



Edith Esther Sims

February 1, 1929 - June 3, 2025

Edith (Edie) Esther Hammond Sims, wife and matriarch to a large, loud, loving brood, passed to eternal life on June 3, 2025.

Born on the eve of the Great Depression, Feb. 1, 1929, in Flint, Michigan, Edie was the fifth of eight children to Earl Warren Hammond and Gabriella Sidonie VanEeckhoutte Hammond.

After high school graduation, she moved with her parents to Oxnard, California, where she worked for the U.S. Navy. She met the love of her life, Billy Gene Sims, at a USO dance in 1951. They were married just three months later, launching a life of adventures that spanned more than six decades. Together they raised six children, eventually extending the family tree to 13 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren and growing an ever-increasing circle of friends.

In the mid-1950s, Edie and Bill became Alaska pioneers, homesteading on 160 acres of land in Kasilof on the Kenai Peninsula. While Bill worked in Anchorage, a pregnant Edie lived for six months on the homestead in an Army tent with two toddler boys. She walked a half mile to the hard road where the car was parked for trips to town for supplies. Later, Bill rejoined the U.S. Army, and the family moved around the U.S. and Germany for two decades that included two tours to Vietnam for Bill, while Edie reared their boisterous brood

and served in officers' wives' functions.

Following retirement Edie and Bill spent 40 years operating Antiques 'n Ole Stuff in Washington, D.C., Chambersburg and Fayetteville, PA, and Brunswick, MD. Edie also owned and operated Sweet Dreams, a home decor shop in Brunswick. She was a founding member of Holy Family Catholic Community in Middletown, MD and served as a greeter and a lector.

Following Billy's death in March 2017, Edie stayed active. In her early 90s she traveled with her daughter, Vanessa, and fellow parishioners on a pilgrimage to Rome. She loved gardening, participating in the Saint Lucy Guild, thrift store treasure hunts, playing (winning) games with her children and friends, and caring for her beloved cat, Mitt.

Survivors include her sister, Anna Allison; her children Billy M. (Gail) Sims, Hagerstown, MD; Marcus A. (Lourdes) Sims, Laurel, MD; Vanessa K. Armstrong, Staunton, VA; Monica Sims Crimmins (John) Hannon, Diana Sims (Keith) Snider and John D. (Theresa) Sims, all of Alexandria, VA; grandchildren Benjamin (Whitney) Narduzzi; Gabriel (Anna) Narduzzi; Emily (Nick) Macedonia; Bess (Chad) Sussman; Nathaniel (Katelyn) Snider; Alexander (Elizabeth) Snider; William Snider; Samuel (Meghan) Snider; Annalisa Sims, Marcella (Brian Rosado) Sims; Johnna Sims; Billy G. Sims II; and Nourah Barden; 20 great-grandchildren; many beloved nieces and nephews, a Belgian cousin, and lifelong and recent friends.

Visitation is 1 p.m. Friday, June 13, 2025, with funeral Mass at 2 p.m. at Saint Louis Catholic Church, 2907 Popkins Lane, Alexandria VA 22306. Burial at Arlington National Cemetery to be announced.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to St. Louis Catholic Church or to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Drive
Arlington, VA 22211

Previous Events

Viewing

JUN 13. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Louis Catholic Church
2907 Popkins Ln
Alexandria, VA 22306
(703) 765-4421

Funeral Mass

JUN 13. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Louis Catholic Church
2907 Popkins Ln
Alexandria, VA 22306
(703) 765-4421

Tribute Wall

GS

“ *Dinah and I had a wonderful friendship with Bill and Edie beginning when we moved to Middletown in 1988. What a lively, loving, generous couple and family. Made a difference in the lives of so many, especially at Holy Family Catholic Community. May she rest in peace.*

George and Dinah Sisson

George Sisson - June 14, 2025 at 02:05 PM

DS

Thank you, George. She spoke fondly of the friendship Mom and Dad share with you and Dinah!

Diana Snider - June 24, 2025 at 06:06 PM

JC

“ *Edie has been a neighbor and friend during the time she has lived in our Hollin Hall neighborhood. I loved visiting with her. We frequently saw each other on walks, sometimes followed by Mitts the cat. My friend and I used to bring the newspaper closer to the door for her during bad weather and were often invited in for a chat. So nice to see her enjoying the morning at the kitchen table. I will miss her joyous smile and welcoming nature. Rest in peace my friend.*



Jennifer Coffey - June 13, 2025 at 01:15 PM

DS

Thank you for your kindness to our mom, Jennifer!

Diana Snider - June 24, 2025 at 06:04 PM

FT

“ *RIP precious edie.*



Frank Titus - June 12, 2025 at 09:35 AM

MO

“ *From Becky*

I have so many wonderful memories of Edie and the family. My favorite is when she recruited me to help her search their farm in path valley (?) for one of their calves that strayed. Always an adventure....

Mark O'Shea - June 10, 2025 at 03:31 AM

DS

Thank you, Becky. So many crazy adventures! Glad you came along for the ride!

Diana Snider - June 24, 2025 at 06:07 PM

MO

“ *My last and lasting memory of Edie was of two old ladies last telephone conversation. I was 94 and Edie eight months older. We reminisced, we laughed, we shared our strong Faith. (no fear of death) and we sang our favorite hymn together. Gentle Women and prayed a decade of the Rosary together. Heather O'Shea*

Mark O'Shea - June 10, 2025 at 03:25 AM

DS

That's such a beautiful memory, Heather! I'm so grateful for the friendship you had with Mom. It changed the trajectory of both our families. ❤️

Diana Snider - June 24, 2025 at 06:09 PM

“ *Edie Memory*

How do you come up with one memory to share when the memories of Edie extends over 50 years. There is a lot to be said about a 50 + year friendship which the Sims and O'Sheas share along with the Evangelista's.

My earliest memories of Edie were when the Sims family moved to Fayetteville Pa..

The Sims and O'Shea's(11 children / young adults combined) included many great stories of how both families arrived in this small Pennsylvania community united by the Corpus Christi Catholic Church.

To this day the outstanding memory has to be summed up by simply asking the question; "did Edie really shoot the charging moose to save her young children (Bill and Mark) while homesteading in Alaska? "

To put this memory in proper perspective imagine the O'Shea family; Gwen, Becky, Mathew, myself, mom and dad along with Edie and Bill and family sitting around the kitchen table (actually a picnic table painted white) at our house on Edgar Ave, starring wide eyed and open mouthed as the Sims stories of homesteading in Alaska and the threat of an hangry moose ready to charge a makeshift tent, home to Edie, and sons Marcus and Billflowed.

We had come up to Pa from Washington DC and had no such frame of reference for any stories remotely related.

Unfortunately, the true details of this remarkable story may have gone with Edie to a place where we are all waiting to join Edie to find out...,however, I'm not sure the true details of this story, that has captured the imagination of the O'She clan for well over 50 years, should or will be revealed here or in heaven.

Oh yes, memories of Edie; always kind, never angry, protective of her children, committed to her husband, kind and loving to her children's friends, (such as me,)and in her own style very, very strong and committed to her beliefs and values.

Thank you Edie for your many many years of friendship, love and support.

Mark O'Shea - June 08, 2025 at 05:56 PM

DS

I'm so pleased that this crazy memory is so vivid in your mind, Mark! What a great time we had swapping tales over so many years. And let it be said - Mom liked to think she shared you with Heather: part O'Shea/part Sims. We love you all.

Diana Snider - June 24, 2025 at 06:13 PM

JK

“ *Condolences to all the loved ones of Edie. She and Bill were cherished members of Holy Family Catholic Community in Middletown. A joyful and loving inspiration to us all. Certainly a life well lived!*

Janet Kopp - June 08, 2025 at 11:48 AM

PC

“ *We have been fortunate to know Edith and her family. Her visit in 1987 and the reunion in 1992 and 2012 was warm and educational. Our condolences to the family who is losing a mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Happy are the people who had the chance to meet her - Family Callens, Pittem; Belgium*



Paul Callens - June 07, 2025 at 02:08 AM

PC

“ 2 files added to the album Edith



Paul Callens - June 07, 2025 at 02:03 AM