



James S. Simmens Sr.

May 3, 1958 - February 20, 2014

James Steven Simmens, Sr. age 55, a lifetime resident of Penns Grove passed away suddenly on Thursday February 20, 2014 at his home.

He was employed at Salem Community College.

He was a member of the Penns Grove Elks Lodge #1358 and a graduate of Penns Grove High School

His passion was playing his guitar. He was a member of many bands, and enjoyed family activities.

He will be very sadly missed.

He is survived by his wife Lorraine Simmens (nee Laperriere) of Pennsville, children, James S. Simmens, Jr. of Maryland, Andrea Lady of Pennsylvania, Brandon Simmens of Pennsville and seven grandsons. He is also survived by his brother William R. Simmens, Jr. (Annamarie), sisters Barbara Ann Contreras (Ramon), Ann Gambino (Frank), Melanie Cruz and Jill Reynolds (Don).

He was predeceased by his parents William R. Simmens, Sr. and Barbara K. Simmens (nee Ottinger) and his sister Pamela L. Montana.

A viewing will be held 7 to 8:30 PM Wednesday evening in the Ashcraft Funeral Home, 47 State St., Penns Grove where funeral services will be held 11 AM Thursday. Interment will be in Riverview Cemetery, Penns Grove. www.ashcraftfuneralhomes.com

Cemetery Details

Riverview Cemetery

Pitman St.
Penns Grove, NJ 08069
(856) 299-3366

Previous Events

Viewing

FEB **26**. 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM (ET)

Ashcraft Funeral Homes (PG)
47 State St.
Penns Grove, NJ 08069
(856) 299-3366
ashcraftfuneralhomes@gmail.com
<https://ashcraftfuneralhomes.com>

Funeral Service

FEB **27**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Ashcraft Funeral Homes (PG)
47 State St.
Penns Grove, NJ 08069
(856) 299-3366
ashcraftfuneralhomes@gmail.com
<https://ashcraftfuneralhomes.com>

Tribute Wall

BM

“ Well, Jimmy, since the the time we were young teenagers, I always admired how you could figure out the most difficult thing on a guitar without much of an effort. You really always did have a great ear for music. I also admired your honesty. If something wasn't right or didn't sit right with you, you never had a problem expressing it. I hope that your soul has finally found the peace, which it deserves.
Brian McNevin 3/17/14

Brian McNevin - March 17, 2014 at 07:45 PM

GL

“ To All Family & Friends,
We send our Condolences with Deepest Sympathy... So Sorry for your Loss...

From All of The Lange Family

George & Constance Lange - February 25, 2014 at 12:57 PM

LF

“ Love, Laverne, Michelle, Jeff, Michael & Family.. purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of James S. Simmens Sr..



Love, Laverne, Michelle, Jeff, Michael & Family.. - February 25, 2014 at 10:07 AM

ER

“ What can I say? Jimmie, we met when you came and started jamming with OUR band, The Cartunzz... You became my friend, and then my Brother.. You bailed me out of problems at times, and were just the most honest person I've ever known.. You were a light , and when I had the honor of playing next to you at our gigs, I knew for sure, we were gonna bring it along with Bill and Larry. I don't think there ever was or ever will be the right guitarist for our band,, other than you, because you were the one !!! I miss calling you up, and simply just hearing you say, Hey Man! Pain and simple, not a care in the world, other than how you cared for and loved your friends.. So my Brother, my dearest friend, while your playing in that great gig in the sky, look in on us from time to time, I love you and my heart is broken into a gazillion pieces, and I know you would tell me, suck it up.. And laugh, but I can't, you have been part of all the goodness in my life, and I will cherish all the memories, save me a place on the big stage, peace my friend.. Earl Rains..... Shine on you crazy diamond ! ,, , <https://vimeo.com/82513284>

Earl Rains - February 24, 2014 at 11:40 PM

ER

The video clip is Jimmie and I playing side by side with the band, in the movie, Shake Road.

Earl Rains - February 24, 2014 at 11:41 PM

SW

“ Sincerest condolences to the family, friends and fans of "Mr".
Simmens.

*...But the old guitar, with a lenient grace,
Has cherished a smile for me...
And its features hint ...of a fairer face,
That comes with a memory...
Of a misty, patchouli...haunted place,
And a moonlit night, when we all felt free...*

*Music sweeter than words confess,
Or the minstrel's powers invent...
Thrilled here once, at the light caress,
Of the talented hands that lent...
This excuse for the kiss, that I press,
On a dear old instrument...*

With my deepest condolences,

Stacy White...

Stacy White - February 24, 2014 at 09:08 PM

OM

“ Rest in Peace, Jimmy. Remembering old times when we hung
together. You surely will be missed. My prayers to family !!!

Oscar Maurer - February 24, 2014 at 07:40 PM



“ Jim worked with me at the college and was my right hand man for years. He did everything for me from setting up for events to cleaning up afterward. I certainly never had to worry about any shows in the theatre with his vast knowledge and experience with sound. He gets mad if anyone else wraps my mic cords because they don't do it the way he likes. I feel as though my arm has been cut off. Today was so hard just waiting for him to come down the hall with a smile on his face telling me not to worry everything will get done. He was a great guy and I will miss him more than I can say.

Terri Harrison

Terri Harrison - February 24, 2014 at 06:54 PM




“ I met Jimmy over 32 years ago, through Frank Montana. Frank didn't share Jimmy's phone number with me and a few months later I ran into Jimmy in downtown Penns Grove at Manny's Bar. Jimmy said to "me aren't you that dude me and Frank jammed with". Frank wouldn't give my phone number to Jimmy either. Anyway, we started jamming and Frank came on board with his friend John Costello and we formed Harlot, we went from a fair to decent band to a great band, playing at Matt's Big River Bar, Grendel's Lair opening for Tundra, Dolphin Tavern and many more. True story, we all used to ride in my VW and practice our vocal harmonies with Percy Booker coaching us. We played together on and off over the next 32+ years in different projects, and different lineups of Harlot, with Ed Sharpe, Kim Rigler, Bob Allegger, etc. I learned a lot about music and friendship from Jimmy. Bands come and go, but true friends don't ever go away. I really miss my friend.

Steve Milligan - February 24, 2014 at 04:22 PM

DB

“ Well, guys...there are just so many memories to recall from when we were kids. We had a great group of neighborhood pals to call our best friends. Basketball, kickball, manhunt, tag, swimming, music & dancing to your Dad's band, hanging out in the Bat-Hole, playing army, hanging out in Lorrie's house playing pass-out, spending the nights in Lorrie's parents camper, hanging out on Aunt Mag's porch and just talking for hours, floating in the river on just about anything that would hold us and, of course, making our own rafts! This is what I will remember the most about Jimmy...the fun we all had with him as kids. Ah...those were the old days... the good, innocent times of our lives. Then, unfortunately, as we all know, life made us grow up and drift apart and we saw so much less of each other. I would always yell to him as I saw him walk by and even introduced my grandkids to him so they wouldn't be afraid of him when he walked by. I am glad so many of you came to the last Christmas Dance and allowed me to share some time with Jimmy. That is why I have those parties...so we can get together for a happy reason, not a funeral. You know, I am so very sorry that you have lost him...I love you all.

Debbie Bowman - February 24, 2014 at 02:22 PM

 Rok
Cardoso

“ **TO THE SIMMENS FAMILY.**
I MET JIM AROUND 1976 AS WE BEGAN JAMMING TOGETHER. FROM THE FIRST DAY I MET HIM TIL THE LAST TIME I SAW HIM, WHICH WAS THIS PAST SUMMER, I HAVE NEVER SEEN HIM WITHOUT A SMILE ON HIS FACE. JIMMY WAS A GOOD FRIEND AND A BROTHER MUSICIAN AND I WILL REMEMBER HIM FOR THAT AND THE TIME WE RECORDED IN A STUDIO IN PENNSVILLE. REST IN PEACE JIM!

Rok Cardoso - February 24, 2014 at 12:47 PM