



## Ralph H. Sims Jr.

July 26, 1920 - January 22, 2019

Ralph H. Sims, Jr., 98, of Warners passed away on Tuesday. Born in Belle Isle, NY, he graduated Valedictorian from Warners High School in 1938.

Ralph enlisted in the military and served as a lead navigator flying B17 bomber planes with the 8th Air Force Division, based in England during World War II. Although 28 missions were the requirement, Ralph and his crew flew 32 missions, earning them the Distinguished Flying Cross, an Air Medal with 3 clusters and a Presidential Citation signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt. He was also credited with single handedly shooting down 2 enemy planes during the D-Day Operation.

In 1941, Ralph met and married the former Margaret Valerio (also an Army veteran). In 1947, Ralph took a position as a security patrolman with the Carrier Corporation and for the next 35 years, steadily advanced himself to Fire Marshall and Chief of Security. He retired in 1982. Having family roots in Camillus, Warners and the Amboy-Belle Isle areas as far back as 200 years, Ralph took to local history like a moth to a flame. After retirement, he began interviewing long-time residents of the area about their family lives and recollections of the changes and developments throughout the towns. Every Sunday night, he would sit at his kitchen table and write their stories. Many of these stories (approximately 152) were printed under Ralph's byline in the Camillus Advocate from 1994 until 2002. He also went on to publish two

books, "The Sims Legacy" and "The History of Camillus". Ralph's knowledge of the town and its history made him a much requested guest speaker for many local organizations and schools.

It was around this time that he co-founded the present-day Camillus Historical Society. In 1994, the newly formed society and all of its members were declared the official historians of the town. He received the "Citizen of the Year" Awards from both the Camillus Chamber of Commerce and the Camillus Historical Society in 1999-2000. In addition, he received numerous other awards from a variety of local organizations for his tireless dedication to the research and preservation of the true history of Camillus.

He is survived by his wife of 76 years, Margaret Sims of Warners; sons Patrick (Nadia) of Navarre, Florida, Steven of Warners and Michael (Mary) of Syracuse; daughter Kathleen (Konrad) Perlman of Washington, D.C.; six grandchildren; three step grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; sisters Shirley Webster of Long Island and Janet Darrow of Camillus; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Calling hours will be Saturday, January 26th from 10 am to 12 with a memorial service to follow at 12 Noon at the Amboy Belle Isle United Church, 6192 Airport Road, Syracuse. Arrangements by B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home, Camillus.

Contributions may be made to the Amboy Belle Isle United Church or the Camillus Historical Society, 4600 West Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13219.

Please sign his guestbook at [www.BLBUSH.com](http://www.BLBUSH.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **26**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Amboy Belle Isle United Church  
6192 Airport Rd.  
Syracuse, NY 13209  
(315) 484-0250  
mail@amboybelleisleunitedchurch.org  
<https://www.facebook.com/amboybelleunitedchurch/>

## Service

JAN **26**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Amboy Belle Isle United Church  
6192 Airport Rd.  
Syracuse, NY 13209  
(315) 484-0250  
mail@amboybelleisleunitedchurch.org  
<https://www.facebook.com/amboybelleunitedchurch/>

# Tribute Wall



“ 2 files added to the album *Memories Album*



---

**B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home / Monuments** - February 06, 2020 at 08:36 PM

KF

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.*  
*Kate Fitzpatrick*  
*Otisco Town Historian*

---

**Kate Fitzpatrick** - February 07, 2019 at 11:11 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



---

**B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home / Monuments** - February 02, 2019 at 04:25 PM

BC

“ Mike,

*Sending our thoughts out to you and your family along with our remembrance and appreciation for your father's talent, dedication and passion as the historian for our home town of Camillus.*

*Barbara Bush Cooper*

---

**Barbara Cooper** - February 01, 2019 at 02:47 PM

JH

“ *Ralph was a great Historian and I enjoyed working with him from time to time.*

*Jack Horner, Town of Elbridge Historian*

---

**Jack Horner** - January 28, 2019 at 02:35 PM

HG

“ *We want to send out our thoughts and prayers for your family. The Gill Family*

---

**Holly Grobsmith** - January 26, 2019 at 04:39 PM

JS

“ *I knew Ralph my whole life it seems. As a kid in Amboy, as an employee of Carrier Corporation, and as town of Camillus historian. Ralph was a good person, and a great person to know. My father and his family were good friends. Ralph and my uncle Dominic traveled to NYC to see the 1939 World's Fair. Only a short time later they all ended up serving in WWII. God bless him and his family.*

---

**John Salvaterra** - January 26, 2019 at 08:59 AM

ES

“ *Ralph was a good friend of my husband Guy and his brothers, and family. My condolences to Margaret and the Sims family for the loss, of a wonderful person, father, friend.*

-----  
**Emily Salvaterra** - January 26, 2019 at 08:50 AM

DW

“ *Knew of him and relations, great man and historian, our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time of thier loss. Debbie and Butch Weiner.*

-----  
**Debbie Weiner** - January 25, 2019 at 10:17 AM

KS

“ *Kathleen Sims lit a candle in memory of Ralph H. Sims Jr.*



-----  
**Kathleen Sims** - January 24, 2019 at 06:15 PM

LK

“ *Loving daughter Kathleen purchased the Rose Garden Heart for the family of Ralph H. Sims Jr..*



-----  
**Loving daughter Kathleen** - January 24, 2019 at 06:12 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Ralph H. Sims Jr..*



---

January 24, 2019 at 10:41 AM



“ *Our condolences to the family and we have enjoyed and valued the geneology he provided of the family. sincerely, Rod and Nadine Macomber*

---

**N. Macomber** - January 24, 2019 at 10:21 AM



“ *Oh, I am so saddened to hear this news. Mr. Sims was a wealth of knowledge when it came to Camillus and the Erie Canal. He spoke to my fourth grade classes year after year, and every single time he shared his stories, we were intrigued. He made history come alive for my students, sharing so much with us. He became a regular part of our yearly trips to Sims' Store, what a treasure. My condolences to all.....and thank you, Ralph Sims for all that you did for our West Genny kids, you will not be forgotten.*

*Marcia Schwartz  
Retired Stonehenge teacher*

---

**Marcia Schwartz** - January 24, 2019 at 09:52 AM

JB

“ I'm very sorry for your loss, Mike. He was an inspiration to many and his 98 years were truly a life well lived. God Bless you in your grief, I pray you find peace in your family surrounding you and your memories. You were a blessing to him and you can carry that in heart as well. Love, Joanne B DBD

---

**Joanne Balduzzi** - January 24, 2019 at 09:10 AM