



Joseph Sidney "Joe" Simco

December 19, 1929 - September 26, 2023

Joseph Sidney 'Joe' Simco lived and loved well for almost 94 years. He was born to Thomas Frank and Iva Peters Simco on December 18, 1929, at their home in Mountainburg, Arkansas. He learned to work hard at his family's grocery store, as well as on their farm. As a young boy, he loved hunting and fishing with his older brothers and friends. As he aged, he attended the Presbyterian church where he asked Jesus to become his personal Savior. In school, he became an outstanding basketball and baseball player and served as the FFA President for the Dragons. While his 5 older brothers, sister and father helped with the WWII efforts, Joe and his younger brother helped his mother run their farm by doing chores before and after school and his games, which he said kept him busy enough to stay out of trouble. He said that he was 'smart enough' but his hard work made up the difference to do well in school. After graduating high school, he attended Arkansas Tech to pursue a degree in

agriculture

science. He was drafted into the Army to serve during the Korean war where he

trained and then served as an explosive's specialist in America's first Jungle Training

Camp in Panama. He earned the rank of Corporal just after the 1 st year and was proud

to carry the American flag in every parade or procession. Unfortunately for him, and

everyone around him, his service left him with great hearing loss which could be

frustrating but also provided much laughter for the family over the years. After being

honorably discharged, he accepted a job as an Extension Service agent in Jonesboro.

A little time later, he returned to Russellville to continue working as an agent, which

allowed him to help a lot of farmers AND meet the love of his life on a blind date.

Virginia Poteet and he were married on August 15, 1959, and they moved to Fayetteville so he could pursue his master's degree in veterinary entomology.

They

became life-long NWA residents, members of the Harmon Methodist Church and avid

Razorback fans but he sure hated to see his Hogs not play well or lose a game.

In 1962, they started their family and moved to their own farm in Tontitown where, side

by side, they all worked hard together to raise cattle and laying hens and grow gardens

and concord grapes for Welch's. He was a devoted provider and protector for

his

'Ginna' and their 2 daughters, Donna and Debbie. He helped his girls raise and train

steers to show at the county and state fairs and supported them in their school, church,

and 4-H activities. He made sure that he and his family went to church each week and

learned to serve others. He was blessed to welcome 2 sons by marriage into the

family-Vernon Pianalto in 1980 and Larry Gibson in 1986.

Joe worked for 35 years at the University of Arkansas as a Research Entomologist and

consulted and ran testing for various chemical companies around the country.

After a

full day of work, he would come home and take care of his 105-acre farm and animals,

which brought him both a lot of pleasure and the opportunity to grow his fruits of the

Spirit, especially patience! He saw hard work as fun and strived to do his best on any

job although he tended to rush and make 'messes'. He never put off for tomorrow what

could be done today and had the need to finish a job he started as soon as possible.

He always arrived very early anywhere he went so he could talk with anyone willing to

listen, at least until Donna started driving him to his appointments and then they were

late because he was only on time. He instilled faith in God, American pride,

wisdom,
financial prudence, generosity, kindness, respectfulness, tenaciousness, and
a good
work ethic in his daughters. He lived by the mottos of 'be a good neighbor'
and 'give
more than you take'. He never met a stranger because with just a few
questions, he
could find out an amazing number of commonalities or just leave someone
feeling like
he cared about them and their family.
During their retirement years, he and Virginia enjoyed camping, river fishing
for trout, and
traveling with family and friends around Arkansas and to other states,
especially enjoying
Colorado. They took several bus trips and cruises to finish seeing most of the
United
States, as well as some countries abroad while making new friends and
seeing God's
beautiful creation. They enjoyed being bleacher cheerleaders for their 5
grandchildren,
Jonathon, Anthony and Jeremy Pianalto, and Chase and Jordan Gibson and
he referred
to them all as his '4-layer cake with the icing on the top'! They supported them
with their
presence and encouragement at their school programs and sports-rarely was
a soccer,
football, basketball, baseball, or volleyball game missed and they became
'Papa and
Granny' to many of their friends and teammates. He was proud to pass along
his
knowledge of controlling insects and raising cattle to Vernon, Donna, and his

grandsons

but it was very hard for him to become a silent partner and give up all the work so he

remained as active in the farm operations as his body would allow, obviously doing more

than he should at times but proud of that accomplishment and ignoring his family's wishes

for him to slow down!

Joe was happy to see all his grandchildren marry and he welcomed Sara, Elizabeth, Tera,

Miranda, and Andrew into his growing family. The 'cherries on top of his cake' as he called

them, were his great grands: Emalena, Norah, Elsie, Ian, Addison, and Hayden Pinalto

who visited often and kept him entertained. He always made a point to say 'I love you',

'You look so pretty or handsome', 'I appreciate you', 'I've got the best family', 'I'm proud of

you' and ask, 'Did you have a good crowd at church and what did your preacher talk

about?'. He enjoyed accepting the best hugs from his family as they presented a tattered

hug 'coupon' that could be found hanging on his refrigerator amongst all the treasured

family pictures and special artwork made by the kids and kept over the years. He would

offer some sort of ice cream or cookies and a Hershey's Kiss, and many times slip some

money into their hands just to be a blessing. Then, he probably would have to ask them if

they could help him find his lost TV remote or cellphone or fix the TV that

wasn't working

right or put another log on the fire or turn the heat up to 85 degrees in his house!

He was blessed to be married to Virginia for almost 60 years until her death in 2018. He

then went on to learn new homemaking skills in order to live somewhat independently for

almost 5 more years in his own home. He eventually accepted some extra assistance

from his family and the VA care team. In his last years, he got Bluetooth hearing aids from

the VA and figured out how to get help from Siri on his cellphone so he could spend time

calling to visit with family and friends. When he wasn't napping in his recliner, he was

watching TV to keep up with the game shows, Razorback sports, the stock market, cattle

reports, politics, and current world events. He even figured out YouTube so he could listen

to his western swing and gospel music, watch preachers, and learn new things online. He

was always thinking and figuring and writing lists or notes on little pieces of scrap paper

and he loved to recall memories and tell his old stories until his last day. He encouraged

everyone to have a personal faith in Jesus Christ because that was the only way to be

together in Heaven again. With his concern of this crazy world, he often said that we

needed to be ready to see Jesus' return because surely it would be happening soon.

He had several hospital stays throughout his life that included some serious surgeries,

but he always survived them and did the hard work to rehab and come back stronger

each time, hoping that he wouldn't be a burden or end up as an invalid. He often

wondered why God didn't just take him on to Heaven after Virginia passed but said he

must have needed more 'polishing'. On the hot, sunny afternoon of September 26,

2023, Joe was strong enough to do one of the things he loved most and that was to

ride his 4-wheeler through his pastures to check on his cows and spray for weeds. And

on that day, God saw him as 'shiny' enough' and because of God's mercy and grace,

He called him to his eternal home where Joe got to meet his Lord Jesus face to face

and see his Ginna and many family members and friends again.

The visitation and viewing will be from 10-11am and the Life Celebration service will be

at 11am at the Sisco Chapel in Springdale. The internment service with military honors

will take place at the National Cemetery in Fayetteville at 1:30pm for only family and

close friends due to space. For those unable to attend, the service will be live-streamed and recorded for future viewing on Sisco Funeral's Facebook page.

In lieu of

flowers, please consider donating your time or money to your favorite

Christian

ministry, your church, a charity -or- go visit a veteran or elderly person in memory of

Joe. He will be greatly missed by many until we see him again but meanwhile, we

cherish our memories, let his legacy live on in us and remember what he said often...“love never dies”!

Cemetery Details

Fayetteville National Cemetery

700 Government Ave.
Fayetteville, AR
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/fayetteville.asp>

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Sisco Funeral Chapel
705 W Meadow Ave
Springdale, AR 72764

Funeral Service

OCT 2. 11:00 AM (CT)

Sisco Funeral Chapel
705 W Meadow Ave
Springdale, AR 72764

Tribute Wall

DP

“ *Debbie and Larry. The Obituary was well written. Sounds like he lived with a positive attitude. My prayers are with you and family.*

Diana Phillips - October 03, 2023 at 02:23 PM

DG

Thanks Diana! He was a great dad! My sister is the writer in the family, you probably figured that out. 😊

Debbie Gibson - October 03, 2023 at 04:56 PM

LC

“ *Beautiful service today! I am blessed and honored to have known your sweet Dad. Praying for you all.*

Lisa Culver - October 02, 2023 at 08:03 PM

DG

Thanks Lisa! He loved you guys!

Debbie Gibson - October 03, 2023 at 04:52 PM

DJ

“ *Debbie, Larry and your family, our thoughts and prayers are with you with the loss of your dad. Love Diana and Dorcas*

Dorcas Johnson - October 02, 2023 at 07:26 PM

DG

Thank you!

Debbie Gibson - October 03, 2023 at 04:54 PM

KD

“ *Sending our love & prayers to all of Joe’s family today & always. He was truly one of the sweetest men & we cherished his love & friendship over the years! Peace be with you all - love never dies!!*
Kathy & Paul Davis

Kathy Davis - October 02, 2023 at 10:30 AM

CK

Thinking of your family as you celebrate his life on earth and his going home to be with those who have gone before him and most of all his Lord and Savior.

carolyn kersten - October 02, 2023 at 12:06 PM

DG

Thank you! Couldn't have asked for a better dad! 😊

Debbie Gibson - October 03, 2023 at 05:01 PM

CK

*Donna,
My thoughts and prayers are with you. I think of you often. Take care.*

Carol E Kick - October 04, 2023 at 02:28 PM



Hello Carol- so many good memories of smocking and sewing with you and my Mom and the other seamstresses! If you need any supplies- contact me because sadly I have a lot I haven't used!

Donna Pinalto - October 16, 2023 at 12:41 PM