



Simon James Olden

August 22, 1929 - January 13, 2020

Simon James Olden Jr., known as "Sigh" to family and friends, was the first born to the union of the late Simon, Sr. and Mozelle Olden in Sumter, South Carolina.

He is preceded in death, only five months prior by his loving wife of more than 40 years, Phyllis.

He leaves behind to cherish his memory brother Robert, twin siblings Rodney and Rhodes, and is preceded in death by their youngest brother, Phillip.

He nurtured three children in a previous 25-year marriage: Darryl, Pamela and Brian (daughter-in-law, Angela.)

Sigh has five grandchildren: Cedric, Kevin, Brandon, Brianna, and Ella, and eight great-grandchildren: Jacob, twins- Aaliyah and Tatiana, Kevin Jr., Paris, Tiana, Summer and Kai.

He is survived by a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, longtime friends and neighbors.

As an awarded track and field athlete and member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Simon earned his degree from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University and received a Master's degree from New York University.

He taught Auto Mechanics, Industrial Arts, coached high school track and field, was a mentor to many as he served as a school administrator in several states and school districts.

Sigh served in the U.S. Army as a Second Lieutenant during WWII and

received the National Defense Service Medal and Army of Occupation Medal (Germany).

He loved his community and proudly served as a member of the Knights of Columbus and Kiwanis of Leesburg.

He loved his family, enjoyed traveling, collecting clocks, creating DIY projects and sharing his contagious smile, quick wit and sense of humor with everyone he encountered. He truly lived a rich, fulfilled life!

As Dad would say: Life is good! Don't screw it up!

Tribute Wall

EA

“ Just know that even though its been a year since Sigh passed, I think of him and Dick Simmons often since I'm still coaching a high school track/field team. I share with my athletes incidents involving practice sessions or meets in which experiences that we have now are very similar to those I experienced in high school. My athletes today enjoy hearing about my high school experiences, even though it hard for them to imagine that a bald, fat 76 year old man could have done such things. I feel that even though Dick and Sigh are now gone, their absence is not complete as Dick/Sigh live on in my mind and now in the minds of my athletes. May the Good Lord grant you peace of mind and comfort during these difficult times.

Eli Acosta - January 06, 2021 at 10:24 AM

EA

“ My name is Eli Acosta. Sigh was the assistant track/field coach at Brentwood H.S. when I attended Brentwood in the early 1960's. His wife Phyllis(?)was my high school typing teacher. I've tried to connect with Coach Olden several times but to no avail. After graduating from Brentwood H.S. in 1962 I attended Manhattan College and returned to Brentwood to teach science in 1966. I worked at East Junior H.S. for 2 years, 1 year at North Junior before coming to the high school to coach under Richard Simmons, the varsity track/field coach at the high school. I don't know when Coach Olden stopped teaching/coaching at Brentwood H.S. but I do know that it had to be between 1962-1969, the years I attended Manhattan College and started working at the Brentwood School District. Coach Olsen was such an upbeat type of guy and I'm so sad that I was not able to connect with him before his passing. My condolences to his children and family.

Eli Acosta - June 17, 2020 at 02:25 PM

SC

“ I knew Sigh and Phyllis through attending Kiwanis meetings with my dad, a regular feature of my trips back home. Sigh always welcomed me with a big smile and handshake. He and dad often sat together, and offered up "happy dollars" at the meetings for people or events for which they were grateful, a good reminder of our common humanity and an example for all of us. I'll miss him.

Steve Cumbaa - January 25, 2020 at 12:22 PM

SD

“ Dear Family,
On behalf of the Leesburg Noon Kiwanis Club, I extend our sympathy to you. We are so sorry for your loss. Sigh and Phyllis were both very active in our club and were a vital part of all our activities which supported children in our community. They will be greatly missed.
With sympathy,
Shirley Dunne

Shirley Dunne - January 25, 2020 at 09:00 AM

KS

“ I was blessed to know Sigh and his lovely wife Phyllis through the Knights of Columbus at St. Paul's Church. Shared many happy times with them. My deceased husband Paul was also a member of the Knights of Columbus and that is how we came to know him and Phyllis. I was sorry to miss Phyllis' funeral 5 months ago and now Sigh's due to ill health myself, but please know my prayers are with all the family.

Kathleen Skoblicki - January 23, 2020 at 12:34 PM

BN

“ *I live at Pennbrooke, and I knew both Phyllis and Sigh. I was so sad to see that he'd passed. When I'd see him in the mail room or anywhere, he always gave me a big hug and was very kind. I will miss him.*

Barbara Neilson - January 23, 2020 at 09:35 AM