



## Clifford H. Simms

December 12, 1928 - July 9, 2015

Funeral services for Clifford H. Simms, 86, of Rockdale are scheduled for 4:00 p.m. Friday, July 17, 2015 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Rockdale with burial to follow at the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Rockdale. Visitation is 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, July 16th at Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home in Rockdale. Emcee of services is Harold Parsley with speakers Bill Cooke, Christina Cocek Anderson and Elizabeth Capko. Because of Cliff's lifelong love of jazz music, a six-member band will play jazz numbers, specifically selected by Clifford, before and during the service on Friday.

Clifford was born December 12, 1928 in Milam County, Texas to Robert and Vera (Harris) Simms. He graduated from Rockdale High School in 1946. On October 2, 1961 he and Elizabeth "Sis" Pyle were married in Seguin, Texas. They made their home in Rockdale. Cliff worked as a Landman for H.H. Coffield including the enormous project of inventorying all of H.H. Coffield's properties. He was owner and operator of Cliff's Tavern until it sold, had been manager of the American Legion and was an unofficial Milam County Historian. Cliff had an astonishing breadth and love of history, particularly Rockdale and Texas History. In Harold Parsley's words "Clifford was our Google before there was Google." Clifford was a member of the band Kenny Harris and the Dixies, playing the trumpet. He also played "Taps" at funerals for soldiers killed during the war. Fly fishing was a lifetime passion of Cliff's

and you could find him on Cade Lake "tube" fishing, wearing an inner tube along with flippers on his feet fishing for hours. Cliff was a horse lover his entire life. He made countless trips to horse races and auctions all over the country and made lifelong friends all along the way. Cliff was also highly respected for his expertise in knowing thoroughbred bloodlines. Both the City of New Orleans and Cliff were colorful, charming and full of life which would explain why this was his favorite city. He had many fond memories of the Hotel Monteleone and would reminisce about his many stays at the hotel. Cliff was a Benefactor of the Austin Traditional Jazz Society and would make trips to Austin to listen to his beloved music as often as possible. The Round Top Music Festival was also one of Cliff's loves. His upbeat, positive and happy disposition made Cliff a favorite of so many, young and old. But most of all, Cliff lived for all his family and friends.

Cliff passed away Thursday, July 9, 2015 in the Cameron Nursing Center reaching the age of 86. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sis Simms on October 17, 2005; his step daughter, Clara Pauline Reynolds on April 5, 2012; his father, Robert Simms; mother Vera Harris Simms Vanmeter; step father, Elbert B. "E.B." Vanmeter; sister, Doris (Simms) and husband Bernard John Cocek; step brothers, Elbert Vanmeter and Clyde Vanmeter; uncle, Harry Gordon Harris and wife Mildred (Luckey) Harris.

Surviving are two grandchildren, Randy Reynolds of Austin and Tracy Daimler of Houston; two great-grandchildren, Christian Daimler and Jett Daimler of Houston, along with nieces and nephews, Bruce Cocek and wife Sandy of Carrollton, Jan Cocek and husband Lenny Kong of Seattle, Washington, Carol Cocek of Carrollton, Christina Cocek Anderson and husband Richard of Marshall.

Pallbearers are, Kennard Lee Morton, Roy Allen, Ernie Cates, Fred Cates, Morris Kyle, Kevin Leech, Ronnie Caywood and Christian Daimler.

Memorials may be made to Lucy Hill Patterson Memorial Library, 201 Ackerman, Rockdale, Texas 76567.

After the internment, we will gather at Apache Pass.

In honor of Clifford's love of horses and the Kentucky Derby, women may wish to wear a Kentucky Derby-style hat to the service.

# Cemetery Details

## I.O.O.F. Cemetery

850 N. Main St.  
Rockdale, TX 76567

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 16. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Rockdale  
1041 West Highway 79  
Rockdale, TX 76567  
(512) 446-5454  
phillips\_luckey@yahoo.com  
<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

## Service

JUL 17. 4:00 PM (CT)

Knights of Columbus  
655 East Highway 79  
Rockdale, TX 76567

# Tribute Wall

BK

“ We just learned of the passing of Mr. Cliff. He was the one of the kindest, big hearted men I have ever known. He called me so often when he heard of my brother Garlans illness. We shared many a tear together. I know they are now reunited and sharing many more stories. Our heartfelt condolences to his family. May this fine man RIP.

*Betty and Ron Kubesch  
Giddings, Texas*

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**Betty Kubesch** - July 18, 2015 at 03:13 PM