



Joyner Sims

June 24, 1943 - July 26, 2017

Joyner Sims, 74, passed away Wednesday, July 26, 2017 in Tallahassee, Florida from unexpected complications following a heart surgery. Joyner was a native of Jackson County Florida. He completed a Master of Science degree at Florida State University in 1966 and began an academic career as a college professor of Organic Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry, and Engineering Physics. He completed a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Chemistry at Louisiana State University while on sabbatical in 1973 and returned to Florida college work with successive assignments at Chipola College as a professor, Management Information System Coordinator, Department Chairman, Registrar and Admissions Officer, and Dean. He later transitioned to a career in public health where his roles included: Director of the Jackson County Health Department, the first Bureau Chief of the Florida Public Health HIV/AIDS Program, Director of the Hillsborough County Health Department, Assistant (Commissioner of Health) Health Officer, and Research Associate Professor at the University of South Florida College of Public Health. Joyner also served as State Public Health Service liaison with military units and personnel in South Dade County following Hurricane Andrew. In 1993 Joyner provided leadership to establish a statewide Tobacco-Free Florida Coalition. In 1997, Joyner began a private-sector career as Associate Director of Public Policy at DuPont Pharmaceuticals Company and Associate Director of Virology Policy at Bristol Myers-Squibb. Joyner's final career was 10 years of service at The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention where he served

as an Education Program Specialist, a Sex Risk Behaviors Specialist, an Acting Branch Chief for Program Development and Services, an Acting Goal Team Leader for Healthy Schools, as a Public Health Advisor, and a Scientific Program Official.

Joyner was passionate about education, chemistry, public health, and his children and grandchildren.

Joyner is survived by his children and grandchildren: Myla Wahlquist and her husband Todd and their three children Evan, Elyse, and Preston Wahlquist; Jinger Deason and her husband Jim and their two children, Karley and Madison Deason; and Joshua and his wife Sara. He is also survived by his sister, Margaret Bell and brother, Robert Alvin "Bobby" Sims.

A graveside service will be held Friday, July 28, 2017, 11:00 AM, EST (10:00 AM CST) at Sims Cemetery in Marianna, Florida. He is preceded in death by his parents, Alvin E. Sims and Elma Brock Sims as well as his sister Jean Sims Carroll, and his twin brother Rayburn Sims.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his name may be made to the Public Health Foundation (www.phf.org or 202-218-4401). Todd Wahlquist with Bevis Funeral Home, (850-385-2193, www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the Sims family with their arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Sims Cemetery

Highway 71
Marianna, FL 32446

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JUL 28. 11:00 AM (CT)

Sims Cemetery
Highway 71
Marianna, FL 32446

Tribute Wall

FP

“ I'm really sorry to learn of Joyner's departure, late as I am reading this now in Feb. 2020. I know I'm late, but I was Joyner's "wingman" during his Hurricane Andrew assignment to Miami Dade County Health Department. Bill Little (Sarasota) was also there at the same time. I was in charge of the ground zero operations logistics and Joyner and I went everywhere together. He was always writing in his famous notebook (old school, composition black and white, you know the type, the ones we old folks went to school with) and talking on his Motorola brick phone (this was 1992), while I drove all over the then unmapped, uncharted, devastated South Florida territory. You had to be a boy scout with a compass to find your way. And I had been. Joyner and I struck a great chemistry together and worked very well. His notebook is full of hundreds, if not almost thousands of contacts, connections, conversations, leads, failures, phone numbers, etc. His notebook is a museum, in other words. We also saw many shysters and cons during the post-Andrew money cornucopia, but Joyner, I, and some of our other public servant colleagues knew how to best serve our community and protect our taxpayers.

I wished to have seen Joyner afterwards, when years later I eventually became Deputy Director for MDCHD, after having been the Chief Administrator for Administration and Finance.

Joyner and I really enjoyed working in the South Florida aftermath of Hurricane Andrew. I believe, to this day, that Joyner Sims was instrumental in the South Dade public health recovery, and is therefore one our Hurricane Andrew Heroes. God Bless.

Fernando Lopez-Evangelio, MHSA, Ph.D. - February 18, 2020 at 03:39 AM

JR

“ Blessings & Prayers to family. Jim & Polly Roberts

Jim Roberts - July 30, 2017 at 04:28 PM

HW

“ Brother Joyner Sims and I first met when I was a green student, in his science class, at Chipola Jr. College in 1969. He was one of the smartest and most humble people I met there. I loved to talk to him(even in his office after class). Years later, when I joined his church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, he still remembered me and my family and his family became very close friends. When he moved away, he always seemed glad to see us upon his return to Marianna. I will truly miss him and always looked up to him. I will be praying for his family and will always be there for them if needed. I love his children and family and especially his brother and sister(Bobby Sims and Margaret Bell) , who have always been close friends of my family. I know that our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ love all of us more than we will ever know and Joyner is now in their arms. I know you all will feel His love too. Love Always-Howard, Nancy and John Wimberly(Marianna, Fla.)

Howard Wimberly - July 27, 2017 at 08:16 PM



“ Joyner was my physics teacher at Chipola in 1980. He was a excellent teacher and had a huge impact in my career choice of engineering. A great man. - David Melvin

David Melvin - July 27, 2017 at 04:59 PM

Lee
Vass

“ *It was my pleasure to have worked with Joyner at DuPont for several years. After DuPont I worked with him as his realtor in selling a home and purchasing another. I never knew a more hard working, brilliant man. He was on the cutting edge of the AIDS/HIV epidemic here in Florida heading up Florida's approach to defeating the epidemic. I am shocked at his passing. He will be greatly missed.*

*Lee Vass
Tallahassee, FL*

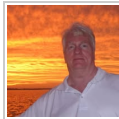
Lee Vass - July 27, 2017 at 02:58 PM

AS

“ *So sorry to hear of the death of Joyner. Thoughts and prayers for the family.*



Aundrea Sellars - July 27, 2017 at 02:33 PM



As one of my mother's favorite chemistry students at MHS and ten years older than me, she loved him like a son and I loved him like a brother. One need only to read that obit to see why he was any teachers' favorite; he was a genius. And he shared that genius with innumerable students and clients, an colleagues like me, throughout his long life. I was crushed when he left Marianna for Tallahassee in the 80s. Missed him then and especially now. Well done, Joyner, thanks for the good times.

Bo McMullian - July 29, 2017 at 03:15 AM

BJ

I met Joyner in 1976 when I became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He was always nice. He will be missed.

Bobbie B Jay - July 29, 2017 at 01:31 PM

MB

I'm so sorry to read of the passing of Joyner today. Know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Mary Wikle Bailey

Mary Wikle Bailey - July 30, 2017 at 01:25 PM