



## Wilbert E. Simon

October 24, 1930 - July 5, 2018

### Wilbert E. "Bill" Simon Obituary

Master Sergeant Wilbert E. "Bill" Simon, United States Air Force Retired, passed away on July 5, 2018, surrounded by his family. The Leesburg, Florida, resident was 87 years old and succumbed after a valiant ten-year battle with prostate cancer.

A native of Pennsylvania, Bill was born on October 24, 1930, in Blakely and grew up in Archbald. Upon graduation from high school, he joined the Air Force. During a sterling 22-year career, he served primarily in the photo interpreter career field, with overseas assignments that included Morocco, Korea, England, Germany, and Thailand. It was during an assignment in London that he met the love of his life, Mary Margaret Springthorpe of Tottenham. They were married in 1953 and had four children.

Upon the conclusion of his Air Force career in 1971, the family settled in Carlisle, PA, where they remained until 1984, when they moved to the Leesburg, FL area. Bill most recently lived in the Lake Port Square community of Leesburg, where he was a popular and much loved resident. As a member of the Lake Port staff wrote in tribute, "Bill is the epitome of dignity, honor, and class."

Master Sergeant Simon was an active member of his community. Among his volunteer activities, he served in the Lake County Honor Guard and the Leesburg Regional Medical Center Auxiliary. He also volunteered in the Lake Port Square Library.

He was preceded in death by his wife Mary, who died in 2012, just months shy of their sixtieth wedding anniversary. He is survived by his sister Louise Ann (Larry) Claflin of Leesburg, FL. his children Linda (Bill) Shirley of Carlisle, PA; Steve (Paula) Simon of Colorado Springs, CO; Laura (Philip) Simon Tantillo of Marina, CA; and David (Lorrie) Simon of Newville, PA; ten grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

His remains, and those of Mary, will be inurned at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, with full military honors. For those who wish, memorial contributions may be made to The Villages Hospice House, 2445 Lane Park Rd, Tavares, FL 32778 (352-742-6819).