

Robert Simkins

SIMKINS, ROBERT I.

Robert Ivey Simkins of Gainesville, Florida died on Monday, February 2, 2009 at his daughter's home, surrounded by family. He was 93. Mr. Simkins was born in Goldsboro, North Carolina on January 5, 1916, to Edgar A. and Alice Ivey Simkins. He graduated from North Carolina State University in 1933 with a master's degree in civil engineering. He then took a position with the ACL Railroad in Wilmington, NC, and practiced his profession with that company and its successor, SCL Railroad, for 2 years, retiring in 1981 as Engineer of Bridges- In February 1941, Mr. Simkins enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a flying cadet and served throughout World War II as a C-47 pilot, flight instructor and Squadron Cmdr. in the three major theatres. He retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserve in 1976 with the rank of Lt. Col.

Mr. Simkins was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Melrose, Florida. He held other memberships as well, including the Air Force Association, Florida Defenders of the Environment, the Nature Conservancy, the Audubon Society, Sons of Confederate Veterans and the American Railway Engineering Association, where he served on the Steel Bridge Committee for 46 years.

Mr. Simkins was preceded in death by his wife Virginia Oliver, Simkins of Wilmington, N.C., and is survived by two daughters, Virginia Taylor Stegall and Alice Ivey Simkins, both of Gainesville; a stepdaughter, Wendy Oliver Tinga of Mountain View, Hawaii; two son-in-laws, Griffin Stegall and Billy Fritzius, Gainesville; three grandchildren, Randall Ivey Taunton, Carah Madison Ashley and Benjamin Griffin Stegall, all of Gainesville; a step-granddaughter, Selena Tinga, of Ithaca, New York and several nieces and nephews.

He loved his family and friends very much. A Memorial Service will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Melrose on Saturday, February 21 at 2:00 pm with full Military Honors and The Rev. Jeffrey A. Mack, Vicar officiating. He will be interred at the Memory Garden, Trinity Episcopal Churchyard, directly after the service. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Trinity Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 361, Melrose, Florida 32666.

Arrangements are under the care of Moring Funeral Home, Melrose, FL.

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