



## Henry Harper Simmons

February 26, 1940 - January 16, 2025

1940 - 2025

H. Harper Simmons, Born February 26, 1940, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, H. Harper Simmons passed away on January 16, 2025. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend whose legacy will be cherished by all who had the honor of knowing him.

Harper was born to Edmond H. and Ethel J. Simmons, who instilled in him the values of hard work, integrity, and dedication to family. These principles became the foundation of a life marked by resilience, generosity, and a deep commitment to those he loved.

A standout wrestler at Albuquerque High School, Harper demonstrated determination and discipline from a young age. In 1958, he enlisted in the United States Navy, serving with honor as a Navy corpsman stationed in Rhode Island and Hawaii. A sailor through and through, Harper carried the values of service and camaraderie throughout his life.

After completing his service, Harper returned to Albuquerque, where his life truly flourished. It was there he met Joanie R. McNabb, the love of his life. Together, they built a home filled with love, laughter, and devotion, raising three children: Yvonne, Rodney, and Justin.

Joanie, his cherished wife of 58 years, preceded him in death on March 21, 2021. Harper's love and commitment to her were constants in his life, and their enduring bond inspired their family.

Professionally, Harper was a visionary builder and land developer who made lasting contributions to the Albuquerque and Santa Fe communities. He served as President of the New Mexico Home Builders Association in 1976 and 1977, earning the respect of his peers for his leadership and dedication to excellence. His legacy in the field was cemented with his induction into the NM Home Builders Association Hall of Fame in 1991.

Harper's impact extended far beyond his professional accomplishments. Known for his warmth, generosity, and steadfast loyalty, he left a lasting impression on everyone he met. His infectious smile, stern demeanor, and ability to bring people together were defining traits that endeared him to many.

A lover of the outdoors, Harper found his greatest joys in nature. An avid hunter and fisherman, he cherished every opportunity to immerse himself in the beauty of mountains, rivers, and lakes. Whether casting a line or enjoying the serenity of the wilderness, Harper's connection to nature was a constant source of peace and inspiration. These cherished pursuits became treasured traditions he passed on to his family and friends, fostering a deep appreciation for the outdoors in those he loved.

He is survived by his children, Yvonne, Rodney and Justin, as well as his grandchildren, Gabriel and Evan. Harper's legacy of love, hard work, and community spirit lives on in all who were blessed to know him.

A celebration of Harper and Joanie's lives will be announced at a later time. Harper and Joanie will be buried together at the National Cemetery in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Please sign Henry's online tribute at [www.romerofuneralhom](http://www.romerofuneralhom)

enm.com Romero Funeral Home, 609 N. Main St., Belen, NM.

\*\*\*CAREFULLY PROOF OBITUARY! Once initialed and sent for publication Romero Funeral Home will not be held liable for spelling, punctuation or omissions.

# Tribute Wall

TS

“ *It is with great saddness I read about Harper, the cousin of my father Maxwell Simmons. My father was close to Harper and I came to respect and admire Harper through my father.*

Terry Simmons - March 05, 2025 at 09:31 PM

RS

*Thank you for the thoughtful comments, Terry. My father shared some good times with your father and shared them with the family. They were good cousins for one another.*

Rodney Simmons - March 10, 2025 at 06:22 PM

YS

“ *4 files added to the album Harper Simmons*



Yvonne Simmons - February 03, 2025 at 04:01 PM

JV

“ *Rodney, Rene & I were so fond of your parents. They sure loved their grandsons Gabriel & Evan. You were such a good son to your parents. Love You.*

Joann Villa - January 29, 2025 at 11:23 AM

RO

*Thank you, Joann. I loved the times we all shared together and appreciate the kind words. Much love.*

**Rodney** - January 29, 2025 at 07:26 PM

BE

“ *Dear Yvonne, Rodney and Justin,  
I was so saddened to hear of your dad's passing. I will always be grateful for the opportunities he gave me, from representing Award Homes in the Forest Hills subdivision and Cherry Hills subdivision to working on the gutters and downspouts as a contractor on the homes he built and for recommending me as a loan originator to John Locagnina at CityFed Mortgage. He rewarded Ron Voris and me with a houseboat fishing trip to Lake Meade where he introduced us to Al Grubestic who further gave me opportunities to provide mortgages for the purchasers of the homes being built in Santa Fe. I'll remember your dad for his kindheartedness, his wit and his honesty. Please accept my heartfelt condolences.  
Sincerely,  
Bill Elliott*

**Bill Elliott** - January 24, 2025 at 11:18 PM

RS

*Thank you for the kind words Bill.*

**Rodney Simmons** - January 26, 2025 at 12:27 PM

JS

*My father was always fond of you as well. I remember those days and the many conversations we had. Thank you!*

**justin simmons** - January 26, 2025 at 04:42 PM

YS

*Your path was a journey with our dad. You inspired him as he inspired you. With gratitude, Yvonne*

**Yvonne Simmons** - January 28, 2025 at 08:45 PM

PA

*Dear Rodney, Justin and Mrs. Simmons, sending condolences, I was saddened to hear of your recent loss. I have such fond memories of Mr. Simmons. He was such a joy to work with during the construction of my home. Lots of laughs, excellent guidance and he made what many view as a stressful situation into a pleasant experience. 30 years later his craftsmanship is evident not just in my home but the 3 others on the street.*

*Phillip Andrews*

---

**Phillip Andrews** - February 11, 2025 at 11:15 AM

RS

*Hi Phillip!! I remember your home build and being part of the process. I was in Santa Fe last week and was thinking about your subdivision and if you still resided there. Good to hear you still do!! Hope you're well and still enjoying life and your tie dye apparel.*

---

**Rodney Simmons** - February 18, 2025 at 07:59 AM