrants** posted:

So sorry for your loss Simmons family. Bruce was an awesome friend and one of the most loyal, honorable human beings I have encountered. There are many great memories of Bruce from childhood adventures at the Mystic farm or my dad's scrap yard to road trips later on where we solved the problems of the world. Bruce was always there for anyone who needed help, may he rest in peace. Bob Rosencrants

December 10 at 7:00 PM



# Media

## Norman "Bruce" Simmons

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Thomas Funeral Home shared 16 photos to the **Obituary Wall** album.

October 13 at 2:02 PM

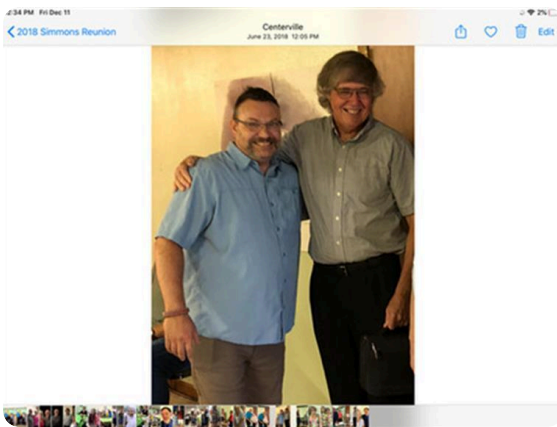
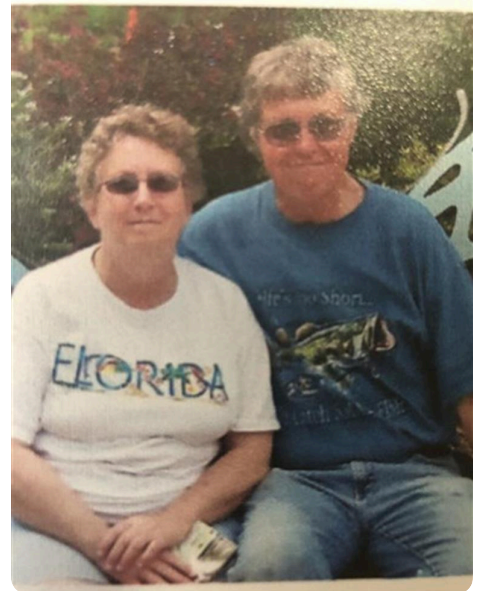




# Media

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

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



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