

Edward Simmons

March 22, 1940 - August 20, 2024

Edward (“Ed”) was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. He discovered his passion for music while playing the tuba and string bass throughout high school, participating in marching band, orchestra, and the dance band. He went on to join the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, continuing his passion while attending college. A graduate of The Ohio State University, Ed received a Bachelor of Science in Music Education and was a four-year K-Row member of the OSU marching Band/TBDBITL. As a member of the band his senior year, Ed had the distinct honor of dotting the “I” in script Ohio. The day after his college graduation and two Saturday performances with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and Captain Kangaroo, Ed married his beloved wife of almost 62 years, Ruth Ann (Roof) Simmons, in an evening candlelight ceremony.

Ed’s teaching career began in Chillicothe, Ohio, where he taught secondary band and orchestra. The couple soon relocated to the Washington, D.C.-Maryland area, where Ed would go on to serve 26 years playing tuba and string bass with the prestigious “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band. Many fond memories and wonderful friendships were formed during these years with neighbors and members of Our Savior’s and Hope Lutheran Churches. While in Maryland, he honed his skills and became a gifted instrument repair technician, an interest that began with a class in college. After retirement from the Marine Band, Ed and Ruth moved to Wenatchee, Washington, where Ed returned to his roots in education as a teacher at

Pioneer Middle School and assisting with the Wenatchee Senior High School music program. In addition to teaching, Ed continued to repair band instruments for many years. Outside of music, Ed enjoyed golf, learning to fish, woodworking, bridge and always found comfort in a good book. His love and passion for music extended to all facets of his life, understanding how music touches our souls and its importance within the community. He will affectionately be remembered as our favorite “family music man.”

Ed is preceded by his parents Margaret and John Simmons; brother David Simmons; and daughter Janine (Mark) Walker. He is survived by his wife Ruth Simmons; daughters Christine (Michael) Martin of Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin and Jennifer (Kimberly Henshaw) Schenker of Victor, New York; and grandchildren Evan and Josh Schenker; Caroline (Matthew) Stipkovich; Madeline, Julia, and Jenna Walker; Sister-in-Law Donna (Gary) Bates of Wenatchee, Washington; and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held 11am on Saturday August 31, 2024 at Grace Lutheran Church (1408 Washington St., Wenatchee, WA 98801). In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ed’s name to the Wenatchee School District Music Department (WSD District Office 235 Sunset Ave, Wenatchee, WA 98801) to provide instrument access for all. Donations may also be made to the Packing Friendship Program at Grace Lutheran Church, a backpack food program for children (earmarked “Packing Friendship” in the note line). Our deepest appreciation to the employees of Confluence Health Palliative/Hospice Care for their compassionate care.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

AUG **31**. 11:00 AM (PT)

Grace Lutheran
1408 Washington St
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Tribute Wall

RS

“ Ed was one of the best people to know. He always made me feel welcome into the family. He is with his brother, my husband, and his mother now. Ed will be miss my many. Lots of love to the family
Reba

Reba J Simmons - June 21, 2025 at 01:29 PM

ET

“ Dear Ruth and Family,

Ed and I enjoyed many hands of Bridge when we were partners in the local Orthopedic Bridge League. We didn't win any championships, but we had fun.

I was always impressed with the stories Ed shared with his duties in the White House. I wonder if he ever published some of these colorful observations?

Most of all Ed was very loyal to his Lutheran faith and this should be noted in the next chapter of his life.

Finally I like Ed's suggestions for Memorials. I will deliver a check that you can divide for both projects;

Sincerely,,

Earl Tilly

Earl Tilly - August 29, 2024 at 07:21 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Edward Simmons.



August 27, 2024 at 02:21 PM



“ Love Rick, Rhonda, Megan, Ryan, Zach and planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward Simmons.

Love Rick, Rhonda, Megan, Ryan, Zach and - August 27, 2024 at 02:21 PM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Christine Martin - August 27, 2024 at 12:55 AM

CM

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Christine Martin - August 27, 2024 at 12:51 AM

CM

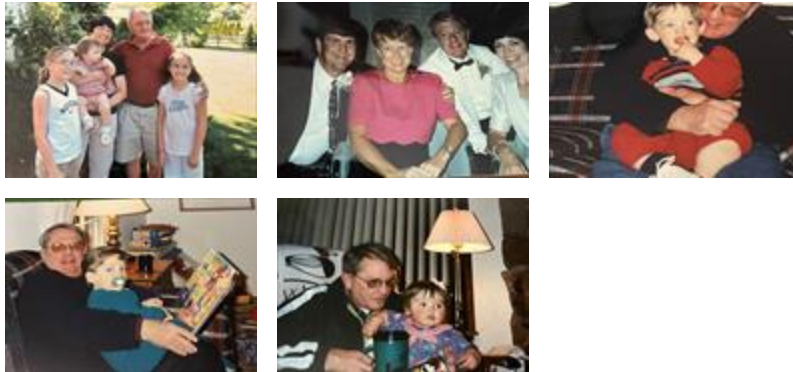
“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Christine Martin - August 27, 2024 at 12:49 AM

CM

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Christine Martin - August 27, 2024 at 12:42 AM

CM

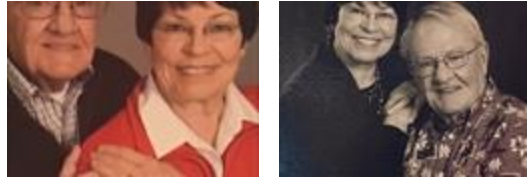
“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Christine Martin - August 27, 2024 at 12:39 AM

CM

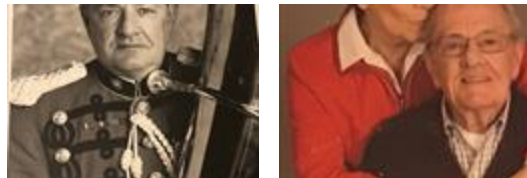
“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Christine Simmons Martin - August 26, 2024 at 07:12 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Jones & Jones~Betts Funeral Home - August 26, 2024 at 05:40 PM