



John Raymond Simkins

October 1, 1939 - December 27, 2013

John R. Simkins, age 74, of St. George, UT, passed away suddenly Friday, December 27, 2013, while doing what he loved, mountain biking. "Big Johns" heart just could not keep up with his strong body.

He was born October 1, 1939, in Cedar City, Utah to Raymond and Mae Simkins. Growing up in Parowan, Utah with his sister Dorothy (Lynn) Griffin (Dec'd) and three brothers, Kenneth Dean (Becky) Simkins, Gary Evans (Linda) Simkins, and Jody Michael (Kris) Simkins.

He graduated from Parowan High School where he was an exceptional athlete playing football and basketball. John accepted a basketball scholarship to the University of Utah where he graduated with a Masters in Accounting.

While attending the U of U he met his love and best friend, Drusilla "Drue" Jean Dewey Simkins. They married March 17, 1967, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Together they lived in Salt Lake City, Layton, Perry, and St. George, Utah. He had a career as an accountant in the aerospace industry retiring from Thiokol / ATK.

John and Drue have four children, Thomas Raymond (Kristy) Simkins, Cristine Simkins, David Owen (April) Simkins, Daniel Dewey Simkins and three grandchildren, Nicklaus, Savannah and Cole Simkins.

John had an incredible love for life and a passion for playing basketball, riding mountain and road bikes. He was always laughing, joking and spending time with family and friends, as well as traveling with Drue. John was a big man in

size and personality. Big John is loved by many and will be deeply missed. Funeral Services will be held at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, January 2, 2014, at Parowan LDS Chapel, 59 South 100 West, Parowan, Utah. A viewing will be held Thursday morning from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.. Interment will take place at Parowan Cemetery.

Friends and family are invited to share condolences online at www.SereniCareofStGeorge.com. Arrangements are under the direction of Serenity Funeral Home, St. George, UT, 986-2085.

Cemetery Details

Parowan

300 South Canyon Road
Parowan, UT

Previous Events

Viewing

JAN 2. 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM (MT)

Parowan
300 South Canyon Road
Parowan, UT

Service

JAN 2. 1:00 PM (MT)

Parowan
300 South Canyon Road
Parowan, UT

Tribute Wall

MR

“ *when we were kids all us cousins were best friends I was visited by John and Drue and Gary and Linda last year and I really enjoyed it love all Margaret*

Margaret Ramsey - January 04, 2014 at 06:23 PM

LE

“ *Drue and Family, I am so sorry to read of your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers. LeeAnn Barker*

LeeAnn - January 02, 2014 at 12:07 PM

PM

“ *Gary and Linda Simkins, we were sorry to hear of the loss of your brother and our condolences go out to you I I lost my brother two years ago and it is a tough row to hoe. if there is anything we can do , please let us know. Alice and Phil Moon*

phil moon - January 01, 2014 at 07:16 PM

JD

“ *So sorry to hear of your loss.
Janine & Dempsey Dean*

Janine Dean - January 01, 2014 at 05:49 PM

LD

“ Love Jan, Suzi, Dani and Dennis purchased the *Beautiful Dreams* for the family of John Raymond Simkins.



Love Jan, Suzi, Dani and Dennis - January 01, 2014 at 04:11 PM

VR

“ I am Robert Mercer's sister Virginia and I wanted to tell you how sad I was to learn of John's death. He and Gary came to my mother's funeral last May and that was the 1st time I had seen him in many years. It was comforting to get a hug from big John. He was a senior when I was in 7th grade and we all thought he was so funny and of course a great basketball player. May you all find comfort in your memories
Virginia Rasmussen

virginia rasmussen - January 01, 2014 at 10:48 AM

LB

“ Drue, We are so sorry for your loss... It was always so great running into you and John after you had moved to St George. We enjoyed our frequent visits and I was so happy that Mont got to know this side of the family better. He and John had quite a bit in common. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in this time of sorrow. John will be greatly missed but never forgotten. Take Care Mont & Lisa (Evans) Brindley

Lisa Brindley - January 01, 2014 at 01:08 AM

RW

“ Tom, Kristy and Nick, We are so sorry for your loss....John and your families were and are such great neighbors and friends....he will be missed...please let us know if we can assist you in any way...our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in this time of sorrow....Rick and Wendy Woodland

rick woodland - December 31, 2013 at 06:56 PM

SK

“ Dear cousin Drue,
I'm glad we had the pleasure of knowing John. I will always remember his and your visit to Oklahoma; and, our visit to your home in St. George just a couple years ago with Sue and Connie. We had fun talking about old times and growing up. I know you and your children are heart broken over this sudden loss; and, wish we lived closer to be with you during this time. Our love goes out to you and your family. John will be sorely missed by all.

Sam and Shirley Kuhlman

Sam Kuhlman - December 31, 2013 at 05:34 PM

DC

“ "Big John" You will always be remembered for your infectious smile & pleasant attitude towards life. I have been honored to have known you. We played many a basketball game together at the world senior games. I always looked up to you, not only because you were taller, but because you knew how to focus on the things that were important in life. Until we meet again, & we will our prayers go out to Drue & your family

David Cunningham

David Cunningham - December 31, 2013 at 04:15 PM

BN

“ John was a biking companion for about 4-5 years and I always enjoyed his presence. John was always smiling and good natured; usually joking while on the trail. He loved to both road and mountain bike and was particularly skilled on his mountain bike. We took bike trips to the North Rim of Grand Canyon, Gooseberry Mesa, the JEM trail, as well as once or twice a week on the Stucki Springs trail. At the end of each ride John would comment on how much fun the ride was. He will be sorely missed by many. Our thoughts and best wishes to Dru and the family. John will always be in our memory. Bob Nicholson

Bob Nicholson - December 31, 2013 at 03:48 PM

DA

“ Dear Simkins Family--We are saddened with the passing of John. He was a true friend and great neighbor. Memories of playing basketball and coaching little league baseball with John are high on my list as great. John was an excellent example of a husband and father. I'm sure you will miss him deeply. We pray the comfort of the Holy Spirit will be with each of you during this difficult hour. Please know of our love and support and accept our deepest sympathies. Don and Ruth Andrus--neighbors in Perry. Currently on a mission in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Don Andrus - December 31, 2013 at 11:18 AM

IA

“ John touched the lives of many. His humor, quick wit and genuineness was a constant -- in the workplace as well as socially. We well remember the last interface in Stanley with you, Drue, John, and the Ayers'. He left us laughing, which was his trade-mark. Please accept our condolences and know that you are in our prayers as you grieve -- and heal.

Love from Deanna Sue and Ivan Adams.

Ivan Adams - December 31, 2013 at 11:18 AM

PW

“ Dear Drue and Family, We are so sad about John. He was so much fun to be around and we really enjoyed getting reacquainted with him and Drue. We will always cherish our trips to Lake Powell, Parties at Gary and Linda's and dinners at Mesquite. He was a kind and wonderful companion to you Drue and it was an great example of how to treat your family. I know it will be hard but let your friends (including Jer and I) be there for you and love you through the hard times.

*Love to you all,
Penny and Jerry Ward*

Penny Ward - December 31, 2013 at 10:27 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John Raymond Simkins.



December 30, 2013 at 11:56 PM