



J. Rex Simmons

December 19, 1919 - November 22, 2018

J. Rex Simmons passed away on Nov. 22, 2018 at Bloomfield Care Center. He was born Dec. 19, 1919 to Marion Edward and Ohio Belle Wheeler Simmons. He married Lorraine Shook on July 3, 1940 in Centerville, Iowa. They were married for 78 years, and all who knew them agreed that they exemplified what marriage should be.

Rex loved his family, his work, his friends, and his country. When they were first married, he and Lorraine ran the switchboard in Drakesville, Iowa, and Rex also drove a truck with his father and brothers. They moved briefly to Ft. Madison, Iowa where Rex worked at the munitions plant until answering the call to service in World War II. He joined the US Navy and served in the Pacific at Guadalcanal. He loved to tell about his experiences and the people with whom he served. He kept a fierce love for his country his entire life.

Rex was also a successful businessman. He purchased Drakesville Lumber Co. and then moved to Bloomfield where he established Bloomfield Lumber Co. with his partner, Curt Ross. He later became partners with Gene Stober, and they operated the business together until Rex retired in 1987. He also served on the board of the Northwestern Lumbermen's Association for several years.

After retirement, Rex and Lorraine spent winters in Lake Placid, Florida, eventually surrounded by a number of family and friends who moved down to be near them. Rex was an avid hunter, golfer and fisherman, showing that he could play as hard as he worked. His continued to enjoy golf with his buddies well into his 80's. He loved to play cards, tell stories, and help with all sorts of projects.

More than anything, Rex was devoted to his family. Besides being a wonderful husband to Lorraine, he was also a loving father to his four children. He taught his children to work hard, have fun, and love their families and friends.

Rex was a member of the Bloomfield United Methodist Church and the Reed Whistler Post of the American Legion.

Rex is survived by his wife Lorraine of Bloomfield, a son, Rodger (Carol) Simmons of Bloomfield, a daughter Lana (Larry) Boone of Lake City, Florida, a daughter, Rhonda (Clayton) Eakins of Bloomfield, and a daughter-in-law, Marsha (Terry) Willhoit of Batavia, Iowa, He leaves behind 7 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and 4 great- great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Ralph; a brother, Max; a son, Brian; a granddaughter, Jessica Eakins; and a great-grandson, Reece Boone.

Funeral services will be at the Bloomfield United Methodist Church on Monday, November 26 at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Tim Frasher officiating. Visitation will be prior to the service beginning at 9:00 a.m. with the family present from 9:30 until the time of the service.

Pallbearers are Eric Boone, Ryan Boone, Jared Eakins, Josh Simmons, Jim Nelson, Larry Boone, and Clayton Eakins. Burial will be in the Drakesville Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Bloomfield United Methodist Church.

Cemetery Details

Drakesville Cemetery

Drakesville, IA 52552

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 26. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Bloomfield United Methodist Church
401 E. North St.
Bloomfield, IA 52537

Funeral Services

NOV 26. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Bloomfield United Methodist Church
401 E. North St.
Bloomfield, IA 52537

Tribute Wall



“ *J. Rex Simmons*

January 28, 2023 at 10:57 AM

DK

“ *Our prayers and condolences go out to the entire Simmons family. A wonderful person, a great Bloomfield businessman and a shining patron and member of our church. Rex used to share hunting stories with me when I was a child stopping in at the lumber yard.*

- Derek Knowler

Derek Knowler - November 25, 2018 at 08:09 PM

DK

“ *Derek & Laurie Knowler lit a candle in memory of J. Rex Simmons*



Derek & Laurie Knowler - November 25, 2018 at 07:11 PM



“ *Red, White & Blue Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of J. Rex Simmons.*



November 25, 2018 at 11:16 AM

CL

“ *Our heartfelt condolences go out to the Simmons family at this time of Rex's passing. The entire Simmons family - led by the love and kindness of Rex & Lorraine - is an iconic example of great and caring people that have blessed us all with their friendship over the years. Rex has left a legacy of love and friendship that will endure. His and Lorraine's nurturing guidance to many people will always be remembered by those of us who's lives they touched - and we're all the better for it.*

Chuck Locke.

Chuck Locke - November 25, 2018 at 09:42 AM

TI

“ *My most sincere and heartfelt sympathy to the entire Simmons Family.*

Tim Leonard-Class of 77-Des Moines IA - November 24, 2018 at 02:02 PM

TS

We are very sorry to hear about your loss.. Sending a heartfelt sympathy to the entire Simmons Family. 🥺🥺💕💕

Toni Scheer - November 25, 2018 at 07:51 AM



“ *Love's Embrace Roses – Red was purchased for the family of J. Rex Simmons.*



November 24, 2018 at 12:32 PM

TC

“ *Teddy & Mary Cary lit a candle in memory of J. Rex Simmons*



Teddy & Mary Cary - November 24, 2018 at 11:53 AM

DW

We had the good fortune of golfing with Rex and Loraine in Florida years ago. Wonderful man and wife.

dale and sue webb - November 24, 2018 at 11:19 AM

BW

“ *Betti Webb Wilhout sent a virtual gift in memory of J. Rex Simmons*



Betti Webb Wilhout - November 24, 2018 at 11:26 AM

BW

“ Uncle Rex was unchanging. In kindness, friendliness, and looks; he never changed. Do to ever changing life, it had been almost 30 years in between my seeing him but I was kept informed by my mother. One time while visit her, I looked out the window and told her Uncke Rex was there. His looks had not changed in all that time and I would recognize him anywhere! Rest well Uncle Rex! I will recognize you when we meet again! Love, Betti Webb Wilhoit, loving niece

Betti Webb Wilhout - November 24, 2018 at 11:25 AM

LR

“ To. The. Simmons. Family my. Smypaty. Goes. To. All. Of. Family. I. Remember Rex And. Lorraine being a. Neighbor he. Was a very. Nice guy. He. Would make. Any. Body. Laugh lynn roberts

lynn. roberts. - November 24, 2018 at 08:18 AM

LR

“ Lynn. Roberts. lit a candle in memory of J. Rex Simmons



lynn. roberts. - November 24, 2018 at 07:18 AM

SB

“ We are so sorry for your loss. We have many great memories of Rex being a great boss, friend and neighbor. Ron & Sandy Barker

Sandy Barker - November 23, 2018 at 07:55 PM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of J. Rex Simmons.



November 23, 2018 at 06:58 PM



“ *Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of J. Rex Simmons.*



November 23, 2018 at 04:29 PM