



Dr. Henry "Clifton" Simmons III

December 21, 1949 - January 1, 2019

Dr. H. Clifton Simmons, III, DDS, 69, passed away on Tuesday, January 1, 2019 surrounded by his loving family. He is preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Elizabeth, and his daughter, Michelle. He is survived by his wife, Joan; his daughter, Megan (Erich); his son, Matthew; two brothers, Nathan, David; sister, Eva; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Dr. Simmons practiced dentistry in Nashville, Tennessee for forty years. He had faculty appointments as an assistant professor at the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry and assistant clinical professor at Vanderbilt University Medical School. Dr. Simmons was a Diplomate of the American Board of Craniofacial Pain and the American Board of Orofacial Pain. He was a Fellow of the American College of Dentists, the International College of Dentists, the American Academy of Craniofacial Pain, the American Academy of Orofacial Pain, the Tennessee Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, the Pierre Fauchard Academy and the Academy of Dentistry International. He has served as president of the Tennessee Dental Association, Nashville Dental Society, Tennessee Academy of General Dentistry, Tennessee CRANIO, American Academy of Craniofacial Pain, and American Board of Craniofacial Pain. Dr. Simmons was an accomplished editor receiving many awards and holding numerous editorial appointments including the Journal of the Tennessee Dental Association and the International College of Dentists USA Section. He was honored with many awards including the Tennessee Dental Association's Jack Wells Dedication to Dentistry Award, the highest award given by the TDA, and the Tennessee Academy of General Dentistry's Dentist of the Year Award. Dr. Simmons authored numerous publications, and presented his professional work across the world. He inspired and mentored many medical professionals with his sincere passion, and he helped thousands of patients in his practice.

In addition to his work in dentistry, Dr. Simmons served in many leadership roles as a Deacon at Woodmont Baptist Church. He loved spending time with his family and enjoyed vacations in Key West, Florida. His family and friends are grateful to have shared in his life

and laughter, and may celebrate his life at a Visitation at Woodmont Baptist Church on January 4, 2018 from 4pm-8pm, and a Celebration of Life Funeral Ceremony at Woodmont Baptist Church on January 5, 2019 at 2pm. Gifts in memory of Dr. Simmons can be made to the H. Clifton Simmons III, DDS, Endowed Scholarship and mailed to UTHSC Office of Alumni Affairs & Development, 62 S. Dunlap (Ste. 500), Memphis, TN 38163; or to the Interfaith Dental Clinic, Nashville, Tennessee.

Cemetery

Events

Historic Spring Hill Cemetery
5110 Gallatin Road
Nashville, TN, 37216

JAN 4 **Visitation** 04:00PM - 08:00PM

Woodmont Baptist Church
2100 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville, TN, US, 37215

JAN 5 **Celebration Of Life Funeral Ceremony** 02:00PM

Woodmont Baptist Church
2100 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville, TN, US, 37215

Comments



“ We are all extremely sad to hear about the loss of Dr. Simmons. He was a remarkable intellect, a well-respected dental editor and he made an extraordinary impact in the field of dental journalism. As a longtime Fellow of the International College of Dentists and having served as the Editor for the USA Section, Dr. Simmons had become a part of our ICD Family. He will be forever remembered and deeply missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Joan and his family.

Our deepest sympathy,
The International College of Dentists USA Section

International College of Dentists - January 08 at 02:30 PM



“ Dr. Simmons was an absolute genius at his work. I have had TMJ since about the late 1970s. He corrected with no surgery and did things that I had no idea could be done. He was the most patient understanding doctor and was always asking about my family, who he had only met. I could not believe when I read obituary in the paper. I know his family is grieving and also his office family. I am grieving. He was truly one of a kind, I hope he knew how much he helped me and other people.
Myra Bowden

Myra Bowden - January 06 at 01:48 PM



“ In our lives we are fortunate to meet those who in a brief time can impact us in profound ways. Cliff was such a person. He was like a beacon standing alone against the elements who shined a light for all to see and for those dedicated to improving their patient's lives, to follow. Cliff was a truly great individual, person and leader. He will be sorely missed. Duane Keller

Duane Keller - January 06 at 01:07 PM



“ Dr. & Mrs. Richard Keller purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Henry "Clifton" Simmons III.



Dr. & Mrs. Richard Keller - January 06 at 11:25 AM



“ Clifton was a credit to mankind, Dentistry, and particularly to the TMJ community. His leadership was the beginning of advancing our organization, the AACCP, to a new level. He was one of the giants along with Brendan and Jack, and others who increased our abilities to treat the TMJ and Facial Pain at a higher level of success. He had a wonderful kind personality, had a good sense of humor, and was friendly to everyone. His loss will be felt by all who knew and respected him.

Bryan Keropian DDS

Bryan Keropian DDS - January 06 at 01:11 AM



“ I am speechless, we knew each other for many years sharing many memories at the American Academy of Craniofacial Pain. He will be missed for sure.
Reda A Abdel-Fattah

Reda Abdel-Fattah - January 05 at 10:06 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Clifton's passing. I remember being in the Portland High School band with him and the fun we used to have. I had no idea he had been sick until a friend told me. Prayers and sympathies to Nathan, David and Eva Nell and the rest of the family in his passing.

Charlie Goad

Charlie Goad - January 05 at 02:43 PM



“ Cliff Simmons was a world renowned teacher, widely respected leader, a tireless researcher and a very tough, tireless fighter in the search for truth in dental science. He never backed down in this battle. His accomplishments are a credit to his peers, his profession and his persistence. He is respected by his opponents for his brilliant expression of his science. I am proud to honor his memory as a truly great man and good friend.....Allen Moses

Allen J Moses, DDS - January 05 at 12:52 AM



“ Dr. Simmons and his staff have taken great care of my dental needs for well over thirty years. Not only was he great at dentistry but also a real gentleman and will be missed. My condolences and prayers to his family and staff.

Patrick Oglesby - January 04 at 07:38 PM



“ Dr. Simmons was an amazing man and the best TMJ doctor I ever met. I always looked forward to going to his practice, seeing his great smile and talking to him. I'm grateful that he was part of my life. He will be missed by everyone who was blessed enough to meet him. Thank you for positively touching so many lives Dr. Simmons.
Tamara Davenport

Tamara Davenport - January 04 at 05:41 PM



“ Blessings, Larry & Diane Nelson purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Henry "Clifton" Simmons III.



Blessings, Larry & Diane Nelson - January 04 at 04:16 PM



“ Dr. Mark and Laura Barnes purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Henry "Clifton" Simmons III.



Dr. Mark and Laura Barnes - January 04 at 01:46 PM



“ DR Simmons was a blessing to the world of dentistry. His preciseness, his enthusiasm and extraordinary ability to understand and to teach thousands of other dentists what he knew will be a legacy that we should all admire.
I loved the guy and that feeling will not pass as he has from us.
Richard Klein

Richard Klein - January 04 at 01:43 PM



“ I will miss his great Sunday School lessons. He was a great teacher and leader for our Good News Sunday School Class and our church. Very well done thy good and faithful servant.

Martha Brown - January 04 at 01:10 PM



“ Larry and Judy Tilley purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Dr. Henry "Clifton" Simmons III.



Larry and Judy Tilley - January 04 at 12:16 PM



“ DSK Law purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Dr. Henry "Clifton" Simmons III.



DSK Law - January 04 at 12:15 PM



“ I have known Clifton for many years, shared meals and ideas and worked with him closely on many projects.
His energy and dedication to learning were boundless.
I once challenged him on a subject that we disagreed on and he proceeded to do research on it and publish a paper that directly addressed the issue that I had challenged him with. This was typical Clifton.
I will miss him and offer my deepest sympathy to his family.

JOSEPH "Rich" COHEN - January 04 at 11:41 AM



“ Doug Wattwood purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Henry "Clifton" Simmons III.



Doug Wattwood - January 04 at 09:00 AM



“ One year, when we were attending Portland High School, TN. Clifton got a motor cycle for Christmas or a birthday. We were going to go bowling across the state line in Kentucky. About a mile past the state line, flashing lights and siren, Sheriff pulled us over. Clifton didn't have a license! We were scared to death when he put us in the back seat with his German shepherd. He indicated that we were going to jail, but he called first Clifton's family, couldn't reach them, then he called MY DAD who brought his truck. The cycle was loaded in the truck and we went back home, and no bowling! The sheriff must have had a good laugh at that one! We didn't get arrested!

That was always a FOND memory of my cousin. His granny and my granny were sisters. Condolences to the entire family! Bruce Hicks - Hicksb001@Hawaii.rr.com

Bruce Hicks - January 04 at 12:44 AM



“ When Dr. Simmons began his dental practice, I joined as one of the original patients. We shared many laughs, and I always reminded him to smile more (he was much too serious!). All of my dental needs were handled with grace by Dr Simmons and his staff, and I will truly miss him. About 15 years ago our family adopted a new dog, a pug we named “Henry”, after Dr Simmons. For many years, he'd come in to check my teeth, and never failed to say, “How's my Henry doing?” Always asking with a big smile. A very talented dentist whom, I'm sure, will be missed by his family, both personal and patients.

Don Wilson - January 03 at 11:03 PM



“ I love you Uncle Clifton. You were a wonderful Man. May you rest in peace. Love,
Christina



Christina Simmons Kubin - January 03 at 09:59 PM



“ Clifton,
I am broken-hearted that I am physically unable to grieve and celebrate with your family. You "are" one of my best friends, and my Christian brother. I speak in the present tense because as your brother-in-Christ, I know that one day we will rejoice together again in eternity with our Creator and Savior. I know that on Tuesday He received you into His glory with the words "Well done, Clifton--My good and faithful servant."
Until that time, I will have wonderful memories of your quick wit, boundless energy and that amazing ability God gave you to communicate with words and to apply your knowledge to the healing of your patients. At the same time, I grieve together with Joan and your children because they are temporarily separated from their loving husband and father. My prayer is that the Lord will cover them with His grace and a "peace that passes understanding."
Thank you for sharing the end of your life with me through the conversations we had while you struggled so hard at MD Anderson. I so hoped I would get to see you one more time this side of heaven.
Your efforts on behalf of your profession and your patients will be remembered for years to come. I, however, will remember you as a Christian brother whom I had the privilege of knowing and loving.
Until we meet again,
Dr. Jerry Karr

Gerald R. Karr - January 03 at 09:36 PM



“ Such a fine man and such a great loss for us.

Janene Dearing Corbin - January 03 at 09:29 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Dr. Henry "Clifton" Simmons III.



January 03 at 08:53 PM



“ I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Simmons last year, for a dental issue, and it was very scary, but he treated me with such ease and kindness and I am so saddened by his passing. May God be with the family and all his staff.

Cindy Romans - January 03 at 08:04 PM



“ Tennessee Dental Association purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Dr. Henry "Clifton" Simmons III.



Tennessee Dental Association - January 03 at 05:42 PM



“ My deepest sympathies and condolences. Dr. Angela R. Cameron, Johnson City, TN



Angela Cameron - January 03 at 05:13 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Henry "Clifton" Simmons III.



January 03 at 04:04 PM



“ On behalf of the Florida Senate, our thoughts and prayers are with Dr. Simmons and the entire family as you mourn this tremendous loss. We pray that fond memories will ease your grief and give you comfort in the difficult days ahead. - Bill Galvano, Florida Senate President

Bill Galvano - January 03 at 03:30 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dr. Henry "Clifton" Simmons III.



January 03 at 03:29 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Henry "Clifton" Simmons III.



January 03 at 03:26 PM



“ 1 file added to the album ICD



Kylie Evans - January 03 at 02:09 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Kylie Evans - January 03 at 02:07 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Henry "Clifton" Simmons III.



January 03 at 01:41 PM



“ Drs. Angela & Riley Lunn & CRANIO Staff and Board purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dr. Henry "Clifton" Simmons III.



Drs. Angela & Riley Lunn & CRANIO Staff and Board - January 03 at 01:30 PM



“ The American Academy of Craniofacial Pain purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dr. Henry "Clifton" Simmons III.



The American Academy of Craniofacial Pain - January 03 at 01:17 PM



“ O, Dr. Simmons, how I will miss you. Thank you for helping me with my TMJ! I always thought of you as such a caring & genuine person. Will never forget you.



carrie clinton - January 03 at 12:19 PM



“ Prayers for all of the family and friends of Dr. Simmons. He will be missed by us all! He made my life much easier with my TMJ therapy. He was such a genuine, caring person. Dr. Simmons has a special place in all our hearts.

Missy - January 03 at 07:56 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Henry "Clifton" Simmons III.



January 03 at 12:17 PM



“ In Fellowship, ICD Officers, Regents and staff purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dr. Henry "Clifton" Simmons III.



In Fellowship, ICD Officers, Regents and staff - January 03 at 12:09 PM



“ Dr. Simmons was so special. I'm happy to say "he was my friend". We always had great talks and I'll miss him. My condolences to his dear family. God will provide the strength needed to push forward. Tina Blevins

Tina Blevins - January 03 at 11:36 AM