



## Thomas Stanley “Stan” Sims

March 8, 1930 – December 1, 2023

Thomas Stanley Sims, 93, a native of Centreville, Mississippi and a longtime resident of Vestavia Hills, Alabama passed away peacefully on December 1, 2023.

He was preceded in death by his parents Vernon Stanley Sims and Annie Deliska Morgan Sims, his daughter Janet Lynne Sims, first wife Helen Doris Wilkerson Sims, and his second wife Sandra Barnes Sims. He is survived by his brother Robert Eugene Sims of St. Petersburg, FL. Also surviving him are a devoted and loving son, Thomas (Tom) Randall Sims and his wife Carol Cragon Sims, their children Thomas Cragon Sims (Caitlin) of Timnath, CO, and Laura Morgan Sims Gillard (Scott) of Brookhaven, GA, his great grandchildren, Adam and June Gillard and Theo

and Monroe Sims. He is also survived by Sandra’s daughters, Luanne McCoy (Michael) of McAdenville, NC, and Teresa Williamson of Hoover, AL, and their families.

After graduating from Centreville High School in 1948, Stan attended Tulane University receiving a BBA in January 1952. He joined the US Navy in June, entering OCS Class 7 in Newport, RI, was commissioned Ensign USNR October 1952, and in December met his aircraft carrier, the USS Essex (CVA-9), in Yokosuka, Japan. He served on the Essex in the Western Pacific Ocean Operating Area for almost three years during the Korean Action. His responsibilities included Engineering and Underway Deck Officer. He would maintain friendships with Essex junior officers through their group reunions for the rest of his life.

After leaving active duty he attended the University of Mississippi and graduated with a MBA in May of 1956. In June Stan joined the Bell system where he served in several roles in the accounting and tax departments in Jackson, MS, Atlanta, GA, New York, NY, and Birmingham, AL. He retired in May 1991 after a 35-year career.

Stan was most proud of the time he spent serving his country in the US Navy. After active duty, he remained in the US Naval Reserves in a variety of roles in multiple states where he made life-long friends. His last position was serving as the Inspector General for the four state Readiness Command at NAS Millington, TN. He retired as a Captain in 1982 after a 30-year career.

In retirement he and wife Sandra enjoyed travel within the United States and to many foreign countries. They enjoyed multiple trips as part of the Friendship Force. Stan was especially fond

of cruising the Mississippi River. Combining his river cruises with the time he spent working on tugboats during his college summers, Stan traversed the entire navigable Mississippi, Tennessee, and Ohio Rivers. He also loved rail travel and covered the majority of the US passenger rail routes.

He was a lifelong Methodist and a member of Trinity United Methodist Church at the time of his passing. He was a long-time member of Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church Covenant Sunday School class and most recently a member of the Friendship Class at Trinity where he cherished dear friendships. Stan was a strong believer and active in the church throughout his life. He met Doris at a Capital Street Methodist Church social in Jackson, MS, where they were married in 1956. He met Sandra in a singles class at Vestavia Hills United Methodist where they married in 1991.

Stan enjoyed wide-ranging interests and friendships from many walks of life. He was a 30 plus year member of the Vestavia Rotary Club. He loved his family history and genealogy study where he developed relationships with fellow researchers. He especially loved the history of his hometown and Wilkinson County. He was a member of the Society of Colonial Wars. He was introduced to a fascination with trains by his father Vernon. Stan's passion and favorite hobby involved anything related to trains. He loved the smell of a steam engine burning coal and the sound of its whistle. He was a member of several railroad historical societies and model railroad organizations including TCA and LCCA. He and son Tom shared a love of model railroading for over 60 years.

The family sincerely thanks the Your Choice Senior Care caregivers for their loving care which allowed Stan to remain in his home, Dr Brandner, Stan's long-time physician, plus a very special thanks to Dena his VA physical therapist for her constant encouragement and for keeping him working to stay strong until his final weeks.

A service to celebrate Stan's life will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Homewood, AL, on Friday, December 15th. Visitation with the family will start at 10 am with the service in the sanctuary to follow at 11.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial gifts be made to the Janet Lynne Sims Endowed Scholarship at Millsaps College, 1701 N. State St., Jackson, MS 39210 or the charity of your choice. The Janet Lynne Sims scholarship was first awarded in 1978. Since then, more than fifty top academic rising senior students who were pursuing a medical degree have received significant scholarship funds to aid in their education with the goal of advancing health care and addressing curable diseases.

Stan's ashes will be interred in the Sims family burial plot in Centreville, MS's Oaklawn Cemetery at a later date.