



Mr. Jim "Slim" William Simmons

July 17, 1964 - March 12, 2021

Jim "Slim" Simmons, age 56, passed away with his wife and children by his side on Friday, March 12, after a courageous battle with bladder cancer.

He was born in Atlanta, GA on July 17, 1964 to Anne Jordan Simmons and the late Dr. William Crawford "Doc Whit" Simmons. He graduated from Lakeside High School in 1982. He then moved to Statesboro to attend Georgia Southern College where he played baseball and earned his Bachelor of Science in Education.

Jim was a history teacher and coached baseball and softball, originally at Effingham County High School from 1990 - 2005 and more recently at Statesboro High School from 2006 - 2020. His teaching and coaching were not confined to the classroom and ball fields. These were his passion, not just his avocation. He touched the lives of so many students, even into adulthood, and his indelible touch will be missed.

Slim, as he was known by his friends and family, edged, honed, and sculpted the lives of the students entrusted to his care with the same energy and devotion he committed to maintaining the ball fields.

When the cancer, which was thought to be in remission, ultimately returned, it took Slim from us but it never defeated him. He would want his students, his friends, and his family to remember that he never gave up. He said during a recent trip to the Augusta Cancer Center, that he knew this was "an uphill battle". "But they keep score in those too!" There was no "quit" in Jim Simmons.

Survivors include his loving wife of 32 years, Lisa Bunting Simmons, son and daughter-in-law: Crawford and Meredith Simmons, daughter: Addison Simmons, and grandson: Seth James Simmons. He is also survived by his mother: Anne Jordan Simmons of Dublin, GA and brother: Will Simmons of Charleston, SC., in-laws: Steve and Linda Schwartz and Jim and Kathy Wolff, brother-in-law: Chris Bunting (Nikki), sister-in-law: Lauren Bunting Rose, very special cousin: Bryce Bunting (Mandy), nieces and nephews: Josh Bunting (Emily), Mason Bunting, Madison Bunting and Jett Rose.

The family will receive friends Thursday, March 18, at Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home from 5:00pm-7:00pm. The service will be held Friday, March 19, at 11:00am in the sanctuary of Pittman Park United Methodist Church with Pastor Brandon Williams officiating. The body will lie in state one hour prior to the service.

For those unable to attend, a live-stream of the service will be available at the following links:

<https://vimeo.com/event/807674>

https://youtu.be/w2crwag_wpk

Pallbearers will be Greg McMullen, Craig Cooper, Ed Williams, Rich Kinzler, Dave Shannon, Jody Slater, Jimmy Alexander, and Brett Griffin.

A heartfelt thank-you to the AUH medical teams of Dr. Parikh and Dr. Terris, along with his “girlfriends” at the AUH Cancer Center and the angels at Ogeechee Area Hospice.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that memorial contributions be made to one of the following groups: ECHS Baseball Boosters, ECHS Softball Boosters (1589 Highway 119 South, Springfield GA 31329) SHS Baseball Boosters, or SHS Softball Boosters (10 Lester Road, Statesboro GA 30458)

Friends may sign the online register book at www.joineranderson.com

Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home & Crematory of Statesboro is in charge of arrangements.

Events

MAR **Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

18

Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home - Statesboro
502 Miller Street Ext., Statesboro, GA, US, 30458

MAR **Service** 11:00AM

19

Pittman Park United Methodist Church
1102 Fair Road, Statesboro, GA, US, 30458

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Joiner Anderson Funeral Home - March 18 at 11:28 AM



“ So sorry to hear about the passing of Coach Simmons. He coached my son at ECHS. we really enjoyed being around him as he was an awesome coach. I know he will truly be missed by so many . May God give you strength at this time of sorrow. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. God bless. Janie Fields

Janie B. Fields - March 18 at 09:20 PM



“ I taught on the same hall at ECHS with Jim Simmons for many years. He was always so fun as a co-worker. You never knew what he was up to. He loved to play pranks on the other teachers and he helped to make work fun! I remember him loving to interrupt my class with crazy comments --you never knew what he was going to say when he opened that door. I remember him helping me keep the "baseball boys" in line whenever they were being silly boys in my class. I remember him personally delivering flowers from my husband to my room just to embarrass me in front of my class. He would always make me smile!!
He will be sorely missed! I am blessed to have worked with him and to have called him friend.

Wendy Fears
ECHS Math Teacher

Wendy Fears - March 29 at 08:36 PM



“ Virginia Boger Barkley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jim "Slim" William Simmons



Virginia Boger Barkley - March 20 at 12:45 AM



“ Coach Simmons was my World History teacher freshman year and he's the greatest teacher I've ever had. I was going through a difficult time in my life and he was always so playful and his class was the only thing I looked forward to. May he rest in peace.

anonymous - March 19 at 01:48 PM



“ Coach Simmons, was by far one of the best softball coaches I ever had. He knew exactly what to say when I was frustrated and also knew how to make me laugh at any given moment. Out of all of the four years I played for him, one story that he told me will always be the funniest. Coach Simmons birthday is on July 17th, and mine is on July 18th. One year he asked me what I wanted for my birthday and I told him I wanted some things and then asked what he wanted. He told me that every year on his birthday he bought these special pair of socks that were his favorite. He said they had a warranty on them so every year when his birthday came around he would send the old ones back and get new ones. I'm not sure why I thought this was so funny but this is a story about him that I will never forget. I will miss passing him on the road and getting a phone call shortly after that to catch up. I'll love you forever Coach Simmons, and I hope you're up there sharing your line up with Jesus.

Love, Jena Coble

Jena Coble - March 19 at 12:12 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Jim "Slim" William Simmons.



March 18 at 10:18 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mr. Jim "Slim" William Simmons.



March 18 at 10:15 AM



“ I am an 2003 Effingham County Grad and Coach Simmons coached me as a Lady Rebel there at Effingham High. He was one of the best softball coaches I ever had!!! He meant business but was super funny!!! I can remember them putting me in class (by accident) and he joked on me and we laughed so much until they changed my class of course but it was a great time in my high school career and I can say that I am bless to have had a chance to spend time and get to know him. My prayers are with you his family that was bless enough to experience his love and kindness everyday. I pray strength and comfort to your hearts. He will truly be missed but his spirit and love I know will live on!!!



Demetra Garvin - March 18 at 08:07 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Jim "Slim" William Simmons.



March 17 at 07:33 PM



“ 103 files added to the album LifeTributes



Joiner Anderson Funeral Home - March 17 at 05:29 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mr. Jim "Slim" William Simmons.



March 17 at 03:55 PM



“ All the Ware's respected, admired, and loved Coach Jim Simmons. He lived his life with a quiet humbleness that made you instantly like him. He gave unconditionally as our coach, mentor, golfing buddy, and friend. We will truly miss him.

With much love and prayers,
Mitch, Judy, Jake, Josh, and Jackson Ware

Judy Ware - March 16 at 09:39 PM



“ Tony, Carter, Hayes and I are saddened to hear about the loss of Slim. We are thinking and praying for you all.
Love,
Beth and Tony Schwartz

beth schwartz - March 16 at 07:29 PM



“ Simmons Family,. Wow what a great man. I have spent so many nights at the baseball field watching this man develop some of the best players and young men the community could ask for. I send my deepest prayers to you. He was very proud of his family and gave so much to his community. This man is an example of what a man should be.

Prayers to you
Lynette Robinson
Trey Robinson
Nick Robinson



Lynette Robinson - March 16 at 04:31 PM



“ 103 files added to the album LifeTributes

Joiner Anderson Funeral Home - March 16 at 03:02 PM



“ Bob Davidson purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. Jim "Slim" William Simmons.



Bob Davidson - March 16 at 02:53 PM



“ My heart hurts for the Simmons family. I'm a friend of his mothers and wish my most sincere condolences. I feel like I knew him through His mother and what a fine man he was.

Pat Allred - March 16 at 01:37 PM



“ Lisa Bunting Simmons, son and daughter-in-law: Crawford and Meredith Simmons, daughter: Addison Simmons, I am sorry and Mr. Jim. I remembered at SHS when I was in 9th grade and his geography class when I helped him. When he was teaching about Russia, I brought in a Russian doll that a friend brought back from there. It will never be the same. I want yall to remember that, wherever you go, whatever you do, Angels (him) are watching over you always

Rebecca Rushing - March 16 at 01:08 PM



“ Sending heartfelt condolences to the Simmons family and to his extended family in the athletics community. Sincerely, Kimberly Kinzler

Kkinzler - March 16 at 11:57 AM



“ I’ve known this family for a long time and if there are two words that describe Jim, they are “Never Changing.” He was just that and was never out of character. Jim was a constant and consistent positive voice for so many people. He wanted you to know that he cared and would do whatever he had to, to show you. Me and my oldest son, Aiden were at an SHS baseball game and at the conclusion of a big win for the Devils, I sought out Coach Simmons for a few words of encouragement for Aiden, as he is a left handed pitcher. Jim not only talked to us, he dropped a rake to work with Aiden and illustrate the correct range of motion for pitchers. This is the man that I speak of, that meant so much to so many people and was Never Changing. Coach Simmons rest easy my friend and know that your legacy and memory will live on forever.

Much love,

Benji Lewis

Benji Lewis - March 16 at 06:44 AM



“ We are saddened by the passing of Coach Simmons. Have always had the greatest respect for him as a coach, teacher and friend to our boys at ECHS. We pray for God's peace and comfort for his family at this most difficult time. Wayne and Melanie Joyner

Wayne and Melanie Joyner - March 15 at 10:11 PM



“ Sending you lots of love and my deepest condolences on the loss of Slim. I have such fond memories of Slim and your whole family. You will all be in my thoughts. Much love, Marina (Freeman) Epstein

Marina Epstein - March 15 at 07:14 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Jim "Slim" William Simmons.



March 15 at 04:29 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Jim "Slim" William Simmons.



March 15 at 04:28 PM



“ We were so sorry to hear of Jim's (Coach Simmons) passing. I first met Coach Simmons in 1995 when I had the pleasure of coaching one of his former Effingham players, Jimmy Alexander , in the North/South Allstar game. You could tell he had been well coached. While I was coaching at Vidalia it was always great to play Statesboro or come to the Statesboro summer tournament because you knew you were going to see and visit with Coach Simmons. He was a class act and did so much for the game of baseball. He will be missed and we are all better people for knowing and being around him.



Coach Greg James and Mary - March 15 at 03:46 PM



“ Coach Simmons was my history teacher in 9th grade. I played baseball and golf and they were during the same season. I knew I probably wouldn't make the baseball team and I had a chance at golf. I talked to him one day about it and I didn't wanna give up baseball but Coach said to me “how can you best help this schools?” Didn't tell me no, didn't tell me to just play golf, didn't lead me on, he just cared about ECHS and he let me make the decision. I never regretted giving up baseball to play golf. It was just a simple conversation that always stuck with me.

And erase a board up and down instead of side to side so your butt doesn't shake.

Rest In Peace coach.

Philip - March 15 at 03:46 PM



“ Our sincere sympathy and prayers Lisa and family at this difficult time.

Tim & Joyce Hanlon

Tim & Joyce Hanlon - March 15 at 02:41 PM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. Prayers for the whole family in this difficult time.

Rose and Gref DeCoursey - March 15 at 01:51 PM



“ Prayers for your family! Mr Jim was my history teacher in high school at Effingham. He was one of the best

Phoenicia Carter - March 15 at 08:42 PM



“ Coach Simmons you was the best world history teacher I ever had imma miss the goofy side of you in class I love you coac Plzz continue to watch over me love you coach

Iathan - March 14 at 01:45 PM