

James D. Simms

February 14, 1941 – November 21 1996

(From Hinton News – November 26, 1996)

JAMES D. SIMMS

Major USAF Retired James D. Simms, age 55, of 204 Tilghman Dr. Goldsboro, NC., formerly of Hinton, died Thurs., Nov. 21, 1996 at the Kitty Askins Hospice Center, in Goldsboro following a long illness.

Born Feb. 14, 1941 in Hinton, he was the son of the late James W. and Jean Stennett Simms.

Major Simms was a 1959 graduate of Hinton High School, and a member of the Hinton United Methodist Church.

He was a retired B-52 Pilot from the United States Air Force with 27 years of service. He was a Command Pilot with over 5,000 hours flying time.

Among his many assignments were 3 tours in Vietnam. During his first, he served as a Forward Air Controller flying the 01-E Bird Dog. His second tour was flying B-52's against targets in North Vietnam including the famous Raids on Hanoi. For his service in Vietnam, he was awarded numerous medals and citations for bravery and

heroism. These include the following: The Distinguished Flying Cross with 1 oak leaf cluster. Air Medal with 1 silver and 2 bronze oak leaf clusters. Air Force Commendation Medal. Combat Readiness Medal, and a Vietnam Service Medal.

He completed undergraduate Pilot Training and was qualified in the following aircraft: T-41, T-37, T-38, 01-E, and B-52. His professional education included: Officer Training School, Squadron Officers School, and Air Command and Staff School. He received a BA degree in History, and an MA degree in Management from Central Michigan University.

He was a life member of the Air Force Association, and the Order of Daedalians, and a member in the Retired Officers Association.

Upon retirement he was the owner and operator of Sim Tax in Goldsboro.

Survivors include his wife, Noreen Sheffield Simms; two sons: Dexter G. and wife Stacey Brown, and Michael Lee, and wife Sharon Brown, both of Goldsboro, NC.; one daughter: Mrs. Gavin (Kathy) Ray of Greenville, NC.; one sister: Sue Ayers of Clifton Forge, Va.; a special cousin: Terry Payne of Hinton.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a. m. Sat., Nov. 23rd. at Seymour Funeral Home Chapel in Goldsboro. Burial followed on Sun., Nov. 24th. at 1:00 p. m. at Greenbrier Burial Park, Hinton with full military honors conducted by Honor Guard from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Oh. The family received friends from 7 until 9 p. m. Fri. evening at Seymour Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Kitty Askins Hospice Center, P. O. Box 88, Goldsboro, N.C. 27533.

Local arrangements by Pivent Funeral Home, Hinton.