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Humphrey B. Simson '47

Info@obituarydata.com <Info@obituarydata.com>  
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Humphrey Simson '47

Obituary / Death Notice  
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<b>Name</b>	<b>Residence</b>	
Humphrey B. Simson	Stuart, FL	
<b>Age</b>	<b>Approx. Date of Birth</b>	<b>Approx. Date of Death:</b>
93	7/7/1924	4/3/2018
<b>Notice</b>		

Humphrey Barrett Simson, a long-time resident of Mariner Sands in Stuart, FL, passed away peacefully after 93 years on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 surrounded by his wife, Rosalie (Posie) Van Zandt Simson and family. Born, July 7, 1924, The third son of George and Edith Simson, Humphrey was raised in Summit, NJ. Shortly after graduating from The Governor's Academy, Byfield, MA, he joined the Navy. During and after World War II, he served on the escort carrier USS Marcus Island, on Kwajalein, Eniwetok and Johnston Island before being discharged as an Ensign in 1946. He then returned to finish his studies and graduated from Williams College, Williamstown, MA in 1947. While there, he was a member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. During his senior year, he met the love of his life on a blind date, Rosalie Van Zandt. This year, they would have celebrated their 70th year of marriage. After graduation, he eventually settled at Babcock and Wilcox, primarily out of the New York sales office, selling forged pipe and specialty steel. In time, he left to pursue several entrepreneurial opportunities in real estate, coffee, textiles and other ventures. When Humphrey met Rosalie, they both enjoyed day sailing on Long Island Sound. However it wasn't long before Humphrey was looking for more adventure in his sailing. He started with weekend races and ended up racing to Bermuda more than 20 times and sailing back north another 20 times. He captained his sailboats across the Atlantic from West to East three times arriving in Denmark, Ireland and Spain. He also did one crossing from East to West going from Spain back to Connecticut. He was an accomplished navigator with a sextant, prior to the advent of GPS or the widespread use of radar on recreational sailboats. He is a long time member of the New York Yacht Club and the Cruising Club of America and a past member of the Pequot and Royal Bermuda Yacht Clubs. In addition to sailing he loved flying. While he wanted to join the Army Air Corps in World War II, a miscommunication delayed his learning to fly until later in life. Over time he became a proficient pilot earning numerous licenses including multiengine, instrument, air transport and sea plane. Later in life he and Rosalie became avid golfers so they greatly enjoyed being resident members of Mariner Sands Country Club in Stuart, FL for almost 30 years. Prior to residing full time in Florida, they lived in Weston, CT over 40 years and then spent summers for a number of years in Portsmouth, RI. He was known for loving and being supportive of his family along with his good humor. Humphrey is survived by his wife of almost 70 years, Rosalie Simson, his three daughters, Dr. Deborah Nicholson and her husband, James, of St. Louis Park, MN, Ann Watkins and her husband, John, of Fairfield CT and Nancy Simson and her wife, Natalie, of Salt Lake City, UT. He is also survived by his son G. Barrett Simson and his wife, Rose, of Glastonbury CT. In addition to his four children he is survived by seven grandchildren, Michael (Molly) Nicholson, Brian (Stephanie) Nicholson, John, Thomas (Jennifer) and David Watkins, Elizabeth and Heather Simson and two step grandchildren, Robert (Kerry) and Vanessa Brewster. He is also survived by three great grandchildren, Claire, Beckham and Cameran and four step great grandchildren, Ian, Jack, Laney and Ramona. He was preceded in death by his two brothers, William M. and George M. Simson, and his granddaughter, Megan Van Zandt Nicholson. He will be missed by his numerous nieces and nephews. The family would especially like to thank those who helped make his final months comfortable. In lieu of flowers, Memorial Donations in loving memory of Humphrey can be made to the Mariner Sands Chapel Memorial Garden at 6500 Congressional Way, Stuart, FL 34997, the Treasure Coast Hospice Foundation at 1201 SE Indian Street, Stuart, FL 34997-5688, or The Governor's Academy at 1 Elm Street, Byfield, MA 01922. A memorial service will be held at the Mariner Sands Chapel on April 21st at 10:00 AM with full U.S. Navy Honors. Funeral Arrangements have been entrusted in the care of Martin Funeral Home & Crematory, Stuart Chapel, 961 S. Kanner Highway, Stuart, FL 34997.