



Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.

September 18, 1937 - March 14, 2013

Lawrence William "Larry" Simns of Rock Hall, MD, died on March 14, 2013.

He was born September 18, 1937, and was the son of George Clifton and Rebecca Stevens Akers Simns of Rock Hall, MD. Mr. Simns graduated from Rock Hall High School, Class of 1956. He spent his life as a commercial waterman, a job he absolutely loved. He owned and operated the Dawn and Dawn II workboats out of his home port of Rock Hall.

He was a member of the Kent County Waterman's Association and was the founding president of the Maryland Waterman's Association in 1973, a position he held until his death. Mr. Simns was passionate in representing the waterman's interests in Chesapeake Bay legislation, conservation, and maintaining a tradition that spanned several generations. He served on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Maryland Tidal Fish Advisory Committee, Commercial Fisherman of America Association as well as many other councils and advisory boards. Governor Martin O'Malley recently named Mr. Simns "Admiral of the Chesapeake" for his "role in promoting changes to ensure the sustainability of Commercial Fishing in the State of Maryland."

He was a member of the Chester Lodge #115 A.F. & A.M., Chestertown Elks Lodge #2474, and the Rock Hall Church of God. Mr. Simns enjoyed hunting, shooting, and being on the water. He recently co-authored a book with Robert

L. Rich, Jr., *The Best of Times on the Chesapeake Bay: An Account of a Rock Hall Waterman.*

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his wife, Carolyn Simns; a sister, Joanne Travis of Rock Hall, MD; three children, Dawn Nordhoff, Lawrence "Larry" Simns, Jr., and Robert Simns all of Rock Hall; five stepchildren, Scott Hyland of Worton, MD, Eddie Hyland of Tampa, FL, Susan Barnhardt of Chestertown, MD, Richard Carter of TX, and Jamie Hague of Rock Hall; twelve grandchildren, Jessica Simns, David Nordhoff, Brant Nordhoff, Jason Simns, Jillian Hyland, Lindsay Hyland, Venesa Hyland, Brandi Scott, Jennifer Wiltbank, Ashley Carter Richie Carter and Taryn Bladt; three great-grandchildren, Landon Nordhoff, Savannah Scott, and Barron Scott. In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by his brother, Richard Jeffrey Simns.

There will be a public viewing on Friday, March 22, 2013, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., and the family will receive friends from 5-8 p.m. at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A., 130 Speer Road, Chestertown, MD, where a Masonic Service will be held at 8 p.m.

Funeral services will be held at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A. Chestertown, MD on Saturday, March 23, 2013, at 2 p.m. Interment will be in Wesley Chapel Cemetery in Rock Hall following the service.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Maryland Waterman's Association at 1805-A Virginia Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401, Rock Hall Vol. Fire Company, P.O. Box 577, Rock Hall, MD 21661, or Chester River Homecare and Hospice at 100 Brown Street, Chestertown, MD 21620.

Cemetery Details

Wesley Chapel Cemetery

6179 Rock Hall Road
Rock Hall, MD

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 22. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Chestertown Location
130 Speer Road
Chestertown, MD 21620
(410) 778-0055
info@fhfuneralhome.com

Visitation

MAR 22. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Chestertown Location
130 Speer Road
Chestertown, MD 21620
(410) 778-0055
info@fhfuneralhome.com

Service

MAR **23**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Chestertown Location
130 Speer Road
Chestertown, MD 21620
(410) 778-0055
info@fhfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - January 19, 2023 at 09:28 PM



“ *Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *I AM SO SORRY TO FIND OUT ABOUT LARRY PASING.WE HAVE HAD GREAT TIMES WITH HIM ON FISHING TRIPS YEARS AGO.THANK YOU FOR SHARING HIM WITH US.HE WILL BE GREATLY MSSSED.
SINCERLY, FRANK CLARK*

FRANK CLARK - May 10, 2015 at 01:05 PM

GO

“ *Many are called but few are chosen, Larry was call to lead a group of hard working people and protect the resources they sought, difficult indeed and he did it with grace!*

George O'Donnell - March 27, 2013 at 05:25 PM

JV

“ Carolyn and family,

I worked with Larry for 12 years as the editor of The Waterman's Gazette and in all my life I have never known anyone who labored so long and persistently for a cause he believed in. He was dedicated to the idea that a person should be able to make a living on the water if he wished to follow such an arduous trade, he was ahead of his time in recognizing that environmental degradation was the main peril to the Chesapeake and he never stopped trying to bring all the groups interested in the Bay into a common effort to clean it up, preserve it, protect it and hand it on to the next generation.

He took a long view of things, and he learned to deal with setbacks in his struggle to keep the commercial fishing alive industry alive. He was a David battling Goliath in a never-ending struggle. He understood that persistence was the only way he could hold the door open for commercial fishermen in the face of those who wished to see it permanently closed. He said to me once "that whatever the DNR tries to do that'll hurt the watermen, they'll have to do it knowing that the Maryland Watermen's Association will always be in their hair".

He was a good friend to me at a time when I needed one and in the years I worked with him I learned a great deal. I admired his zeal, his energy and his willingness to give endlessly of himself for a cause. From what I can see from the Gazette, he did whatever he could right up to the end of his days. I regret his passing very much, and I hope that you all can find comfort in his remarkable accomplishments. I sincerely doubt that there would be a commercial fishery in Maryland today if Larry Simns had chosen to mind his own affairs and not led the struggle against the forces that would destroy the industry.

*Joe Valliant, Mt. Desert, ME 04660
valliant.joe@gmail.com*

was

Joe Valliant - March 26, 2013 at 01:21 PM

LT

“ Carolyn & family,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. He
was a great man and an amazing friend to
Buster and Mom. (I know mom and Buster
are rejoicing with Larry in heaven.)
And I know he will be greatly missed by many. Love and prayers are
with you all,
Lisa, Greg, Spencer and Cameron Twilley



Lisa Kendall Twilley - March 22, 2013 at 08:59 AM

WH

“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

william hyland - March 20, 2013 at 10:39 PM

WH

“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

william hyland - March 20, 2013 at 06:39 PM

 Patty
Curry

“ Patty Curry lit a candle in memory of
Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.



Patty Curry - March 20, 2013 at 11:34 AM



“ Carolyn, Rebecca, JoAnn & Family
Neal and I were so very sorry to hear about
Larry's passing. He was a very special person
and cared so much for the waterman. He will
be missed by everyone.



Sincerely
Neal & Carolyn

Neal Metzbowe - March 19, 2013 at 06:20 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Larry



Maryland Watermen's Association - March 19, 2013 at 01:22 PM



“ My husband, Charles, and I have enjoyed chartering a boat twice a
year for the last twelve to fourteen years. We absolutely loved Larry.
He was a great fisherman and we loved being around him. We will
surely miss him. Charles & Marie Ward

Charles & Marie Ward - March 18, 2013 at 11:23 AM

TR

“ Tina Lancaster Rice lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.



Tina Lancaster Rice - March 18, 2013 at 09:57 AM

EW

“ Larry showed me how to work with the waterman on one side and the scientists and politician on the other side and come up with a working solution. In my 12 years on the job as Field Director of the Oyster Recovery Partnership I had the privilege of working with Larry on many issues. I found Larry to always be a calming force when things got a little out of hand. I will miss him greatly, but I know he is in a better place, and that the Lord has bigger plans for him. My deepest sympathy to his family.

Eddie Walters

Eddie Walters - March 18, 2013 at 06:37 AM

GC

“ Gail Kendall Claggett lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.



Gail Kendall Claggett - March 17, 2013 at 03:15 PM

BD

“ Larry and I shared over 30 years of friendship - 28 of them I worked with him at the MWA. He taught me about the watermen of the Bay so I could help him in his life's work. Even the hard times were good times as I had the best job any gal could have and I loved every day of those years. I will miss my friend and mentor. Love to his family, all of whom feel a part my family.

Betty Duty

Betty Duty - March 17, 2013 at 11:25 AM

LP

“ To the Simns Family: I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Simns when I was Clerk to the County Commissioners of Queen Anne's County. He surely was a man of his word and the water was his life. May he rest in peace with our God and ride the waters in the sky. Blessings to your family. Lynda H. Palmatary, Centreville.

Lynda H. Palmatary - March 16, 2013 at 08:28 PM

GO

“ It should bring us all peace to know, that for a man that rested little in life now sleeps on clouds...May God Bless you Larry and the Simns family!

George O'Donnell - March 16, 2013 at 03:24 PM

RR

“ Rest in peace Larry. You were a good man and a friend to many. You will be missed that is one thing for sure. Renee Rogers

Renee Rogers - March 16, 2013 at 09:08 AM

SS

“ Sharon M. Stafford lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.



Sharon M. Stafford - March 16, 2013 at 08:10 AM

RO

“ RJ & Kristi Osborn lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.



RJ & Kristi Osborn - March 16, 2013 at 05:41 AM

RK

“ Dear Carolyn, Miss Rebecca, Joanne, John, Dawn, Ricky, Little Larry, Robbie, Susan, Rick, Scotty, Stewie, grandchildren, great grandchildren and all family and friends, We are so sorry for your loss. Although we knew his time had come.... and we all watched him fight, struggle and suffer it is still hard to let go and let him go. He told me how much you all meant to him and how much he loved you. He was amazed and grateful that you loved him back just as much as he loved you. May the love he felt for you provide you peace, comfort and support until you are with him once again Love, Robin Wood K



Robin Wood K - March 16, 2013 at 02:32 AM

KC

“ Carolyn, I am so sorry to hear of you and your families loss. May God Bless all of you and comfort you through these difficult days ahead. May your memories make you smile and help ease your pain. Carolyn, you are in my thoughts and prayers. I have been thinking of you a lot lately. If I can do anything for you and your family, please know that I am here. Lots of love, Kim and Catey Crew



Kim Crew - March 15, 2013 at 06:49 PM

PE

“ Peggy States Edwards lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.



Peggy States Edwards - March 15, 2013 at 06:26 PM

PE

Carolyn and family: Our deepest sympathy to all of you. Larry was loved and respected by many. Heaven has truly received a Kent County legend. An angel we are all proud to have known. God please be with all of you and give you the strength and support you need. It was an honor to have known Larry. Peggy and Carlton Edwards

Peggy States Edwards - March 15, 2013 at 06:30 PM

TJ

“ Tom And Nancy Lee Jewell lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.



Tom and Nancy Lee Jewell - March 15, 2013 at 05:13 PM

CE

“ *May all who have learned from you and loved you find peace during the days ahead. You will be greatly missed. Love to all of your family from Candy, Tim and Brynne Edwards-Roach.*



candy edwards-roach - March 15, 2013 at 04:57 PM

JK

“ *Mr. Simns,
Thank you for your dedication to the Chesapeake and the people who work it. Your work will last forever. God bless you.*

John Klein - March 15, 2013 at 03:45 PM

CT

Thank you Larry, For our talks. You were truly ready for your eternal life as Janie was. God Bless!

Carroll Thompson - March 16, 2013 at 05:26 AM

RB

“ *Rose Beck lit a candle in memory of
Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.*



Rose Beck - March 15, 2013 at 03:20 PM

LB

“ Larry & Lee Beck lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.



Larry & Lee Beck - March 15, 2013 at 03:20 PM

EG

“ Elizabeth Ann Glenn sent a virtual gift in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.



Elizabeth Ann glenn - March 15, 2013 at 03:03 PM

JB

“ Joyce & Wayne Bradley lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.



Joyce & Wayne Bradley - March 15, 2013 at 02:51 PM

SC

“ Sharon Crew lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.



Sharon Crew - March 15, 2013 at 02:09 PM

NH

“ Nancy Hubbard lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.



Nancy Hubbard - March 15, 2013 at 01:46 PM

CT

“ Capt Don And Ms. Tina lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.



Capt Don and Ms. Tina - March 15, 2013 at 01:16 PM

CT

Capt Don and Ms. Tina

Capt Don and Ms. Tina - March 15, 2013 at 01:17 PM

GC

“ Gail & Herschell Claggett lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.



Gail & Herschell Claggett - March 15, 2013 at 11:35 AM

DH

“ Denise Hepbron lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.



Denise Hepbron - March 15, 2013 at 10:29 AM

SL

“ Sheila Dlugoborski & Young Lewin lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.



Sheila Dlugoborski & Young Lewin - March 15, 2013 at 09:55 AM

TT

“ Tonya Thomas lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.



Tonya Thomas - March 15, 2013 at 08:47 AM

CC

“ Cody And Cindy Clark lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.



Cody and Cindy Clark - March 15, 2013 at 07:55 AM

RO

“ *ROBBIE-ROBIN-N-JOINER lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.*



ROBBIE-ROBIN-N-JOINER - March 15, 2013 at 07:12 AM

MR

“ *Mark & Kelley Reuwer lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.*



Mark & Kelley Reuwer - March 15, 2013 at 06:06 AM

JE

“ *To the Simns Family-We are so sorry for your loss and send to you our most heartfelt sympathy.Larry and I went to school together and he was always very kind and friendly to everyone.We will all miss him.God Bless you all in the days ahead.Mary Ann and Jim Edwards*

Jim and Mary Ann Edwards - March 14, 2013 at 07:00 PM

JE

“ *Jim And Mary Ann Edwards lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.*



Jim and Mary Ann Edwards - March 14, 2013 at 06:49 PM

RP

“ Rose Perry lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.



Rose Perry - March 14, 2013 at 06:38 PM

TW

“ Troy & Dawn White lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.



Troy & Dawn White - March 14, 2013 at 05:41 PM

Peggy Clothier

“ Peggy Clothier lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.



Peggy Clothier - March 14, 2013 at 05:32 PM

KC

“ Kim & Phil Conley lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.



Kim & Phil Conley - March 14, 2013 at 04:37 PM

DH

“ *Denny And Judy Hickman lit a candle in
memory of Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr.*



Denny and Judy Hickman - March 14, 2013 at 02:28 PM