



Phyllis Marie Simmonds

June 13, 1948 - December 27, 2018

“Every person born is subject to the malevolence and suffering of life. All you can do is hold tight those close to you and try to keep moving forward. Life is fragile.” ---Brannon Crawford

Phyllis Simmonds, beloved wife, loving mother, doting grandmother and dedicated educator passed peacefully from this world during the early morning of Thursday, December 27, 2018 at her home in Lincoln. Her nearly eleven year battle against cancer ended the same way that she fought it, on her terms, surrounded by her family and with the prayers, support and love of her friends, students and community.

A service to celebrate her life will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 5, 2019 at the Giddings High School in Giddings. A reception will be held following the service at The Silos on 77 Event Center in Giddings.

“No one is actually dead until the ripples they cause in the world die away...”
Terry Pratchett

Phyllis Marie (Sellers) Simmonds entered this world as a small ripple on June 13, 1948 in Caripito, Venezuela, the daughter of Charles and Jewel “Judy” (Howard) Sellers. She graduated from Waco Midway High School in 1966 and earned her bachelor degree from Southwest Texas State University in 1971.

Following her graduation from college, Phyllis embarked on a 49 year career in education making a difference in the lives of thousands of students through the years by teaching not only English but respect, courage, hope and perseverance. She taught English and took on the role of a coach's wife, in Friedrichsburg, at Lanier High School and Burbank High School in San Antonio, Eagle Pass, Shertz, Bracketville, Uvalde, Rockdale, Tomball and finally spent the last 30 years in Giddings. On June 13, 1968, Phyllis married James Hinton Simmonds at the First Baptist Church in San Marcos, Texas. The two became an inseparable force what many would simply know as Coach and Mrs. Simmonds. Through the years they added to their family, first with the birth of their daughter, Jacquelyn, followed by a son, Rex and finally, their daughter, Cody. When not teaching, Phyllis enjoyed taking care of her flowers and outdoor gardening and attending stock shows. Her greatest love was her family and she had a special place in her heart for her grandkids and loved watching them show at area livestock shows. She was a community supporter being the sponsor for the Giddings Rotary Club's Interact Club at Giddings High School, was instrumental in the creation of the Giddings High School Grad Bash and involved with the Lee County Area Cancer Resource Center where she had been a model for their annual calendar. She was also a member of the Texas State Teachers Association and the Association of Texas Professional Educators. Phyllis may have entered this world as a small ripple, but she left it as a tidal wave that produced ripples in the lives of countless people that are not soon to die away.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Phyllis is survived by her husband of fifty years, Jimmy Simmonds of Lincoln; her three children, Jacquelyn Simmonds of New Braunfels, Rex Simmonds and his wife, Sara of Uvalde and Cody Simmonds Urban & her husband, Russell of Giddings; four grandchildren, Molly Simmonds of Salado and Kylie Morse, Tanner Morse and Jarrett Urban all of Giddings and one brother, Ron

Sellers and his wife, Kim of Roach, Missouri.

In keeping with her lifelong love and commitment to education, Phyllis made the decision to continue to educate students after her death. She chose to donate her body to the Texas A&M College of Medicine Willed Body Program where she will continue to help educate future physicians and medical professionals.

Honorary pallbearers will be Epp Epperson, Howard Hoegemeyer, Millard Locke, Jay Warrick, Tom Wright, Roderick Jackson, Tom Kieschnick, Kyle Kieschnick, Kent Kieschnick and Randy Kauffman.

Rather than sending flowers, the Simmonds family prefers that those desiring to remember Phyllis do so by making memorial contributions to The Mrs. Phyllis Simmonds Memorial Scholarship Fund in care of Round Top State Bank, P.O. Box 180, Giddings, Texas 78942.

"End? No, the journey doesn't end here. Death is just another path, one that we all must take. The grey rain-curtain of this world rolls back, and all turns to silver glass, and then you see it."—J.R.R. Tolkien

Tribute Wall



“ *Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - January 03, 2019 at 05:13 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Life Tributes*



Sherrie Bendele - January 07, 2019 at 09:52 AM

SB

“ *1 file added to the album Life Tributes*



Sherrie Bendele - January 07, 2019 at 09:28 AM

LI

“ Dear Mrs. Simmonds,
All of these years, I have meant to reach out to you, find you and thank you. And then today became the day I found out you already are gone.

You believed in me when it felt like there were very few others. Nominating me for the English award my senior year shaped me in more ways than I could ever imagine. I grew up to get a teaching certificate in English (like you!), start a high school for kids that were just like me, then went on to get a doctorate in English, and now teach kids with dyslexia how to read. The skills you imparted to me have greatly impacted my professional life, but your belief in me gave me the courage to persevere despite all of the many people and events that could have defeated me otherwise.

Thank you for your strength and the incredible love and faith you gave to me and to so many other students. I celebrate the light that is you and strive to pass it on each day. Namaste to you, Mrs. Simmonds...Much, much love, Lisa

Lisa - January 06, 2019 at 12:43 PM

JK

“ Jeff & Judy Keaghey lit a candle in memory of
Phyllis Marie Simmonds



Jeff & Judy Keaghey - January 05, 2019 at 01:40 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Phyllis Marie Simmonds.*



January 05, 2019 at 11:21 AM



“ *Darrell And Sheila Siegmund lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Darrell and Sheila Siegmund - January 04, 2019 at 01:59 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Phyllis Marie Simmonds.*



January 04, 2019 at 01:35 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Phyllis Marie Simmonds.*



January 04, 2019 at 01:07 AM



“ Chris Gersch lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds



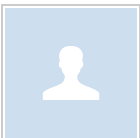
Chris Gersch - January 03, 2019 at 04:43 PM



“ 81 files added to the album Life Tributes



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - January 03, 2019 at 04:05 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Phyllis Marie Simmonds.



January 02, 2019 at 04:00 PM



“ *Danielle Stokinger lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Danielle Stokinger - January 01, 2019 at 10:59 PM

TS

“ *Ms. Simmonds and her family were a big inspiration to the people of brackettville. She and coach come into my life during a time much needed by myself. The life lessons given during this time had a large impact for the rest of my life. Thank you for crossing my path. God has definitely gained a Angel. God bless the Simmons family and belss them during these times.*

Tony Samaniego - January 01, 2019 at 04:05 PM

CH

“ *Christina Handrick lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Christina Handrick - December 31, 2018 at 06:47 PM

VE

“ I had the honor of having Mrs. Simmonds as a teacher, and because of her longstanding dedication, also got to share that honor with my oldest children. I graduated in 1990 and have been a longtime friend of Rex, her only son. In my youth, I thought having this relationship would surely give me an "in" with her in class, for I had heard from those that had her before me she was tough and had high expectations. This proved to be false- no matter how many times I showed up at her house after school with Rex and crew in tow, Mrs. Simmonds continued with business as usual in class the next day. :) Heck, even Rex didn't have an "in"! That no-nonsense approach and passion for teaching is what I admired most about her.

She was and is a class act- and will not soon be forgotten. She handled her battle with cancer in the same way and I'm truly grateful to have known her. God bless the Simmond's family and Mr. Jimmy as they work to heal their hearts. -Veronica Hendrix

Veronica - December 31, 2018 at 05:04 PM

JP

“ Terry and I were in New Braunfels when Phyllis and Jimmy and kids lived there. I remember parties after games where Phyllis always made everyone welcome. I knew her as a strong sweet spirit that definitely was the foundation for her family. Our sympathy and prayers for Jimmy and all her precious family.

Terry and Judy Pittsford

judy & Terry Pittsford - December 31, 2018 at 04:19 PM

PV

“ From my family to yours...many thoughts and prayers. She was a beautiful lady.
Pam Rushing Vance

Pam Vance - December 31, 2018 at 04:12 PM

SM

“ Best teacher hands down! She was sweet, tough, determined and though my class of 2010 was tough as nails, she continued to do her best teaching us while fighting the toughest fight! You'll be missed so much Mrs.Simmonds and my condolences to the family!

Shaday Mathis - December 31, 2018 at 03:27 PM

KT

“ Kyle and Randee Clark New Braunfels, Texas purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Phyllis Marie Simmonds.



Kyle and Randee Clark New Braunfels, Texas - December 31, 2018 at 01:58 PM

JS

“ Janie & I have over 50 years of memories with the Simmonds family. Phyllis was truly a saint. Our thoughts and prayers have been and will continue to be with you.

Jim Streety

JIM STREETY - December 31, 2018 at 01:48 PM

MS

“ *Michelle M Schuetz lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Michelle M Schuetz - December 31, 2018 at 12:12 PM

LW

“ *Phyllis will be missed. Condolences to her family. She was a special lady.*

Linda Ward - December 30, 2018 at 02:31 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Phyllis Marie Simmonds.*



December 28, 2018 at 09:57 PM

SP

“ *Steve and Christi Pitts*



steve pitts - December 28, 2018 at 09:22 PM

JG

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Mrs. Simmonds you will be missed by many not only your family but also your family at school. Mrs. Simmonds touched many people in all her year on this earth. Miss you sweet lady.*



Joan Gersch - December 28, 2018 at 07:18 PM

JT

“ *I had her my senior year and she had us learn and recite Macbeth. Will miss her!!*

Jackie Francis Trammel - December 28, 2018 at 02:19 PM

Shirley
Paschal

“ *My deepest sympathy for your family.*



Shirley Paschal - December 28, 2018 at 10:31 AM

LC

“ *Linda Cook lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Linda Cook - December 28, 2018 at 08:40 AM

TB

“ Teresa A Belyeu purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Phyllis Marie Simmonds.



Teresa A Belyeu - December 28, 2018 at 08:01 AM

SB

“ Shari Boes lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds



Shari Boes - December 28, 2018 at 12:07 AM

MF

“ McEwen Family lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds



McEwen Family - December 27, 2018 at 10:26 PM

ZG

“ Zachary Gersch lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds



Zachary Gersch - December 27, 2018 at 09:40 PM



“ *Kelli Satterfield-Campos lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Kelli Satterfield-Campos - December 27, 2018 at 09:15 PM



“ *Missing a beautiful lady.*



Dana Peschke - December 27, 2018 at 07:59 PM



“ *Androni Esquibel lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Androni Esquibel - December 27, 2018 at 05:55 PM



“ *Amazing lady. Will be missed dearly. 💜*



Donielle Hentschel - December 27, 2018 at 05:05 PM



“ *Kourtnie Alberthal lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Kourtnie Alberthal - December 27, 2018 at 04:11 PM



“ *Shannon Aucoin lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Shannon Aucoin - December 27, 2018 at 04:05 PM



“ *Amazing and Strong woman. Forever in our memories and hearts. She touched so many hearts and lives. She left an amazing legacy.*



Tammy Sue Stephens - December 27, 2018 at 04:02 PM



“ *Laci Ebner lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Laci Ebner - December 27, 2018 at 03:58 PM

DS

“ *Diane & Robert Schmidt lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Diane & Robert Schmidt - December 27, 2018 at 03:21 PM

AP

“ *Amy Arldt Poncik lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Amy Arldt Poncik - December 27, 2018 at 03:17 PM

TA

“ *Mentor, Kyle Field neighbor, and dear friend.*

Terri Armstrong - December 27, 2018 at 03:15 PM

SR

“ *Sherry Rodriguez lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Sherry Rodriguez - December 27, 2018 at 03:14 PM

SR

“ *Sonia Rivera lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Sonia Rivera - December 27, 2018 at 02:59 PM

LH

“ *La Kendra Davis Horton lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



La Kendra Davis Horton - December 27, 2018 at 02:41 PM

BM

“ *Brittney Moore lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Brittney Moore - December 27, 2018 at 01:58 PM

LG

“ *LYNN GUNTER lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



LYNN GUNTER - December 27, 2018 at 01:49 PM



“ *Lillie Luna lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Lillie Luna - December 27, 2018 at 01:35 PM



“ *Lindsey And Abby Lucas lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Lindsey and Abby Lucas - December 27, 2018 at 01:13 PM



“ *Abby Lucas lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Abby Lucas - December 27, 2018 at 01:04 PM



“ *Abby Lucas lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Abby Lucas - December 27, 2018 at 01:01 PM

KR

“ *Kenny & Andrea Ray lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Kenny & Andrea Ray - December 27, 2018 at 12:20 PM

KS

“ *Kathy Stueber lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Kathy Stueber - December 27, 2018 at 12:17 PM

HP

“ *Helen Perez lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Helen Perez - December 27, 2018 at 11:49 AM

CS

“ *Cheri (Garner) Solomon lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Marie Simmonds*



Cheri (Garner) Solomon - December 27, 2018 at 11:36 AM

DB

“ Dale And Lisa Belmont lit a candle in memory
of Phyllis Marie Simmonds



Dale and Lisa Belmont - December 27, 2018 at 11:25 AM