



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: Gerald Stanley Simms was born on September 12, 1948, in New York alongside his twin brother Thomas Michael Simms. He was a star athlete in football during his time spent at Caledonia Mumford High School. His college career started in Arkansas, then he transferred to Wilberforce University, where he made lifelong friendships.

WHEREAS: At Wilberforce, he met Linda Simms of Charleston, West Virginia. They shared 44 years of marriage marked by devotion, shared purpose, and a strong family foundation. That relationship remained a meaningful part of his life story. Gerald later married Deborah "Denise" Lennon, and their relationship was grounded in love, companionship, respect, and commitment.

WHEREAS: A man of deep faith, he was an active member of Central Chapel AME Church and the Sons of Allen. Gerald was a faithful and dedicated member of the Central Chapel Choir, the Sons of Allen Men's Choir, the Steward Board, and the Lay Organization. He also participated in the 365 Project of Yellow Springs. His quiet service and steady reliability strengthened his church family and community in meaningful ways.

WHEREAS: A proud resident of Yellow Springs for over 60 years, Gerald served two terms on Village Council beginning in 2011, as well as on the Community Resource Board, Human Relations Commission, and the Yellow Springs School Board. Gerald found joy in creating holiday traditions, especially through his Halloween and Christmas displays, which became a source of delight for the neighborhood year after year.

NOW THEREFORE: Because of Gerald's generosity, faith, and commitment to this village, I, Steve McQueen, Mayor of Yellow Springs, Ohio, do hereby proclaim Saturday, May 16, 2026, as

GERALD SIMMS DAY

in the Village of Yellow Springs and encourage all residents to join me in recognizing and honoring his life, great accomplishments, and the wonderful man he was to us all.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and the seal of the Office of Mayor of the Village of Yellow Springs to be affixed on this 15th day of May, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mayor Steve McQueen II".

Steve McQueen II, Mayor
Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio

