



Edward Raymond Simmons

October 12, 1949 - April 24, 2026

Edward (Eddie) Raymond Simmons (previously known as Edward R. Clark) of Lansing, IL, peacefully entered into the presence of the Lord on April 24, 2026 at the Illinois Veterans Home at Manteno, at age 76. He was born in Chicago on October 12, 1949 to Edward H. Simmons and Ann (Wise) Simmons. Eddie joined the US Army as Edward R. Clark in April 1970 and served until his honorable discharge in November 1971. He was a Specialist 4 in the Military Assistance Command (MACV) and received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal.

Eddie was employed as a heavy equipment mechanic/service manager, most recently with Christofano Equipment Company of Bridgeview, IL, until he retired in 2019. He enjoyed perusing tools at Home Depot, Lowes, and Menards, and his appreciation for quality tools was embodied in a favorite saying, "Once you buy a tool, it's yours to keep." Eddie was a member of Illinois Salmon Unlimited, the Lansing American Legion Post 697, and a Knight of Columbus. He enjoyed rooting for the Chicago White Sox with his wife Melanie, and they reached the pinnacle of baseball fandom by watching games at all 30 major league ballparks.

Eddie is survived by Melanie Ann Woods-Simmons, his wife of 22 years; son Chris Simmons (Liz) of Elmhurst, IL; daughter Angie Clark of Bemidji, MN; son Mike Wachowski of Cedar Lake, IN; sister-in-law Dolly Bussey of Crown Point, IN; brothers-in-law Arthur Woods Jr. (Sally) and Curtis Woods (Marsha); grandchildren Aiden Derks, Peyton Wachowski, Danielle Geeve, and Aria

Wachowski; nieces and nephews; and a circle of wonderful friends.

Eddie is preceded in death by his parents, son Edward Clark Jr., brother Henry (Hank) Sleeper Bussey Jr., and granddaughter Kaylee Derks.

A private interment service will be held at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL.

A celebration of Eddie's life will be held from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at the Lansing American Legion Post 697, 18255 Grant Street, Lansing, IL.

Memorials may be made to Illinois Veterans Home at Manteno.

Cemetery Details

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 Hoff Road
Elwood, IL 60421

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 5. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Lansing American Legion
18255 Grant St.
Lansing, IL

Tribute Wall

KS

“ *Kathy Sherwood purchased the Heartfelt Comfort Charcuterie Gift Set for the family of Edward Raymond Simmons.*



Kathy Sherwood - April 30 at 01:31 PM

KJ

“ *Eddie will always be remembered by his friends at Cafe Borgia. Glad you're finally resting.*

karen jesso - April 28 at 04:04 PM