

# Cecil Sims, former Hogsett principal, POW, dies

Cecil J. Sims, 73, of 322 N. Fourth St., a retired Hogsett Elementary School principal and a survivor of the Bataan Death March, died Friday at the Veterans Administration Medical Center on Cooper Drive in Lexington.

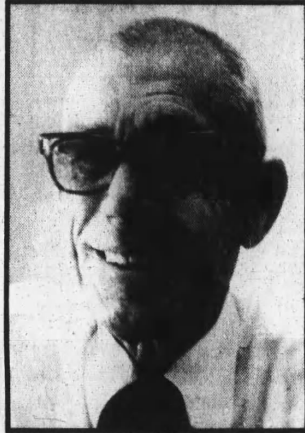
Sims retired after 23 years as Hogsett's principal.

During World War II, he was a prisoner of war for more than three years.

In the Philippine Islands, Sims' tank battalion unit surrendered to the Japanese in 1942 on Bataan and thus began, the "Death March," a 55-mile trek in which 10,000 people died. Sims was a prisoner of war until the war ended.

Sims received a Bronze Star in 1984 for his service in the 192nd Tank Battalion, fighting in the Philippines.

In discussing patriotism,



Cecil Sims

Sims was quoted in an Advocate Messenger article as saying, "I would like to impress that if this country is to remain free, we, as Americans, must be concerned about our country."

Born March 8, 1917, in Cornishville, he was a son of the late Finis J. and Cora Mae Gritton Sims. He is a past member of the Danville Rotary Club and was a life member of the Kentucky Education Association and the National Education Association. He was a member of the Daniel Boone Chapter of Former Prisoners of War and the Disabled Veterans of America. He was a member of the Lexington Avenue Baptist Church. He attended Centre and Campbellsville colleges, and earned his bachelor's degree from Georgetown college. He earned his master's degree from the University of Kentucky.

Survivors include his wife, Mary "Beck" Sims; a son, Buz Sims of Lenoir, N.C.; three daughters, Cecilia Broadwater of Frankfort, Becky Sims of

Harrodsburg and Debbie Sims of Asheville, N.C.; two brothers, Clyde Sims of Cornishville and Hassell B. Sims of Harrodsburg; three sisters, Mary Easterling of Middletown, Ohio, Laura Wright of Washington County and Dora M. Lowe of Harrodsburg; and three grandchildren.

The funeral will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, Danville, by the Rev. Dr. Robert G. Baker and the Rev. Tommy Lynn. Burial will be in Springhill Cemetery, Harrodsburg.

Visitation will be after 2 p.m. Monday at Stith Funeral Home. The body will be taken to the church at 11 a.m. Tuesday to lie in state until funeral time.

The family requests that memorials may be made to The Gideons International.

## SimsObit

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