



John Derrel Simar

March 24, 1939 - April 2, 2026

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, April 10, 2026, at 10:00 AM in St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Iota, LA, for Mr. John Derrel Simar. A Visitation will open in the church at 9:15 AM. A Rosary will begin at 9:30 AM. Father Andrew Killeen will officiate his services. Inurnment will immediately follow in the St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery of Iota, LA.

John Derrel Simar, a man of deep roots in the Bluff area of Evangeline, Louisiana, passed away on April 2, 2026, at the age of 87. At the time of his passing, he was a resident of the Southwest Louisiana Veterans Home, where he spent the final years of his life with the same resilient spirit that defined his nearly nine decades.

Born on March 24, 1939, to John Moses Simar and Mary Reed, Derrel—known to many as “Manny”—was a proud graduate of Egan High School, and the last “high school” graduating class from Egan High. He attended the University of Southwestern Louisiana briefly before entering the oilfield to support his family. For the majority of his life, he worked in the essential, rugged world of the Louisiana oilfields. A man known for his tireless work ethic, he worked his way up from a roustabout to a drilling consultant before his retirement.

He lived a life of adventure, and that spirit is probably what drove him to the

United States Army and the 82nd Airborne, to volunteering as an auxiliary and eventually being sworn in as a deputy, and ultimately to build his famed monolithic dome home. It was the same reason he and his family spent two years in Venezuela and moved all over South Louisiana—Slidell, Metairie, Lafayette—until they ultimately landed in Iota, LA.

It seemed he always longed to be near his family and the land of his childhood. John was a man who appreciated the simple things, like the tradition of squirrel hunting with his brothers on opening day.

He is survived by Estelle Simar; his brother, David H. Simar and wife Carolyn; and his three children, Dean Simar and his wife Lizzie of Iota, Latayne Pousson of Iota, and Billy Simar and wife Blythe of Manhattan, Kansas; his twelve grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, John Moses Simar and Mary Reed Simar, and his brother, James D. “Donnie” Simar.

Having the honor of Urn Bearer will be John Dean Simar, who will carry John to his final place of rest.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the Southwest Louisiana Veterans Home, especially the staff of Unit One, as well as the hospice workers for their care and compassion for Mr. John Simar.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Acadia Parish Sheriff’s Department, the St. Joseph’s Catholic Church of Iota, LA, and the Southwest Louisiana Veterans Recreation and Welfare.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home JENNINGS, 511 N. Cutting Avenue, Jennings, LA 70546.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph's Cemetery/ Iota, LA

449 St. Joseph's Ave.
Iota, LA

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 10. 9:15 AM (CT)

St. Joseph' Catholic Church
604 St. Joseph Ave.
Iota, LA

Rosary

APR 10. 9:30 AM (CT)

St. Joseph' Catholic Church
604 St. Joseph Ave.
Iota, LA

Memorial Mass

APR 10. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph' Catholic Church
604 St. Joseph Ave.
Iota, LA

Inurnment

APR **10**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph's Cemetery/ Iota, LA
449 St. Joseph's Ave.
Iota, LA

Tribute Wall



“ 28 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Matthews Funeral Home - April 09 at 11:00 AM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of John Derrel Simar.



April 08 at 01:02 PM



“ RIP Mr. Manny
He was such a sweet man, he would visit us at HEBERTS Towing him & Donnie we rode bikes together so many good memories..
Kenneth & Peggy Hebert 🙏🙏



Peggy & Kenneth - April 06 at 05:21 PM