



Joseph "Joe" Hilton Sims

November 10, 1942 - April 9, 2022

Joseph "Joe" Hilton Sims died at his home in Atlanta on April 9th after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 79 years old.

Born in Laurel, Mississippi, Joe attended Laurel High School and graduated at the age of 16. He went on to earn bachelor and master degrees in mechanical engineering at Mississippi State University and Georgia Institute of Technology, where he was inducted into engineering honor societies, Tau Beta Pi and Pi Tau Sigma. He then moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana to work for Exxon Chemical. During his 40 plus years there, he advanced from an entry-level mechanical contact engineer to, ultimately, an executive manufacturing manager of the chemical plant. Joe loved his work and mentoring others, contributing to the success of many younger employees. Several colleagues became lifelong friends.

Joe was a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church where he often served as an usher. Joe also gave of his time doing charitable work, serving on the boards of Family Service of Greater Baton Rouge and the Cowart Family YMCA in Atlanta. He was a beloved volunteer at his daughter, Stacey's, employer, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, where he was known for wearing tie dye Children's shirts and for his great sense of humor. He also founded an endowed scholarship at Mississippi State in honor of his parents and contributed to it throughout his lifetime to support students just as he had

been assisted financially.

Joe, above all, was an amazing husband, father and grandfather. He cared for his wife of 47 years, JoAnn, during her 20-plus-year illness before her death in 2016. He loved to travel, and once retired, took his children and granddaughters to fantastic places nationally and internationally, including South Africa, Canada, Ecuador, Costa Rica and several U.S. national parks. His love of photography was evident in the way he magnificently captured the wonders experienced during these trips.

He was an avid sports fan and enjoyed attending college and professional sports events of all kinds. He doted on his granddaughters, who were greatly blessed by his moving to Atlanta to be with them, and who will cherish the many years and adventures they shared.

He is preceded in death by his wife, JoAnn Ryan Sims, stepson Ryan Lee Sibley, and parents Eva Mae and Pokey Sims.

He is survived by his daughter, Stacey Sims DeWeese, her husband Todd DeWeese, and their daughters, Peyton Leigh and Amelia Caroline, all of Atlanta.

Joe's family thanks Diane Fabre, truly one of God's special people, for traveling to Atlanta from Baton Rouge and caring for Joe in his final weeks. Words cannot express their gratitude for her tremendous support and love.

In Laurel on Saturday, April 16th, visitation will be held at Memory Chapel at 1:00 followed by a graveside service at 2:00 at Hickory Grove Cemetery.

A memorial service will be held at Rabenhorst Funeral Home East in Baton Rouge on May 14th. Visitation will be at 2:00 with the service starting at 2:30,

followed by a reception. Information on streaming will be on Rabenhorst's website prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Eva Mae and Pokey Sims Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund at Mississippi State or to the Cowart Family YMCA in Atlanta.

To sign the online guest book, please visit www.memorychapellaurel.com

Cemetery Details

Hickory Grove Cemetery

Corner of Old Bay Springs Rd and 15th Street
Laurel, MS 39440

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 16. 1:00 PM (CT)

Memory Chapel Funeral Home
3100 Audubon Drive
P. O. Box 674
Laurel, MS 39440
(601) 428-5235
memorychapel@comcast.net
<https://www.memorychapel-laurel.com/>

Graveside Service

APR 16. 2:00 PM (CT)

Hickory Grove Cemetery
Corner of Old Bay Springs Rd and 15th Street
Laurel, MS 39440

Tribute Wall



“ *Stacey, I was so saddened to hear about your father's passing. He was such a sweet man. It was a true honor and privilege to get to know him and always appreciated his smile at the front desk. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

Michelle Crumbley

Michelle Crumbley - April 18, 2022 at 10:12 AM

DV

“ *Joe was a great boss and individual. He was a good leader - honest, straightforward and caring. I cherish the many years I worked for him and hope and pray the family finds peace during these trying days.*

David V - April 17, 2022 at 10:08 AM

JB

“ *Stace and family, I'm so saddened by the passing of Joe. I have fond memories of him through my friendship with Stacey. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Jen Barbour - April 16, 2022 at 02:00 PM

JE

“ *Sincere condolences to family and friends of Joe. He was a classmate exhibiting above average good citizenship as well as scholastic ability.*



Jan Ellzey - April 16, 2022 at 01:53 PM

JF

“ *Stacey and family,
Janet and I send our deepest condolences on the passing of your beloved father. Mr, Sims was a devoted and much loved volunteer here at Children's. As the son of an MSU Bulldog alumnus too, I loved knowing your dad's care for his alma mater. With our sympathies,
Jim and Janet Fortenberry*

James Fortenberry - April 16, 2022 at 09:54 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joe" Hilton Sims.*



April 16, 2022 at 09:50 AM

DL

“ *Stacey, I am praying that God is embracing you in His loving arms, providing you with strength, comfort and healing as you grieve the loss of your Dad. You have my deepest sympathy. Dawn Lanier*

Dawn Lanier - April 15, 2022 at 04:31 PM

HJ

“ *Hiltons: Gene, Jeanie, Loralyn, Jaye purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Joseph "Joe" Hilton Sims.*



Hiltons: Gene, Jeanie, Loralyn, Jaye - April 15, 2022 at 01:24 PM

ML

“ JOE WAS A GOOD FRIEND AND NEPHEW. HE WAS WISE BEYOND HIS YEARS AND ALWAYS HAD A GOOD SOLUTION FOR A BAD SITUATION. WHEN HIS HOUSE IN BATON ROUGE WAS FLOODED BY A STORM, HE SAW IT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE TO ATLANTA TO BE NEAR TO HIS DAUGHTER, HER HUSBAND AND CHILDREN. I LAST SAW HIM IN DECEMBER WHEN HE POPPED UP IN BEAUMONT "TO HAVE LUNCH WITH US." HE HAD FLOWN TO BATON ROUGE, RENTED A CAR AND DRIVEN TO BEAUMONT. TWO HOURS LATER, HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO VISIT FRIENDS IN BATON ROUGE AND THEN LAUREL AND BACK TO ATLANTA. I DID NOT LEARN OF HIS ILLNESS UNTIL HE WAS HOME. HE ALWAYS PUT OTHERS FIRST.

JOE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A GREAT PART OF MY LIFE AND I LOVE HIM DEARLY. HE HAS TAUGHT ME HOW TO LIVE AND (HOPEFULLY) HOW TO DIE.

FRANCES LIGHTY

Mary Frances H. Lighty - April 14, 2022 at 08:58 PM

ML

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Mary Frances H. Lighty - April 14, 2022 at 08:56 PM

ML

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Mary Frances H. Lighty - April 14, 2022 at 08:54 PM

JA

“ I met Joe when I started at the Cowart Y in April 2021. He served on our board and my Healthy Living Committee. Any time Joe came in I was always sure to greet him with the loudest "Hi Joe!" I could. I know it seems small, but was the way our friendship sparked. There aren't enough words to express how much I will miss greeting him and carrying a conversation on the days I needed it most. Thanks for a great friendship!

Jamie - April 14, 2022 at 08:48 PM

BH

“ Bertha Hardy lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Hilton Sims



Bertha Hardy - April 14, 2022 at 07:19 PM

BH

“ Mr. Joe had a beautiful spirit. I observed him patiently/lovingly helping and assisting Mrs. Joann and I admired him for that. Bertha Hardy



Bertha Hardy - April 14, 2022 at 07:15 PM

MT

“ Joe was a welcoming presence at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottish Rite. He volunteered weekly for over 4 years at the front desk. He would greet patients and families and escort them to various locations in the hospital. He did all of this sporting his tie dye shirt, which resulted in the nickname of "Tie Dye Joe"! Our team always enjoyed hearing of his travels and especially his sense of humor! :) We appreciate his years of service, he will be missed. - Volunteer Services

Melanie Turner - April 14, 2022 at 05:19 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joe" Hilton Sims.



April 13, 2022 at 07:08 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joe" Hilton Sims.



April 12, 2022 at 03:51 PM

JJ

“ Joe was a very dear cousin who went out of his way to visit even though we were a considerable distance away. Kindhearted and a very special person who will be missed. Sincere condolences to Stacy and the family.

John Mark Jensen - April 12, 2022 at 03:04 PM

PB

“ Joe and I were good friends at the Baton Rouge Chemical Plant back in the 1960's . We were selected to represent the Chem Plant at a so called Baton Rouge Goals Congress . Why we were selected we never knew. Anyway, it was a fun experience. We ran into each other decades later when I was working in Belgium and he was on a business trip. A terrific guy who will be missed by so many . Phil Briggs

Phil Briggs - April 12, 2022 at 03:02 PM

SB

“ Joe grew up in my neighborhood in Laurel. Our families were,good,friends. I frequently went to Pokey's window and visited with him. Such a fine family! They exhibited such courage and morals while living under bad health circumstances thrown their way. Pokey and my Dad came up,with a scheme to have Santa Clause call my little sister! I always knew Joe would go far in his future! Just a memory for his family!

sandra Hawkins Bradley - April 12, 2022 at 09:16 AM

RD

“ It was indeed a pleasure to have worked for Joe. He was a great leader with keen insight. Praying for the family in this time of your great sorrow. God bless

Robert Douglas - April 11, 2022 at 10:37 PM

MB

“ Joe and JoAnn were remarkable. Joe was a great asset to ExxonMobil. He worked hard, did things the right way, treated people well and nurtured a positive environment. JoAnn was a true Southern lady and was very supportive of Joe's career. I was sorry to see Joe move to Atlanta, but it was a great family move. I am glad he had so much quality time with Stacy and her family. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Marvin Borgmeyer - April 11, 2022 at 06:33 PM

AA

“ Stacey, we will keep you and your family in our prayers. May the Lord ease your heartache and give you just a glimpse of what your dad is seeing right now. I had the distinct pleasure of working with your dad for 20 years at the Chem Plant and can honestly tell you that he was a great man to work for. He will be missed by many.

Andy Ash - April 11, 2022 at 06:21 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joe" Hilton Sims.



April 11, 2022 at 06:17 PM