



## Kenneth William Simmons

November 3, 1942 - June 19, 2009

Kenneth Williams Simmons, 66, died Friday, June 19, 2009, at White County Medical Center in Searcy, Arkansas. A hard fought struggle with Mantle Cell Lymphoma, a form of cancer, took the life of this beloved husband/father/grandfather and friend to so many. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. Ken was born November 3, 1942, in Cleveland, Ohio, and moved to Searcy at the beginning of his teen years. Because he always had an intense interest in airplanes and aviation, he took flying lessons, made a solo flight and earned his pilot's license just one week after his 16th birthday. Following the completion of a B.A. degree in Speech from Harding University in 1964, he settled in full time before a microphone at KWCB, Searcy's radio station (now known as KWCK), where he already had spent some time during his college years. In 1965, when the military draft seemed imminent, he opted to enlist with the Air Force, a logical choice since he'd been in the Civil Air Patrol for several years. During basic training at San Antonio, Texas, Ken talked with a Sergeant, explaining his inclination toward radio and his experience in the field, hoping to get an assignment doing what he loved the most. It worked; he was assigned to the Armed Forces Radio and Television Services. The first year and a half was in Peshawar, Pakistan, a rather desolate area near the Khyber Pass. His next tour proved to set the tone for the rest of his life - he was sent to Seville, Spain, for three years where he met Angie, the love of his life, who worked at a local Spanish radio station. They were married in Spain just prior to returning to the states. Upon

completion of his full time military service, he opted to continue in the Air National Guard for 15 more years. Eventually settling back in Searcy, Ken became a familiar voice on KWCK radio, heard throughout central Arkansas for the next 27 years. When technology and law changed the field of radio broadcasting, he returned to his first love by becoming Manager of the Searcy Municipal Airport, a position he held for 10 years. The final two years of his work life was spent in the Administrative Offices of the Catholic Diocese of Little Rock. Ken's life has been a wonderful journey of joy, love and laughter. His extraordinary sense of humor and warm friendship will never be forgotten by those who knew him best.

He is survived by Angie, his loving wife of 40 years, and by his sons Robert and David, his daughter in law Jill, his granddaughters Victoria (Tori) and Haley, his sister Ruth, his sister-in-law Vivia, his brothers in law and sisters in law Jose Maria Vaquero & Maria Luisa Calderon and Justa Vaquero & Jose Castillejo, nieces, nephews, and countless friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Russell and Myrtle Simmons of Searcy, and by his brother Ernie Simmons of Phoenix.

His family wishes to convey their deepest appreciation to Dr. Ryan Koch, to the nurses and personnel at White County Medical Center, and to special friend Dr. Miguel Aguinaga for their extraordinary care and compassion. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the Building Fund of St. James Catholic Church, P. O. Box 172, Searcy, AR 72143-0172.

# Tribute Wall



“ Robert, I was off work yesterday and didn't know about your Dad. I read the article Brenda sent around to everyone and he must have been a fantastic guy (kind of like you). Seriously, I see a lot of the similarities. As I have told you before, I know your Mom is exhausted but she has certainly been there for your Dad. There will definitely be a reward in heaven for her.

I am truly sorry for your loss because I have been there. Until you have been down that road, it's really hard to explain to someone the loss.

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February 10, 2016 at 07:13 PM



“ Dear Ken Simmons family,

I have relocated outside of White County and just learned today about Ken's death. I was deeply saddened and shocked. Ken had the difficult task of putting up with me as his co-anchor of the morning show on TV3 in Searcy. He sometimes poked fun at my rookie mistakes, but he always did it with good humor. I always took it in stride knowing his intent was to mentor and teach me to be a better broadcaster. As a news anchor for KWCK radio, I was always aware that, although I did my best, and as much as I would like to have, there was no way I would ever rise to the level in technique and reputation as that of Ken Simmons. He was a White County broadcasting institution. I know you are heartbroken. I wish you comfort during this difficult time and thank you for sharing Ken with me for a little while.

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February 10, 2016 at 07:13 PM



“ Dear Simmons family,

*Ken worked with me here at the Catholic Diocese. He was a joy and pleasure to be around and always had a smile to give. He spoke frequently and lovingly of his wife Angie. I have been thinking and praying for him and you all these past weeks.*

*Kristy Eanes*

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July 09, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Angie, Robert & David, I just read about the loss of Ken from the Harding Alumni Post. You have my deepest sympathy for your loss. I worked with Ken at KWCK from 1979 to the early 80's. And Robert, if you remember I also had the pleasure of working with you during your internship in the 90's. What a pleasure to have the opportunity to see you and your family grow in love and thoughtfulness. Ken was a wonderful co-worker, much the same as you years later. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.

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July 09, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Angie, I'm still in shock about Ken. I had no idea until just minutes ago. We worked together at the radio station for a few years and even maintained communications long after we both left. I am so sorry for your loss and prayers from my family to yours.

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July 09, 2009 at 12:00 AM



*“ I worked with Ken in the early 80's at KWCK, and have fondly thought about him through the years since then. I learned much about broadcasting and community service from him. I had only a couple of weeks ago told a Sunday School Bible class about the weather radar he helped acquire for the station, and how we were well ahead of other stations.  
He will be missed, greatly. I'll lift you up in prayer to our God, who is full of comfort and compassion.*

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July 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM



*“ I worked with Ken at KWCK from June of 1989 until October of 1991. I heard of his illness shortly before Ken passed away. I was sad to hear that he was gone. My condolences to Ken's family and friends. I last saw Ken a few years ago when I visited Searcy and stopped into a barber shop for a hair cut. He was there, and he told me about managing the airport in Searcy.*

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July 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM



*“ Im so sorry to hear about Ken. My thoughts are with you all. I worked for Ken at the airport after I graduated from Harding and he was a great guy to work for. Always friendly and a jokester, he would always have something funny to say about something. He had a love for the airport and aviation and was a great man. He will be missed.*

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July 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM



*“ You have my deepest sympathy for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.*

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June 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Ken was one of the nicest person's that I have ever met. The whole city of Searcy will miss him. My prayers are with the family.

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June 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ dear angie robert & david i know how it feel,s i loss my mother last year on moday march/3rd/2008  
it hurt me me & my mother were plaining a trip to our nation,s capital washington dc at the time of her death to my late uncle charle,s duff grave in arlington national cemetery to put flower,s on his grave my late uncle charle,s thomas duff was retired from the united state,s airforce & he worked for the faa your prayer,s are with our family at this time of loss had to here jim nabor,s sing the battle hymm of the republic & back in indianpolis

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June 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM