



Leland Wallace Sims

July 21, 1920 - January 3, 2010

S I M S

Leland Wallace Sims went home to be with the Lord Sunday, January 3, 2010, at the age of 89. He is preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Joyce Sims. He is survived by his wife of 5 years, Jean Sims, daughters Brenda and husband Jim McDonald, Ginny and husband Raymond Flint. Sister Evelyn Higgins, niece Fran Higgins and nephew Steven Higgins. Grandchildren Nora Valdez and David Sims. Great-grandchildren Niko, Nathan, Aron and Noah Valdez. And many, many friends. Leland was born in Smackover, Arkansas July 21, 1920. On September 9, 1939, Leland enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He was assigned to the 27th Bomb Group. He was a survivor of the Bataan Death March. He then spent three and a half years as a prisoner of war in Japan. He continued to serve his country in the military until 1960. He retired from civil service in 1980. He had been awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. At first, Leland did not speak much about his experiences while he was a prisoner of war. He joined the National and San Antonio Chapters of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. The 27th Bomb Group had yearly reunions. It was through these organizations that he was able to share his experiences with others. It was later that he began writing about his years as a prisoner of war. His book was completed and published in November of 2009. He held no ill-will toward the Japanese. Leland lived a long and fulfilling life. He married Joyce Henry in 1947. Together they had two daughters, two

grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. They finally settled in San Antonio, Texas after his retirement from the Army in 1960. In 2004, Leland called Jean Southwell in Savannah. Leland had met Jean while he was stationed in Savannah in 1940 when she was 14 years old. Her family often fed and visited with the soldiers. Leland and Jean married October 28, 2004. They spent five loving years together laughing and holding hands.

Tribute Wall

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“ Ginny,

Our hearts and prayers are with you and your family. Your father has a remarkable history and is an honored and revered man for the sacrifices that he has made for his family and his country. May he continue to be blessed as he walks hand in h

Dawn Ingram - January 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Ginny,

My sincere condolences to you and your family. Your father is a national hero who made extreme sacrifices for his country. You and your family must be very proud of him. He is at rest and peace; he lived a long and fruitful life. God bless

John Keith - January 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM