

FIERCE, HONEST AND WISE
Martin “Marty” Simons (ACAS 1971)
1942-2018

Philadelphia-born Marty Simons, son of the late Hilda and Harry Simons, passed away at age 76 in Columbia, South Carolina. He was a graduate of Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, and served in the U.S. Air Force from 1959 to 1963. He got his start in the insurance business in 1967 and worked in actuarial, financial, marketing and branch management positions with the insurance industry before becoming a public consulting actuary, providing services to regulators, legislators, state agencies and consumers throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Simons was the deputy director and chief actuary for the South Carolina Department of Insurance (1985-1997) and was the P&C actuary for the Hawaii Insurance Division for 27 years. He provided expert testimony on all lines of P&C insurance, including catastrophe (earthquake, hurricane, sinkhole) and rate of return on equity analyses, and has testified on behalf of several insurance companies as well as the Massachusetts FAIR Plan, the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund, the California Earthquake Authority and ABC's *Nightline*. Other consulting clients include Consumer Advocates, Second Injury Funds and Florida State University (sinkhole insurance study).

His work in the actuarial community includes serving on the Actuarial Standards Board's General Committee, the American Academy of Actuaries Extreme Events Committee and numerous NAIC committees. He is the author of several articles and papers on ratemaking, regulation, catastrophe modeling and insurance company profitability. Simons was a Fellow of the Conference of Consulting Actuaries.

Beginning in 1997, Simons was the lead actuary on the Professional Team of the Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology. He also became the senior member on the Advisory Committee to the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund, which was founded following Hurricane Iniki in 1992. Simons served the Fund throughout its existence and was involved in approving the industry filing to take back the hurricane risk.

Simons joined the CAS Professional Education Committee (COPE) in 2007, and in his nearly 11 years of service, he spoke at 15 Courses of Professionalism (COP), most recently at the Boston COP in June 2018. A popular speaker, Simons relished playing the defendant in COP mock trials, taking pride when found not guilty, and he generously imparted his years of experience with attendees.

“Marty carried an amazing passion for our profession, and he was so willing to share that passion and pass on the importance of protecting our profession by following the professionalism guidelines,” wrote CAS Actuary and COPE Chair Ken Williams in an email to COPE members. “One of Marty’s sayings to COP attendees that still reverberates with me today is ‘Do not mess up MY profession!’ warning candidates that their actions could have negative impacts on every actuary,” wrote Williams.

While he was a fierce advocate for protecting the public interest with insurance, his true love was always his family. He was married to his wife, Sharon, for 52 years. She and his brother, Richard Simons, preceded him in death. Simons is survived by his daughters, Randi Duncan and Stephanie Foster; and grandchildren, Cortlin Collins, Jami and Martin Conniffe, Elisabeth Labrador, Sharyn Arai, and Jessica and Ian Duncan. He also leaves behind 10 great-grandchildren: Victoria, Kendall, Preston and William Collins; Bella Ward; Ryen and Christian Labrador; and Kayden, Seiji and Mae Arai.