



Royal Phillip Simmons

APR 10, 1923 - JUN 13, 2021



Scan to Visit

Table of Contents

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Obituary | Page 3 |
| Tribute Wall | Page 6 |
| Media | Page 10 |



Royal Phillip Simmons

APR 10, 1923 - JUN 13, 2021

Royal Phillip Simmons, age 98, of Centerville, Iowa passed away Sunday, June 13, 2021 at MercyOne Medical Center in Centerville.

Royal was born on April 10, 1923, the son of George Jefferson Simmons and Carrie (Benson) Simmons. On April 27, 1943, he enlisted in the United States Army. Royal served 11 months and 12 days in the Southwest Pacific Theater. He was wounded on March 19, 1944. On December 23, 1944, Royal was honorably discharged from the United States Army at the Winter General Hospital in Topeka, Kansas. He received several awards for his service, including the Bronze Star.

Following his fathers passing, Royal continued the family construction business in the 1940s after serving overseas in World War II. Royal and his crew built many homes and buildings all over southern Iowa, including the band shell on the Centerville square, ISU buildings in Corydon and Chariton, the original gas station across from Raymonds Dairy Crme, several water treatment plants and public use buildings at Rathbun Lake, and many more.

Royal was a member of the Historical Preservation Society and volunteered as a supervisor and carpenter for the restorations of the Ritz Theater, the State Street Station and trolley barn as well as the Second Baptist Church on 18th Street in Centerville. Royal was also a member of the VFW, and the American Legion.

Royal was a faithful lifelong member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and remained passionate even to the end of his life about sharing the message of Jesus return. He served as a deacon in the church and as a light in the community.

Left to honor Royals memory are his children, Stephen Simmons of Centerville, and Mark (Gwen) Simmons of Centerville, and his grandchildren, Katie (Nathaniel) Simmons/Salzman, and Jonathan (Sarah) Simmons.

Royal was preceded in death by his parents, George and Carrie Simmons; his wife, Patricia Simmons; and his 13 siblings; Lena Simmons, Ruth Vandenbrink, Agnes



Obituary

Royal Phillip Simmons

APR 10, 1923 - JUN 13, 2021

Simmons, Esther Ray, Edyth Johnson, George Simmons, Chester Simmons, Madge Peterson, Ray Simmons, Paul Simmons, Alfred Simmons, Alfreda Simmons, and Virginia Simmons.

A Memorial service will be held at 12PM, Thursday, June 17, 2021 at the Centerville Seventh-day Adventist Church, 20124 205th Ave., Centerville, IA 52544 with Pastor Jeremy Clark officiating. Military Rites will be conducted at the church following the Memorial service. Inurnment will follow at Haines Cemetery, north of Centerville. Visitation will take place Thursday, June 17, 2021 at the Centerville Seventh-day Adventist church, with the family greeting friends from 10 AM-12PM. Memorials have been established to the Seventh-day Adventist Church (Adventist Disaster and Relief Agency) and may be mailed to Lange Funeral Home and Crematory, C/O Simmons family, 1900 South 18th Street, Centerville, Iowa 52544. Condolences may be shared online at www.langefh.com.

Visitation

2021-06-17 10:00:00

12:00:00

Seventh Day Adventist Church

20124 205th Ave

Centerville

IA

52544

Memorial Service

2021-06-17 12:00:00

Seventh Day Adventist Church

20124 205th Ave

Centerville

IA

52544

American Legion Service

2021-06-17 12:45:00

Seventh Day Adventist Church



Obituary

Royal Phillip Simmons

APR 10, 1923 - JUN 13, 2021

20124 205th Ave
Centerville
IA
52544

Committal
2021-06-17 16:00:00
Haines Cemetery
Highway 5 North
Centerville
IA
52544



Tribute Wall

Royal Phillip Simmons

APR 10, 1923 - JUN 13, 2021



Thomas Funeral Home posted:

October 21 at 2:41 PM



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



October 13 at 3:10 PM



Lollie Neslund-Chaffee-Mccall posted:

I remember Royal and his wife Patricia, as well as Stephen and Mark. In 1967 my then husband Tom Neslund was the pastor of the then Seventh-day Adventist Church in Centerville. I have great memories of him and his family. His wife Pat used to babysit for me when we went Ingathering. I have Mark organ lessons. So many memories if Royal and his family. I just learned of his passing. I am saddened to hear this but he was a great Christian man. Condolences to Stephen snd Mark and their families. RIP Royal Simmons until the Lifegiver comes and calls your name.

August 29 at 7:00 PM



Harold Davis & Family posted:

He will truly be missed. I learned so much throw the years from him . When needed to do a job I would go there and wait until he could help me so as I was getting my items I was also learning something from him or a good story . He was Truly a loving man to this community. We lost one of the BEST.

July 2 at 7:00 PM



Margery Davison posted:

Royal was a good man and he is going to be greatly missed. Our condolences to his family. Fromthe Ewing family Matthew, Margery and Marilyn.

June 17 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Royal Phillip Simmons

APR 10, 1923 - JUN 13, 2021

FC

Frank Christensen posted:

I knew Royal and we worked together to get the SDA church built and promoted the faith. I know that he loved God and was a good christian. Prayers for his family.

June 16 at 7:00 PM

DL

David Lind posted:

Royal was a kind and gracious soul who welcomed our family to Centerville 49 years ago. His infectious smile and good-nature demeanor will always remain with me. My thoughts are with Mark, Steve and the entire family.

June 14 at 7:00 PM

ST

Sara Tait posted:

Prayers to the family.

June 14 at 7:00 PM

JC

Jamie Campbell posted:

My Uncle Royal was a wonderful person. He and my husband became great friends and would spend hours on the phone and our vacations were spent in Centerville. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

June 14 at 7:00 PM

JP

Jerry Power posted:

Mark and Steve, our condolences in the loss of your great Dad! If you look in the mirror, you can say you were raised by great parents. Royal was one of the greatest human beings I've ever known, may he rest in peace!!

June 14 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Royal Phillip Simmons

APR 10, 1923 - JUN 13, 2021

BL

Beverly Sisul & Dennis Laurson posted:

I was privileged to know Royal thru my work and such a nice gentle man. You couldn't have asked for anyone anymore giving and generous of their time and abilities than Royal. Appanoose County will surely miss this sweet man. May your loving memories bring you peace.

June 13 at 7:00 PM

DS

Dianne Strickler posted:

He was always so nice. A long well lived life. Sympathies to all.

June 13 at 7:00 PM

JD

Janet Demry posted:

Royal has always been a good friend. He loved this community.

June 13 at 7:00 PM

KK

Kris Koestner posted:

Royal personified the best of the Greatest Generation I'm happy that I got to have one more visit with a long time friend last week. Royal was a medic and served his country in some of the hell holes in the Pacific during WWII. He told his Captain he would not carry his weapon but would serve his Country and he did. One of Royal's favorite nights each week was singing Barbershop...one time there were 35 of us...now 30 of them are singing with the Angels and I'm sure Royal will try getting the group together again. I'm happy I was one of many who nominated Royal for the Centerville's Citizen of the Year He loved his Community and Country and did more than his fair share in making it better for everyone. Royal was one of our best. Kris Koestner

June 13 at 7:00 PM

DA

Debbie Atkinson101 posted:

Our condolences to the entire Simmons family ♥Royal was an amazing Brother in Jesus Christ and will truly be missed by our family and those who knew him. His honesty was evident in his life.

June 13 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Royal Phillip Simmons

APR 10, 1923 - JUN 13, 2021

CI

Cinda posted:

My Uncle Royal will be greatly missed.He and my mother were two of the 14 children born to my grandparents.I'm thankful for his long life and for my wonderful memories and the blessing he was to do many people.I'll see you again ... when Jesus takes us home to Heaven!

June 13 at 7:00 PM

NT

Nellie Thomas lit a candle in honor of Royal.

Lit a candle in memory of Royal Phillip Simmons

June 13 at 7:00 PM





Media

Royal Phillip Simmons

APR 10, 1923 - JUN 13, 2021



Thomas Funeral Home shared a photo to the **Obituary Wall** album.

October 13 at 3:10 PM





Memories only last if you share them

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



Scan to Visit