



Leonard Joseph Simutis

February 29, 1944 - January 1, 2026

Leonard Joseph Simutis, born on February 29, 1944, in Chicago, Illinois, passed away peacefully on January 1, 2026. He was the beloved son of the late Leonard Simutis and Zita Kaspar Simutis.

Leonard was married to Nancy Ann Hawkins Simutis for 43 years, raising four wonderful children and creating lasting memories. Leonard studied English at the University of Illinois before earning his Ph.D. in Urban Studies from the University of Minnesota. He dedicated his professional life to higher education, serving as a professor and associate dean at Virginia Tech University, as Dean of the Graduate School at Miami University of Ohio, the executive director of the Ohio Library and Information Network, and as the President of the Eisenhower National Clearinghouse at The Ohio State University. Following his retirement, he and Nancy moved to Summerville, SC.

Len was known for his outgoing, personable nature and quick wit. He loved listening to and attending live music concerts. His inquisitive nature led to a passion for computing and technology, which he remained up to date on throughout his life. He found pleasure in visiting and socializing at restaurants, where he made friends with staff and patrons alike. Len will be remembered for his intellect, humor, and genuine curiosity for the world around him.

He is survived by his loving wife, Nancy Ann Hawkins Simutis; his children:

Nancy Simutis, David Simutis (Michelle), Valerie Phippen (Nathan), and Sara Rossi; his grandchildren: Hunter Phippen, Allison Newell, Blake Rossi, William Phippen, Kristin Newell, and Julianna Rossi; his siblings: Frank Simutis and Zita Simutis; as well as numerous beloved nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Bob Simutis.

A gathering of family and friends will be held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, from 10am to 12pm at James A. Dyal Funeral Home. Inurnment will be held at Mepkin Abbey, 1098 Mepkin Abbey Rd, Moncks Corner, SC 29461, at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation to the Lowcountry Food Bank. <https://lowcountryfoodbank.org/donate/>

Previous Events

Gathering

JAN 7. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

James A. Dyal Funeral Home
303 S. Main Street
Summerville, SC 29483
(843) 873-4040
<https://www.jamesadyal.com>

Tribute Wall



“ James A Dyal Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Leonard Joseph Simutis



James A Dyal Funeral Home - January 06 at 01:34 PM

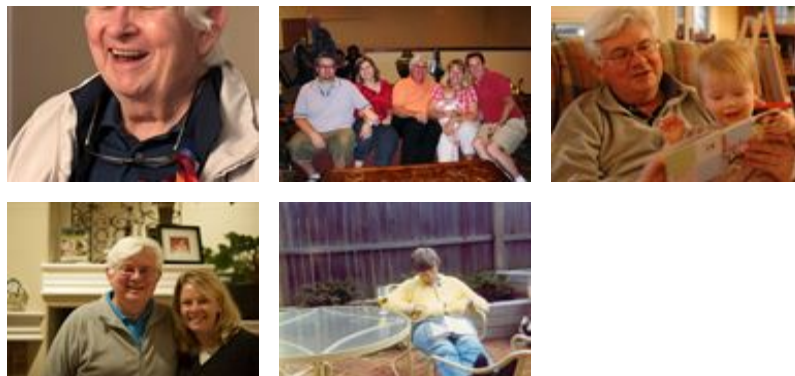


“ My condolences to the family and friends of Leonard Simutis. May God continue to comfort and strengthen the family during this time of bereavement. Continue to focus on the loving and cherished memories Leonard and may they help his family and friends have peace of mind. A comforting promise is stated at Psalm 147:3 "He heals the brokenhearted; He binds up their wounds."

Lisa - January 20 at 07:57 AM



“ 185 files added to the album LifeTributes



James A Dyal Funeral Home - January 06 at 01:20 PM

WC

“ With love Anita Chan purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Leonard Joseph Simutis.



With love Anita Chan - January 06 at 11:41 AM

WC

“ With love Anita Chan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard Joseph Simutis.

With love Anita Chan - January 06 at 11:41 AM

CO

“ Christi Oakley purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Leonard Joseph Simutis.



Christi Oakley - January 06 at 07:18 AM

TF

“ Tracy Faber purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Leonard Joseph Simutis.



Tracy Faber - January 05 at 09:25 PM

CR

“ We knew Len as *The Mayor at 5 Loaves*, where we had brunch just about every Sunday morning. Such a kind & gentle man. Our hearts go out to Nancy. Rest in peace.

Cricket & Cheryl

Cricket - January 05 at 08:04 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage* was purchased for the family of Leonard Joseph Simutis.



January 05 at 06:30 PM

TF

“ The Emmert Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard Joseph Simutis.

The Emmert Family - January 05 at 06:30 PM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses* was purchased for the family of Leonard Joseph Simutis.



January 05 at 05:18 PM

YF

“ Your Breakthru Beverage Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard Joseph Simutis.

Your Breakthru Beverage Family - January 05 at 05:18 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Leonard Joseph Simutis.



January 05 at 03:05 PM

JB

“ Julian and Ann Burzynski planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard Joseph Simutis.

Julian and Ann Burzynski - January 05 at 03:05 PM