



## Nathan Sims

March 23, 1941 - April 12, 2018

Henry Nathan Sims, Sr., 77, of Mooresville, NC, passed away on Thursday, April 12, 2018

at his home. Born in Wilsonville, AL, he was the son of the late Rufus Brooks Sims, Sr. and Louise H. Sims. He attended Benjamin Russell High School in Alexander City, Alabama, where he met his soulmate, Charline Kirk and they were married on April 23, 1960.

Nathan proudly served in the United States Air Force from January 9, 1961 to January 8, 1965 as a B-47 crew chief in the Strategic Air Command in Salina, Kansas. Many of his greatest attributes such as loyalty, ingenuity, duty, workmanship and family were honed during those early years. Following his discharge, Nathan worked as a construction superintendent with his father at Goodrich Corporation setting him on his career path in construction that spanned 30 years. As a construction specialist, Nathan built regional malls nationwide and was made a partner of The MaceRich Company in 1980 and Senior Vice President, Director of Construction in 1983. In 1987, Nathan relocated his construction office and family from Pensacola, Florida to Ventura, California. Ironically, Nathan relocated his construction office and family back to Pensacola, Florida in 1994 as he was planning his semi-retirement.

Downtime for Nathan was not idle time. He loved hot rods and fast boats. In the late 70's, at Five Flags Speedway in Pensacola, Florida, Nathan formed a fast friendship with then outlaw Bobby Allison, a small-time racer from Hueytown, Alabama working his way into NASCAR. With his younger brother, Jesse T. Sims, Nathan formed Sims Bros. Racing and was the first to sponsor Bobby's protégé – Davey Allison. Nathan and several others partnered together to form Bobby Allison Motorsports and built the first "Garage Mahal" down the street from Charlotte Motor Speedway in Harrisburg, North Carolina.

When Dale Earnhardt decided to form a Winston Cup team, he knew the only person to build his building was Nathan Sims. Therefore, he made Nathan VP, Director of Construction at Dale Earnhardt, Inc. and construction began. Nathan completed Winston Cup I building in 1998 and the Winston Cup II building, for a second team and driver, Dale Earnhardt, Jr. in 2000. The tragic loss of Dale Earnhardt was career ending for Nathan. He withdrew from construction and spent the remainder of his life working on his boats, hot rods and trailers.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by brothers, Jesse T. Sims and Rufus B. Sims, Jr. In addition to his wife, Mr. Sims is survived by his three children, Cindy Sims, Butch Sims and Karen Sims Doersam (Bill) of Mooresville; sister, Sandra Hill (Larry) of Wetumpka, Alabama and grandson, William Doersam, III (Majesta) of Mooresville.

Visitation for family and friends will be on Tuesday, April 17 from 4:00-7:00 PM at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home. Services will be on Wednesday, April 18 at 11:00 AM in the Chapel of Cavin-Cook Funeral Home. The body will lie in state from 10:00-10:30 AM. Burial will be at 2:00 PM in Glenwood Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to American Diabetes Association, 1300 Baxter St.,

Suite 150, Charlotte, NC 28204.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home and Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Sims family.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.cavin-cook.com](http://www.cavin-cook.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Nathan Sims*

February 14, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ *Nathan Sims*

February 14, 2021 at 11:04 AM



“ *Nathan Sims*

February 14, 2021 at 11:03 AM



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*Elizabeth R.*

April 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *I was just thinking about Nathan this weekend while at an exotic car show. They only had a couple of hot rods but it made me think what if Nathan were here, I'd enjoy talking with him again and reminisce as his depth of knowledge and enjoyment of cars, boats and construction. He taught me a lot during the design and construction of DEI and others. He loved his family deeply and I'm happy to have known him as a boss and friend. Peace and love to his family Charline, Cindy, Butch and Karen and friends.*

**Mark Johnson** - April 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ I met Nathan in 1965 in Topeka when he built the Arlan's Dept. store building which was the start of my career with Macerich. Nathan and I worked together for over 40 years! To say he was a great builder is an understatement. He was always on time and on budget! My thoughts and prayers are with his family!

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**Dana Anderson** - April 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ My thoughts and prayers are with all of you now and always. God's speed...

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**Jackie Jedrzejek** - April 15, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Thinking of all of you at this sad time. Take comfort in the knowledge that Nathan is at peace and that he had a full and interesting life.

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**Melanie Sims** - April 15, 2018 at 12:00 AM