8-16-1957

Statement in tribute to James Izlar Sims

Strom Thurmond

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Recommended Citation
Thurmond, Strom, "Statement in tribute to James Izlar Sims" (1957). Strom Thurmond Collection, Mss100. 1472.
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STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND IN THE SENATE IN TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR. J. IZLAR SIMS, AUGUST 16, 1957.

Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the character and accomplishments of Mr. James Izlar Sims, a beloved and distinguished citizen of South Carolina who died on August 13 at his home in Orangeburg, South Carolina.

Mr. Sims was President of the Sims Publishing Company which published the Times and Democrat in Orangeburg, South Carolina. He was also the head of a number of other organizations and businesses and was a prominent figure in community and business affairs in South Carolina for more than half a century. In addition to heading the newspaper, he also was President of a radio station, a bank, an apartment project, and a theatre.

Mr. Sims began his career as a newspaper man and businessman in 1905 at the age of 14 when his father became seriously ill. At that youthful age he assumed his father's responsibilities at the newspaper and steadily through the years advanced as a leader in business and civic affairs in Orangeburg and in the State.

Mr. Sims was a Christian gentleman with a quiet unassuming manner and a good sense of humor. He was a loyal American, a loyal Southerner, and a loyal South Carolinian.

I shall not attempt to recount his many accomplishments, but I am proud to have been his friend. His able father and my father, J. William Thurmond, also were friends and I served in the South Carolina State Senate with his brother, Dr. Henry R. Sims, who is the distinguished president of Winthrop College, the South Carolina State College for Women. His passing is a great loss to the State and Nation and a personal loss to me. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to Mrs. Sims and to the rest of the family.

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