



Mrs. Susie Bonfini Simko

September 21, 1930 - June 16, 2013

Susie Bonfini Simko died at age 82 on June 16, 2013 in Altamonte Springs, Florida. Born September 21, 1930 in Bellaire, Ohio to Pietro and Giacinta Bonfini, Susie attended Bellaire High School (Class of 1948). After graduation, Susie was employed as a legal secretary. She was married to Andrew Michael "Andy" Simko (also of Bellaire, Ohio) the day after his graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York in 1953.

In the first years of their marriage, Susie accompanied Andy to military posts in Austria, Germany and Italy where she quickly learned the joys and challenges of being an Army wife. Susie and Andy welcomed two daughters during their time in Europe, the first, Debra, born in Austria in 1955 and the second, Andrea, born in Germany in 1956. Returning to the US in 1957, Susie and Andy lived in Ft. Benning, Georgia, Charlottesville, Virginia, Sandia Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico (where their third daughter, Stephanie was born in 1961), Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, Monterey, California, and McLean, Virginia.

They traveled the world together for the Army, enjoyed dancing and entertaining and raising their three children. Susie, an accomplished seamstress, took fashion design courses in Washington, D.C. and also attended George Mason University. Susie also worked at the Institute for Defense Analysis (IDA), a classified government library. After her husband,

Andy, was killed in Vietnam in 1970, Susie devoted her time to raising her three girls. In her later years, Susie worked at the Orlando Naval Training Center Hospital in Orlando, Florida.

Susie was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Andy, her parents Pietro and Giacinta Bonfini, her sisters Josephine Musci, Mary Mills, and Flora Wozniak, her brother Emilio Bonfini and her niece, Cindy Wozniak Hart. Susie is survived by her daughters, Debra Simko Desjardins of Altamonte Springs, Florida, Andrea Simko Ellinor of Tallahassee, Florida and Stephanie Simko Weaver of Orlando, Florida, and grandsons Andrew Simko Ellinor and Spencer Ryan Ellinor both of Gainesville, Florida. She is also survived by seven nieces, Delores Mills Kolakowski, Anita Mills Boyd, Sheila Mills Smith, Diana Wozniak Baldi, Patricia Bonfini Beattie, Paula Bonfini VanFossen and Susan Bonfini Geier and six nephews, Luther J. Mills, III, Michael J. Bonfini, Michael J. Wozniak, Joseph M. Wozniak, Peter J. Musci and Peter A. Bonfini.

A memorial service will be held at 11 am on July 20th at DeGusipe Funeral Home (9001 N Orlando Avenue, Maitland, Florida). Reception to follow from 12:00 Noon - 2:00 p.m. A funeral will be held at a later date at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York where Susie's ashes will be inurned with her husband, Andy.

Memorial donations may be made to the National Military Family Association at <http://www.militaryfamily.org/about-us/> or the Fisher House at <http://www.fisherhouse.org/donate/>. To share memories, photos and condolences, please visit <http://www.degusipefuneralhome.com/obituaries/Susie-Simko>.

Arrangements are entrusted to DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory, 9001 N. Orlando Avenue, Maitland, Florida 32751. (407) 695-CARE(2273).

Previous Events

Service

JUL **20**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Maitland Chapel
9001 N. Orlando Ave
Maitland, FL 32751
(407) 695-2273
todd@degusipe.com
<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com>

Reception

JUL **20**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Maitland Chapel
9001 N. Orlando Ave
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Tribute Wall

HZ

“ My name is Harold Zeitz, and I roomed with Andy at West Nottingham Academy in the school year 1948-49. He was a great influence on me, and I wish I had kept contact with Andy and his family. While this memo is very late coming, my heartfelt love and thanks is with his family.
I can be reached at 267 387 6725 or 215 480 7340 - C.

Harold Zeitz - November 29, 2016 at 05:20 PM

SS

“ Adlai Stevenson wrote of Eleanor Roosevelt: "For she would rather light candles than curse the darkness and her glow had warmed the world."

Truer words could not be expressed in describing Susie.

Her joy of life was only surpassed by her willingness to share it. She was inspirational, very special and will always be remembered and loved.

Stefan & Philip



Stefan Szybel - July 21, 2013 at 10:13 AM

JP

“ Susie's giggles were absolutely contagious, and I remember the first time I met her, lo those many years ago, something was said that set us off, and we couldn't stop! I was never unhappy in Susie's presence. Just being with her lifted my spirits, even when she was on the oxygen tether - and we laughed about that as well. I have a dear friend who wrote to comfort me about our recent loss, but the words she passed on mean as much for Susie as they did for Samantha-- "Those I have loved though now beyond my view, have given form and quality to my being. And their presence is more real to me than their absence..." but oh how I wish Susie was still here!

Jillian Krueger Printz

Jilly Printz - July 19, 2013 at 04:05 PM

RO

“ I'm a friend of Debra's from her time in DC. I was so privilrdged to meet Ms. Susie when she came to visit Debra in the mid 80's. She was such a cheerful and vibrant woman, accepting of all people. It's clear to see the product of such a woman in her children. Debra is such a kind and caring person, and together with her husband Bob, loved and cared for Ms. Susie for many years. I know she is watching down from heaven and is their guardian angel watching over them, and her children and grandchildren.

Rosemarie Onwukwe

Rosemarie - July 17, 2013 at 07:56 PM

DE

“ Susie is one special lady. I miss the weekly visits. I miss our little talks. I miss the advice you gave. I miss hearing about the love you have for your husband and girls. Never a week went by that you would tell me how grateful of a son-in-law, Bob you had and a wonderful daughter, Debra to help you. RIP Susie....I know your husband, Andy met you at heavens gate.

Delpine

Delpine - July 17, 2013 at 04:57 PM

SS

“ My Mom was was a very fun lady when I was young. I remember when she took me with her to work one time in DC, with my black overnight case full of crayons. As I watched her work around this big room full of desks and stacks and shelves full of books. Books and binders everywhere, as far as a child's eye could see. Wow was I impressed. Everyone knew her name and she always smiled at everyone and occasionally she would whisper in my ear – even if you may not like someone you must always smile when you see them. Good Advice. Love you always mom....forever in my heart. ?

Stephanie SimkoWeaver - July 17, 2013 at 02:32 PM

TL

“ I am so glad that Marie (my mother) and Susie became such good friends. My brother, Bobby is a lucky person to have a mother-in law like Susie. I am so sorry for Bob and Debra for their loss. I love you both.

Theresa Lafreniere

Theresa Lafreniere - July 14, 2013 at 11:58 AM

MW

“ Aunt Susie really inspired me in many ways. When I was thinking about moving to Florida, she really encouraged me because "life is short". I've never second guessed my move to Florida because of her support and encouragement. Her smile and laugh will certainly be missed.

Mike Wozniak - July 11, 2013 at 11:20 AM

BD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bob Desjardins - July 11, 2013 at 09:22 AM

Joshua Desjardins

“ I'll never forget coming home from Disney and sharing the events of my day with her. She always loved hearing my stories and was an excellent listener. She will be missed, but never forgotten... :)

Joshua Desjardins - July 10, 2013 at 04:06 PM

DD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Debra Desjardins - July 09, 2013 at 05:19 PM



“ *Multicolor Bright Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Susie Bonfini Simko.*



July 09, 2013 at 12:57 PM



“ *Susie was a tough ole bird. Susie and I worked together at the Naval Hospital. We enjoyed our lunches together and shared stories of our families. I remember her for her love of shoes and Liz clothes. She is the last of my Naval Hospital family. I will miss her and she will be remembered forever! Our deepest sympathy to her children and family.*

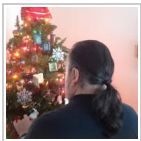
*In remembrance,
The Walsh Family*

Helen & Hank Walsh - July 08, 2013 at 11:05 AM



“ *Susie was a tough ole bird - she had a trying last three months - we shall miss her, I will remember her for her love of shoes and Liz clothes. Our deepest sympathy to her family.*

Helen & Hank Walsh - July 08, 2013 at 10:51 AM



“ *I enjoyed my time and visit with Susie, Bob and Deb in December 2009. It was a great chance to get to know Susie more personally and have a laugh or two. I thought she was very nice and will remember her walking and laughing. Thanks for that memory!*

Richard Desjardins - July 07, 2013 at 06:06 PM

BD

“ *I was lucky to be Susie's son-in-law. We shared a love for chocolate, eating with little forks and Debra. I will miss her. Rest in peace, beautiful spirit. Breathe easy.*

Bob Desjardins - June 30, 2013 at 11:31 AM