



## Rossi G. Simms

August 25, 1965 - December 16, 2001

Hospital Corpsman First Class Rossie G. Simms, United States Naval Reserve, succumbed to respiratory failure December 16, 2001 at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, WA. Rossi Simms was born in Baltimore, MD, on August 25, 1965 and was baptized at the Central Church of Christ in 1978. A 1983 graduate of Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School. Rossi attended two years at Morgan State University. He enlisted in the United States Navy in June 1985 in the Training and Administration of Reserves (TAR) program. Following graduation from Naval Hospital Corpsmen School in Great Lakes, IL in October 1985, he was assigned to Naval Air Reserve Center, Naval Air Station Miramar, San Diego, CA, where he served as a health services advisor. Other assignments included tours at Naval Reserve Centers in Cumberland, MD, Bremerton, WA. and Bangor, WA. He served on the staff at Naval Reserve Readiness Command Region Five in Ravenna, OH, and as a member of the 4th Marine Division Headquarters and Services Company 4, Combat Engineering Battalion in Baltimore, MD. His final assignment was to Naval Reserve Readiness Command Northwest, Everett WA, where he served as Leading Petty Officer in the Health Services Department. His co-workers remembered him for his infectious smile and dry sense of humor. "It never seemed like he was trying to be funny, but he just had a way of making you laugh," said Hospital Corpsman Third Class Richard Laroche, who worked for Simms at REDCOM Northwest. "He just had a very unique way of imparting his wisdom." Rossi was also an avid bowler who once

bowled a perfect game. He was so adept on the lanes that many of his friends believed he had a future on the professional bowling tour. And although he was serious about the game he loved, he always took the time to help or encourage friends between frames. "He always gave me tips on bowling – from my alignment to my release," said Personnelman Second Class Gerald Hatch. "He definitely made me a better bowler. But more than that, he made me a better person just by being around him." Petty Officer Simms' service was distinguished by three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, four Good Conduct Medals and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal. He is survived by his wife, Gail; father, Frank Layton Simms; brother, Harry Antonio Walker; aunt, Joyce Riddick; uncles, William Riddick, Ronald Grant and Donald Grant; grandfather, Rossi Grant Simms; three nephews, one niece, and a host of friends and other relatives. Rossi is preceded in death by his mother, Shirley Elaine Simms.

# Tribute Wall



“ I was stationed w/Rossi, in Cumberland, MD, I found this article by accident, always wondering what happened to this happy guy, we played B Ball together & after work, a football game on the computer, an upstanding person, I am very saddened by this news. He was one quality individual, he told me he loved the sound of rain on the roof; he was one of the nicest people I ever met, Rossi, I will be looking for you in heaven;God will have heavens gates wide open for you! Gary Jenkins NJ

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**Gary Jenkins** - July 13, 2023 at 02:21 AM



“ Rossi G. Simms

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October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ TO THE FAMILY: "I wish for you... Comfort on difficult days, Smiles when sadness intrudes, Rainbows to follow the clouds, Laughter to kiss your lips, Sunsets to warm your heart Gentle hugs when spirits sag, Beauty for your eyes to see, Confidence for when you doubt, Faith so that you can believe, Courage to know yourself, Patience to accept the truth, And love to complete your life."God Bless you! I asked the Lord to bless you As I prayed for you today To guide you and protect you As you go along your way....His love is always with you His promises are true No matter what the tribulation You know He will see us through So when the road you're traveling on Seems difficult at best Give your problems to the Lord And God will do the rest. We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. --Romans 8:28 God is in our lives. He is at work right now, undoing Satan's destructive messes and leading us to places he wants us to go. This is true in everything we do and everywhere we go. The key is for us to seek his purpose, to live his will. If that is our goal, then we can be sure our God is with us every step of our way.##imported-begin##Zina##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I met Rossi in 1984 and I haven't talked to him in over 4 years but I wish I could have said good bye. We were together for over 12 years and we never separated. The feelings just all came rushing back. I have a picture of him when he was five with his big smile. He was so cute. I'll miss him so much. I know he is enjoying being with his mom in heaven.##imported-begin##Zina Stennett##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I went to Mervo with Rossi, but then met him again through his 1st wife. So over the years I knew how he was doing. It is so ironic, on the day of his death I was asking someone how is he. May God bless his family through these difficult times.##imported-begin##Danielle A. Pollock##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I had received a message a few days ago that one of my friends had passed away. This was very hard for me to understand because I had just seen Rossi weeks before. To say that Rossi was a Good Man, Friend, and Co-worker is to say the least. Rossi was all of that and much more. He had sat down with me many times and had heart to heart conversations, or counseling sessions regarding life and it's situations. His words/advice had always made a difference by the time we were finished. I will never forget the times that Rossi and I shared, never a dull moment around his smiling face. There is no question that Rossi will be missed.##imported-begin##SSgt Barry C. Simpkins##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Dear Family: I have chosen to take this time to correspond and let all of you know that I will miss Rossi very much. Although you don't know me, I can say I feel as if I know some of you quite well. I first met Rossi in the winter of 1999 after being transferred here from Boston. I did not know anyone here and he was the first person I met when I came through the doors to check in. He was such a personable soul and I thought to myself “ Wow, what a cool guy ” I can't tell you that I knew everything about him as we did not hang out a lot. But I knew that if had anything going on that was bigger than I seemed to be able to handle I could always ask Rossi for a few moments and he would hear me out. He never passed judgment and he always gave me food for thought from many things he had picked up along the way in his life. He seemed to know and understand things that I have yet to comprehend and he would seem to be able to see past the immediate moment that was confronting me. My mind is too small to even begin to understand why he has been taken from those of us who admired him and respected him so much. I can only guess that he was need for something bigger in the master plan and that his time and work with us mere mortals here on earth was completed. I know it may not be manly to evoke such feelings, but I miss him already and deeply beyond my own comprehension, I have felt a million emotions wash over me every minute since his passing. My wife and I visited him last night and I don't know how to sort through them and I can't figure out if they are the right ones to have, if its normal to be this mad, upset, astounded, and down right selfish but I am. I am sure that in due time I will figure out how to handle them. I will never forget the man who we all called our DOC. My wife and I are expecting our first child in late February or early March. Rossi was THE FIRST person I told here on the staff and though he did not have and children he talked in earnest with me about becoming a parent and directed my wife and I toward the best medical care facility he could think of. While going to and from Bethesda Naval Hospital I have ran into a few Corpsman who know Doc and they all ask if I know how he is doing. I haven't had the heart to tell them of the recent events, but I promise you I will and I will do so in all

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*honesty with what I know and the dignity he so deserves. I wish I could fix this for all of you but I can't. I can only recall the memories and the times we talked, and the funny things he used to say and do without knowing he was being funny. No one could stay mad at him because his nature and spirit just would not allow you to do so. You could not help but like Rossi his indomitable kindness made him an asset to mankind and he set the standard for all actions humane and otherwise. We have all lost a great man who was many things to all of us. I am proud to say he was my friend and though my tears fall as I write and roll hot down my face. I give him my best respects and the promise of an eternal memory in me. Thank all of you for sharing him with us Marines and with this Great Nation. I have found and submit to you a poem that I think personifies him in every line and his attitude toward life and his understanding of grief through some of his losses. WHEN I AM DEAD PRAY FOR ME A LITTLE. THINK OF ME SOMETIMES BUT NOT TOO MUCH. IT IS NOT GOOD FOR YOU TO ALLOW YOUR THOUGHT TO DWELL ON THE DEAD. THINK OF ME AT A TIME THAT IS PLEASANT TO RECALL, BUT AGAIN NOT TOO LONG. LEAVE ME IN PEACE AS I SHALL LEAVE YOU IN PEACE. WHILE YOU LIVE, LET YOUR THOUGHT BE WITH THE LIVING. Kindest Regards and Best of wishes Alwa*

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *Praise the LORD, I remember Rossi through the Lindsey/Cannon family. My prayers go out to the family and I pray for your perfect peace and comfort. He is going to be missed, but I know he was a man of GOD and that leaves me to believe that I will see him again. GOD will bless you through this time.##imported-begin##Tonya N. Kearney-Brown##imported-end##*

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *The richness of the human experience is in what is handed down from one life to the next –not simple things of mortar and stone, but memories of what one said or felt or did. Live with your good memories, as they will add to your comfort, which comes from knowing that your grief is shared and understood.##imported-begin##The March Family and Staff##imported-end##*

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM