



## Mrs. Inez Palmer Simmons

October 11, 1931 - August 25, 2025

Inez Simmons, 1931-2025

Inez Palmer Simmons, 93, passed away peacefully on August 25 in Gainesville, Florida at the Village, surrounded by her loving family.

Mrs. Simmons is survived by her three children, Stephanie (Randy) West, Wayne (Cindy) Simmons, and Palmer (Lee) Simmons, and four grandchildren, Ashley West, Neal (Miranda) West, Amy (Maury) Mizell, and Jimbo (Sarabeth) Simmons, and many loving nieces, nephews, and cousins. Inez was predeceased by her first husband, Lt. Anthony Butler, and her beloved husband of 58 years, James Loris Simmons.

Inez was born in Culpeper, Virginia, in 1931, and was the second daughter of Dr. William Garland and Rosalie Palmer. Her sister, Kitty, favored Rose, and Inez was the spitting image of her father. In an article written about her parents, the author said "if you stuck a cigar in Inez's mouth, you would think Dr. Palmer was back in town!" Inez attended Mary Washington College at the University of Virginia, during which time she met her first husband, Lt. Anthony Butler. They married in June of 1951, but he was killed in a tragic plane crash 9 months after they married. Inez then returned to school, graduating from George Peabody College for Teachers. She taught fourth grade in Arlington, Virginia. In June 1954, Inez was in Daytona, Florida, for vacation and was introduced to Mr. James Loris Simmons, a teacher from Plant City, who was at

a FFA convention. They married in August. Jim and Inez settled in Plant City, where they owned orange groves, taught in Hillsborough public schools, and raised their three children on their farm. Inez taught at both Trapnell and Pinecrest schools, later substituting. Jim and Inez were faithful members of Hopewell Baptist Church, joining in 1956.

Inez was a devotee of orange juice, drinking it at every meal. Inez also loved sharing stories about her early life in Virginia, and her beloved extended family there. She made her children and grandchildren feel like they grew up in Virginia and personally knew their ancestors. Inez was passionate about her beliefs and wrote articles to the newspaper when a phosphate plant was sited for her beloved Hopewell area of plant city.

Inez loved antiques and filled her home with family treasures from Culpeper like a stately grandfather clock, family silver, and velveteen settees. She had several nieces and nephews whom she doted on and loved speaking with on the phone. Her birthday cards and Christmas cards were bright and loving. She ended every conversation with a lilting "Bye-bye!"

A funeral service will be held Thursday, September 4 at 11:00 A.M. at Hopewell Baptist Church Historic Chapel, 6001 South County Road 39, Plant City, where the family will receive friends beginning at 10:00 A.M. Graveside committal to follow at Hopewell Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hopewell Baptist Church at <https://hopewellbaptistfl.org/>. Expressions of condolence at [HopewellFuneral.com](https://HopewellFuneral.com).

"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal; love leaves a memory no one can steal."

# Cemetery Details

## Hopewell Memorial Gardens

6005 County Road 39 South  
Plant City, FL 33567  
(813) 737-3128  
office@hopewellfuneral.com  
<https://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Hopewell Baptist Historic Chapel  
6001 S County Rd 39  
Plant City, FL

## Funeral Service

SEP 4. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Hopewell Baptist Historic Chapel  
6001 S County Rd 39  
Plant City, FL

# Tribute Wall



“ Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Inez Palmer Simmons



Hopewell Funeral Home - September 04, 2025 at 10:43 AM

DK

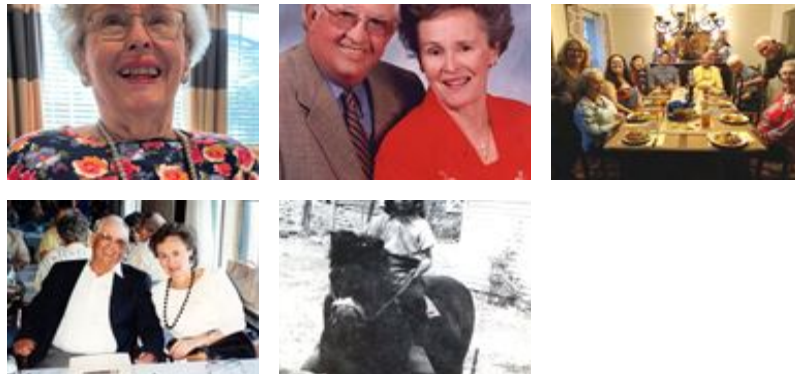
“ Donna Kane purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Inez Palmer Simmons.



Donna Kane - September 02, 2025 at 06:14 PM



“ 44 files added to the album Life Tributes



Hopewell Funeral Home - September 01, 2025 at 12:07 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Inez Palmer Simmons.*



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August 31, 2025 at 12:16 PM



“ *I did Inez hair for a while, she was such a joy to know. We went shopping, had the most fun. Even had dinner with her and her husband. Such a southern lady. Missed her when she moved*

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**Edie Telford** - August 29, 2025 at 03:45 PM



“ *She just a wonderful lady heaven received a wonderful angel my condolences to the family and prayers*

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**Franklin O'Neal** - August 29, 2025 at 02:24 PM