



## William J. Simic, Jr.

April 30, 1938 - August 11, 2022

William James Simic, Jr., 84, of Arbor Vitae, WI, went home to rest with his Lord Jesus Christ on Thursday, August 11, 2022. Those who knew Bill were aware of his compassionate, gentle and unassuming spirit. He was a man of faith, serving others throughout his life.

Bill was an avid bridge player, lover of astronomy, and an enthusiast of outdoor activities. In Montana and Wisconsin, his pursuits included tennis, flyfishing, snowshoeing, skiing, hiking, backpacking, and birdwatching. Bill tackled the technical climb of Montana's highest point, successfully summiting Granite Peak. He enjoyed years of biking and sometimes referred to himself as "the original mountain biker."

Bill was born and raised in Nebraska, graduating from high school in 1956. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Nebraska Wesleyan University and a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine in 1964. Following a rotating internship in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, he was a general practitioner in Alma, Nebraska for three years. He then enlisted in the U.S. Public Health Service where he completed two years of service in general medicine at the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Browning, Montana. In 1971 he took specialty training in otolaryngology (ear, nose and throat) at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pennsylvania. He went into private practice in Helena, Montana in 1975 for the next 15 years. Those years also included service at the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center and work as a clinical instructor for the WAMI medical school program at Montana State

University. In 1990 he transferred to Wisconsin for a three-year stint in Superior, then joined the Marshfield Clinic in Minocqua where he remained on staff until retirement in 2006.

Bill's attainment of Eagle Scout rank at the age of 14 embodied his commitment to high ideals. Always dedicated to sharing his time and medical expertise, he sat on the Board of Directors of Shodair Children's Hospital, and he was appointed by the governors of both Montana and Wisconsin to serve on the State Board of Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers. Additionally, he served on the Board of Directors for the Pastime Club and devoted years of committee work with his churches in his different hometowns. He found his work as a hospice volunteer particularly satisfying.

Bill was a lifelong learner. In his later years, he studied astronomy, took writing classes, and opera courses. As a retiree, he bought a cello and taught himself to play. But always modest, he was reluctant to perform with his cello for others.

To stay in good physical condition in his retirement years, Bill built a sledding course on the long, steep hill on his property that he enthusiastically climbed repeatedly throughout the extensive snowy, Wisconsin winters.

Bill and his devoted wife, Barbara celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this year. They had a lasting relationship that began with a blind date in college. Their deep love for each other grew stronger with each passing year. Their social calendar was often filled with bridge clubs, dinner clubs, costume parties, theater outings and trips with their children and grandchildren. Theirs is a true love story with all the ups and downs that create a deep intertwining of souls.

Bill and Barb raised three daughters, all of whom acquired his work ethic, dedicated parenting skills, relationship faithfulness, and sometimes stubborn disposition. His six grandchildren were the pride and joy of Bill's life. He faithfully followed their activities and accomplishments while providing support and guidance. His legacy of a giving spirit, faith in God, passion for outdoor sports, and enthusiasm for life will live on through them.

Having just one sister, Bill considered Margaret a cherished confidant and partner in all things Simic. Her son Paul was the closest thing Bill had to a son. Bill and Paul shared a special bond that included many season ticket trips to University of Nebraska football games to cheer on their beloved Cornhuskers.

Bill is survived by his wife Barbara Simic; sister, Margaret Langdale of Texas; daughters Karrie (Dan) Sherick of Washington; Jennifer Simic (Eyal) More of California; and Cynthia (Peter) Dietz of Minnesota; beloved grandchildren Katelyn, Kyle, Taylor, Hunter, Ryan, Logan; and nephew, Paul.

Preceding him in death were his father, William Simic, Sr. and his mother, Hazel Simic.

A man who worked tirelessly his entire life, has finally earned a rest.

Celebration of Life Service

Friday, August 19, 2022

United Methodist Church of the Pines

415 Chippewa Street

Minocqua, Wisconsin

Visitation: 10:00 a.m.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

Social gathering: Immediately following

In lieu of flowers, gifts for the endowment fund for the United Methodist Church of the Pines, PO BOX 144, Minocqua, WI 54548 are preferred. A charitable gift to this endowment fund would fully embrace the remembrance of Bill's life because it was more than a house of worship for him. It brought him solace, comfort, faith, and grace. The church members and staff fully embraced Bill and Barb during the challenging past couple of years with visits, prayers, love, meals, transportation, and reminders of God's love.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 19. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

United Methodist Church of the Pines  
415 Chippewa Street  
Minocqua, WI 54548

## Memorial Service

AUG 19. 10:30 AM (CT)

United Methodist Church of the Pines  
415 Chippewa Street  
Minocqua, WI 54548

# Tribute Wall

JG

“ *Loved working with Dr. Simic. Always very kind and he had the greatest memories to tell. He will be missed by many.* ”

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**Jeanne Godar** - August 30, 2022 at 12:53 PM

BS

“ *Bill was a great man to work with on the Pastime Board. Kind and considerate, but a thinker of solutions.* ”

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**Barbara Strosahl** - August 19, 2022 at 09:40 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of William J. Simic, Jr..* ”



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August 17, 2022 at 04:53 PM

PB

“ We met Bill and Barb in 2003 at a Marshfield Clinic function. Such a sweet, smart, gentle man. Many New Year’s Eve dinners, many Thanksgiving dinners at a mutual friends house, many Mother’s Day Buffets at the Country Club, and get togethers at friends homes. We even traveled to Mackinac Island together. Bill joined in the climb to the top of the island with the younger set and did just fine. One very cold evening Bill and Barb had invited a group to their home for dinner. Not only was it cold, their furnace had gone out. Bill never missed a beat. He had a fire in the fireplace, made a delicious dinner, and worked with the furnace technician to get the house warm again. A perfect host.



Bill always asked about our children and shared stories of his family too. Bill had only met our daughter once, but made such an impressive, she sent the Simics a Christmas picture of her family. He said to Barb, “Now we are getting cards from people we don’t know!” We had a good laugh about this. Bill could always make you laugh and was able to laugh at himself too. A mutual friend of ours had had surgery and Bill and I were to take turns staying with her. Bill was about to relieve me of my duties and asked where the patient was. We looked all about the house and found said patient in the garden picking flowers. Bill turned to me and laughed! He said I hope I am a better nurse than you!!??  
And of course he was!

Bill and I shared the love of college hockey. He was always for the Duluth Bulldogs and I for the North Dakota Sioux. One night he texted me to ask if there was anything on TV? Just happened ND was in the hockey finals!

Bill was a great man, doctor and friend. Many prayers and much white light as Barb and her family go through this sad time and learn to live without Bill. Hugs to you all.

Peace and Joy,  
Patty and Lloyd Bakken

**Patricia Bakken** - August 17, 2022 at 02:52 PM

GB

“ *A dependable colleague. Always a gentleman.*

**Gary A Bailey** - August 17, 2022 at 09:52 AM

VG

“ *So sorry to hear of Bill's passing. My deepest sympathies to Barb and family. I'll always remember the fun time with Barb & Bill and a group of friends on a Caribbean cruise in the early 2000's. So much fun. Bill was such a kind, sweet man, and devoted to Barb. ~ Vicki Gillett*

**Vicki Gillett** - August 16, 2022 at 02:56 PM

ML

*Rest in peace dear Brother. Margaret*

**Margaret Langdale** - August 18, 2022 at 08:35 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William J. Simic, Jr..*



August 16, 2022 at 12:17 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William J. Simic, Jr..*



August 14, 2022 at 08:16 PM