



## James Alexander Simmons

August 25, 1949 - September 4, 2017

James A. Simmons, a life-long resident of Durant, OK died alone at his home after a long illness on Monday, September 4, 2017. He was 68 years of age.

James was born on August 25, 1949 in Durant, OK to James Harris Simmons and Francile Bilton Simmons. He is survived by his three children; son Jas Trent and wife Angela of Oklahoma City; son John Simmons of Hartshorne, OK and daughter Mattie Conner and husband Michael of Durant, OK. He is also survived by his six grandchildren; Mason and Carter Trent of OKC; Kaison Simmons of McAlester, OK; Noah, Evelyn, and Alexandria Conner of Durant, OK. He is also survived by his brother, Dennis Simmons, Dallas, TX. James was preceded in death by his parents and by brother and sister infant twins, Stanley Dewayne and Sharon Elaine Simmons.

James attended Durant High School and graduated in 1968. He attended SOSU and graduated with honors in 1982 with his Masters Degree in Psychology. He worked as a counselor for the State of Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and retired in 2013. In his youth James loved music and was a member of the well-known rock group 13th Hour, legendary in the Texoma area for their solid groove that so many enjoyed on the club circuit in the 1970's and early 1980's. He played drums and performed solid vocals. It was his real passion and he was a popular, talented performer.

Despite his many gifts and attributes, James struggled throughout his life. His greatest challenge was to love and to be loved in return. In the end, his pain was too great to bear. But through the dark times there were hopeful glimpses of the good and loving person he was at his core; a beloved son, brother, father, grandfather... a public servant who did what he could to help others who were hurting and in need. His life mattered...he was loved and appreciated so much more than he knew. He will be deeply missed.

James was a long-time and devoted member of St John's Episcopal Church in Durant, OK.

A Memorial Service will be held Saturday September 9, 2017 at 2:00 PM, at St. John's Episcopal Church, Durant, Oklahoma.

# Cemetery Details

## Highland Cemetery

1620 Cemetery Rd  
Durant, OK

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

SEP 9. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. John's Episcopal Church  
515 Beech Street  
Durant, OK

# Tribute Wall



“ *James Alexander Simmons*

January 08, 2023 at 11:32 PM



“ *I knew James since 1986. We spent many hours helping me study for my EMT course. His dad would come out of his room or the living room and tell us to quite down. We had so many last laughs at me trying to practice those skills. James and a few others welcomed me to their ambulance crew so I could get real life opportunity to improve my skills. I sure have missed him. We seemed to drift away after I had my first child because I could not continue with a screaming baby.*

**Charlotte Stephens** - October 25, 2017 at 12:16 AM



“ *James and I became friends in 1968, during the flower child era, rejecting conventional society and advocating love, peace, and simple, idealistic values, and remained close until the end of his worldly life. Although he had a strong temper, James displayed great kindness to those less fortunate and was a great advocate for those who were unable to speak for themselves, and they loved him for his efforts. I'm going to miss our long conversations, our Coke dates and long drives and even the trips to the doctor, as his health declined. James, my old friend, you will always live on in my heart and I will miss you until we meet again.*

**Elizabeth Horton-McBride** - September 08, 2017 at 04:03 PM



*Precious thoughts and comments.*

**Kathi Bigbie Trent** - September 08, 2017 at 07:50 PM

DS

*A beautiful and honest tribute to my brother, James.*

**Dennis Simmons** - September 10, 2017 at 10:10 AM

KT

“*James, you will be missed. Although our time was brief, our son is a wonderful man and for that we will be forever thankful. Rest in Peace, James A.*

*For Dennis: I am so sorry. You are a good good brother.*

*We never lose the people we love,  
they live the rest of our lives  
in our heart.*

*Although no words can really  
help to ease your loss,  
please know that you are in my  
thoughts and prayers.*

**Kathi Bigbie Trent** - September 07, 2017 at 05:22 PM

DS

*Thank you, Kathi. You'll always be like a sister to me. And Jas is a treasure.*

**Dennis Simmons** - September 07, 2017 at 08:29 PM

KA

*I am there is spirit. I have some very precious memories. Life is so fleeting.*

**Kathi** - September 08, 2017 at 03:42 AM

PR

“ *My sincere condolences Dennis, lifting you in prayers of comfort and solace. Pam*

**Pam Rass** - September 06, 2017 at 10:18 AM



“ *I have a lot of memories from high school. I love him like a brother. I was always Jr's little sister. He was always so sweet to me. I will never forget you James. Rest in peace.*

**Mary Beth Underwood** - September 06, 2017 at 07:32 AM

CW

“ *James and I were part of a 'childhood gang' .. most of them our siblings ;-)) .. I've pleasant memories of seeking shade in the hot months of summer .. we swung on and smoked grapevines .. we walked creek banks and shared our pets. It was a carefree life. Blessings of Peace and Love~ Cheryl Briscoe Wilson*

**Cheryl Briscoe Wilson** - September 06, 2017 at 12:15 AM

DS

*That's some sweet and beautiful imagery you've written in memory of James... Sounds like heaven. Thank you, Cheryl.*

**Dennis Simmons** - September 06, 2017 at 08:49 AM

KE

*Loved James like a brother. Enjoyed our talks and time spent together having our special talks. Going to miss those phone calls.*

**ken ervin** - September 06, 2017 at 08:55 AM

RW

*Cheryl, beautiful words about James. He was a kind and caring person who will be missed but remembered. Dennis so sorry for your loss*

**Rick Wyatt** - September 06, 2017 at 08:50 PM

RS

“ *James, I have many memories of u. Love ya.*

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**Rose Schuh Stock** - September 05, 2017 at 11:07 PM