



## Jerold Simmons

June 13, 1952 - April 24, 2025

Jerold Simmons, a man who never met a road he didn't like or a Sonny's BBQ joint he wouldn't try, has taken his final journey on April 24, 2025. Born in the sun-kissed City of Fort Lauderdale, FL, on June 13, 1952, Jerold's adventurous spirit led him from the warm beaches of his birthplace to the heart of Ocala, FL, where he completed his life's grand tour.

Jerold was the kind of guy who could strike up a conversation with anyone, anywhere, especially if it was over a plate of Sonny's BBQ. His laugh was infectious, his stories were funnier than the last one he told. His ability to find the joy in every mile made him a friend to all. After graduating from Gainesville High School, he traded his cap and gown for army greens, serving his country with the same dedication he would later apply to every aspect of his life.

Post-service, Jerold shifted gears and drove full-throttle into education, earning his business degree from Santa Fe Community College in 1970. This accomplishment was just one of many pit stops on the highway of his life. Jerold then embarked on a 20-year career as an over-the-road truck driver, a job that was less about hauling goods and more about collecting stories, friendships, and the occasional speeding ticket.

When he wasn't navigating the highways of America, Jerold was a force to be reckoned with in the dojo, where he was known as a bad-ass karate guy. It

wasn't just boards that trembled at his approach; it was also anyone foolish enough to challenge him to a fish-catching contest. Jerold's love for fishing was only matched by his love for a good laugh, and he often combined the two, telling tall tales of "the one that got away" with a twinkle in his eye.

A proud Mason, Jerold's sense of brotherhood extended far beyond the lodge. He was the kind of man who built things: friendships, memories, and a family that was every bit as strong and enduring as the values he lived by. His children, David and Linda Simmons (Ryan), along with his grandchildren, Ashley, Amber, Joshua and Justin, will carry on his legacy of adventurous living and hearty laughter. Jerold's siblings, John (Olga) and Jeff (Judy) Simmons, will miss their brother's larger-than-life presence, as will a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Jerold was preceded in his great journey by his mother, Betty (2003) and father, Dallas (2004) Simmons, brother Jim Simmons. If you had to sum up Jerold Simmons in a few words, you might choose adventurous, friendly, and interesting—but that would be like trying to describe a hurricane as a bit breezy. Jerold was a man who lived life at full throttle, who loved with his whole heart, and who could always be counted on for a good story and a helping hand.

As we bid farewell to Jerold, let us do so with a smile, knowing that wherever he is now, he's probably already found the best fishing spot, and a Sonny's BBQ, and a new audience for his legendary tales.

# Tribute Wall

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“ *Linda J. Simmons lit a candle in memory of Jerold Simmons* ”



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**Linda J. Simmons** - June 12, 2025 at 10:33 AM