



# Pastor James O Simmons

AUG 15, 1927 - DEC 23, 2017



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## **Pastor James O Simmons**

AUG 15, 1927 - DEC 23, 2017

**J**ames Otto Simmons, 90, of Lakewood passed away peacefully December 23, 2017. He was born August 15, 1927 in Burkburnett, Texas to Charles and Ivea Simmons. James was ordained into the ministry Dec 31st, 1950 and served for the next 67 years throughout Missouri, California, New Mexico, Kansas, Vancouver BC, Illinois and Washington. James was preceded by his wife Imogene of 63 yrs. and is survived by his soul-mate Carolyn, sons Michael (Marilyn), Richard (Janet), Curtis (Bunny), Randy (Glynis), 13 grandchildren and over 20 great-grandchildren.

At 16 yrs. old, James enlisted in the Merchant Marines during WWII and then re-enlisted in the US Army until discharged. Upon his return home, James attended Southwest Baptist College and was ordained into the ministry. James moved his family to California Baptist College to complete his education and served as pastor in many Southern Baptist Churches in several states including Vancouver, BC. There he served for 13 yrs. as pastor to the Vancouver Church for the Deaf. James first love of the Deaf ministry began as a counselor for California School for the Deaf in Berkley California, while attending Golden Gate Baptist Seminary and continued through the rest of his life. James continued his deaf ministry, in New Mexico, Kansas, Vancouver BC, Illinois, Missouri and Washington. Due to health reason, James returned to Washington to be near family. Even while dealing with health issues, he continued his ministry by teaching sign language classes at FBC Lakewood and began teaching in the Senior Adult Department where he continued until earlier this year.

The family would like to give special thanks to all the members his Multi-Care Hospice Team for their support and care. Throughout this process, you have been an example of true care and concern for our father during this time of his life and were truly Heavenly Angels to help him through his last days. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at First Baptist Church of Lakewood, Jan 13, 2018 at 11:00 am. Internment service will be held at Tahoma National Cemetery in Covington, Washington on Jan 12, 2018 ay 10:00am. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be sent to Multi-Care Hospice and Palliative Care, Tacoma in honor of Pastor James Simmons.



# Events

**Pastor James O Simmons**

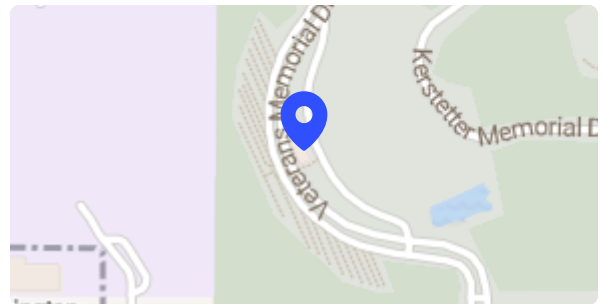
AUG 15, 1927 - DEC 23, 2017

## Graveside Service

**Friday**, January 12, 2018

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM PT

**Tahoma National Cemetery**  
18600 Southeast 240th Street, KENT WA 98042

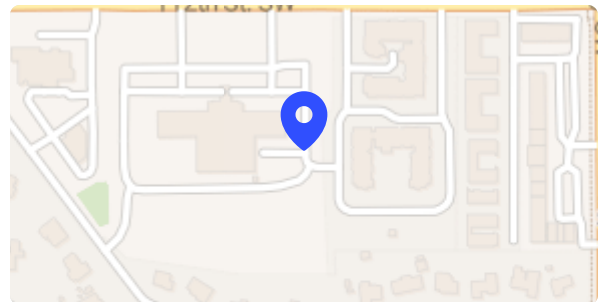


## Celebration of Life

**Saturday**, January 13, 2018

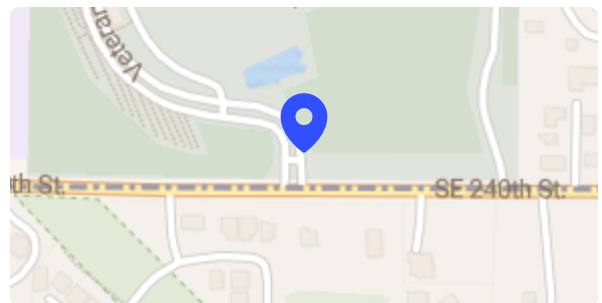
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM PT

**First Baptist Church of Lakewood**  
5400 112th Street Southwest, LAKEWOOD WA  
98499



## Cemetery Details

**Tahoma National Cemetery**  
18600 Southeast 240th Street, Ke WA





## Tribute Wall

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**Randy Simmons** posted:

55 yrs ago I was blessed by being added to the family of James and Imogene Simmons. As I grew older, but not wiser, I found myself often sitting in the front seat of the car with my dad, listening to him share his life. I learned about his time in the military, on-board ship, working with his brother George, and hearing stories about my grandfather. I also learned about his walk with the Lord. He became my teacher, my mentor, my professor, my guide, my best friend. I have always felt honored to call him my dad. There were times when we didn't get along. Trust me, we had some intense arguments. But I always knew that my dad loved me. He lived Christ on a daily basis. The most profound moment that I can remember is when he was praying for a young man in his office. He had a severe stutter and was struggling just to say the sinners prayer. Suddenly, dad shouted "Satan, in the name of Jesus, release him now." At that moment, the boy shouted out the prayer of salvation without one stutter. Dad was truly a man after God's own heart. I pray that I will live up to that standard in my ministry. Thank you dad for opening your home to my family when we were struggling. Thank you for always being there when I needed advice. Thank you for loving my children unconditionally. Thank you for welcoming my wife into our family. Thank you for being Christ before me.

January 2 at 7:05 AM



**Richard Simmons** shared 11 photos to the **New Album Name** album.



December 26 at 5:33 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Pastor James O Simmons**

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**Job Ayantola** posted:

Greetings Bro. Richard, On behalf of PRDM, please accept my deepest sympathy on your great loss. But glad he is with the Lord. PTL! Here is the message from the former President of PRDM: To the Family of Bro. James O. Simmons: You have our heart felt condolences for the passing of our very dear friend and brother in Christ, Bro James . We remember so well Bro. James and Imogene. They were true missionaries in their hearts and lives!! They always were so eager to be a part of the outreach ministries to the Deaf people of Puerto Rico, so flexible and willing to work wherever there was a need. (This quality is an all-important quality of any missionary )!! It must have been 20 - 28 years ago that on one of their trips we were all allowed by the school systems to enter the class rooms of the Deaf and have special programs about the Easter story . Bro James & Imogene worked so well as a team and traveled to several schools that week, traveling through-out the dangerously winding mountain roads with their ever sharp turns and deep valleys . They were such a help ministering tirelessly . We were somewhat concerned about their ages but they assured us they were fit and ready . We found them to be correct in this encouragement to us!! Such an amazing man and couple, tirelessly witnessing to Deaf boys, girls or couples at every turn . Perhaps their last visit we remember their being the main teachers /preacher at our annual Pastors/ Family / Leadership Conference. This was held at Campamento del Caribe in south central Puerto Rico . By the end of the 4-day conference with Bro James following the leadership of the Lord, our leadership team had experienced a renewed spiritual bond!!! The trained Puerto Rican leaders, including two developing pastors, truly had experienced revival. The Deaf leaders, including some couples and some unmarried. He was a remarkable man of the Lord : Made so by his evident love of the Master. David and Marsha Mitchell Former president / missionaries , Puerto Rico Deaf Ministries

December 26 at 5:33 AM



**Katherine Simmons** posted:

My grandfather was one of the most amazing men in my life. I thought he would live forever, he was amazing person that will be missed. My grandpa is with mamaw now. We will all miss him and wish we were there more often.

December 26 at 12:10 PM



**Brittinay Simmons** posted:

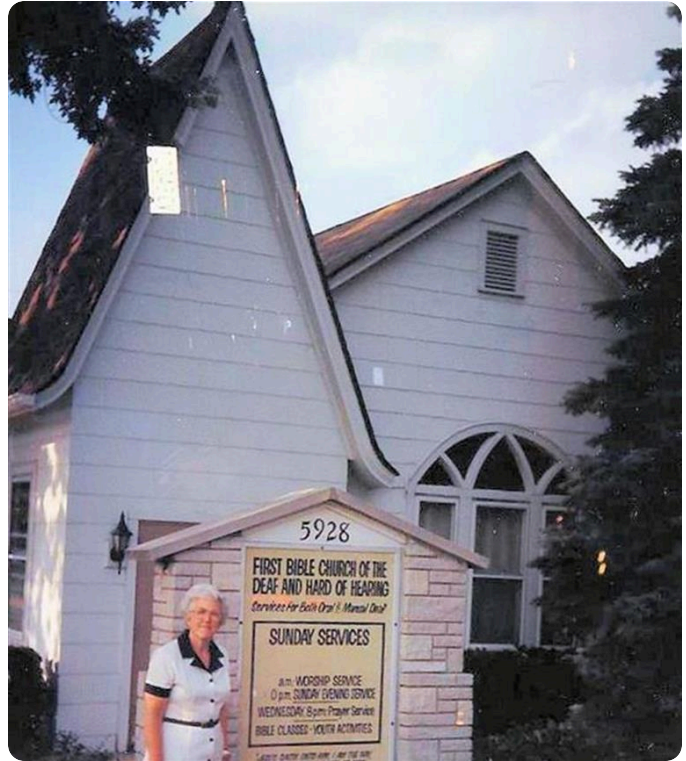
My grandpa was a wonderful and sometimes stubborn old man. He gave many people the hope and love they needed in their life. He never really got to know his great grandkids, but they will know him through me and the other family. We will all miss him and love him forever. I wish we could be joining our family in this time but I will be there in spirit.

December 26 at 5:33 AM



Richard Simmons shared 11 photos to the **New Album Name** album.

December 30 at 12:37 PM





**Media**

**Pastor James O Simmons**

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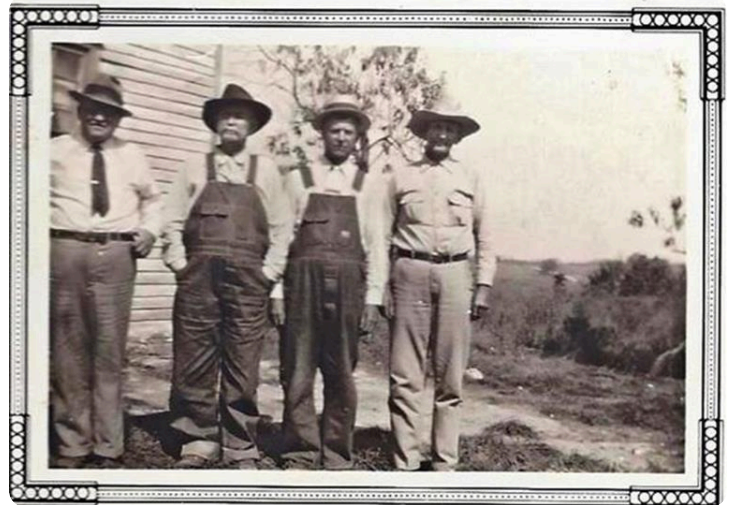


# Media

**Pastor James O Simmons**

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RS





## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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