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years as principal at three of those schools.

After retiring in Louisiana, he spent only one year before he was back in the classroom, this time at Jasper High School.

"He loved teaching," his brother Kenneth, math teacher at JHS said. "Because of his 45 years as an educator, his wife and I and his whole family, wanted some young person to have that same opportunity, to be as good an educator as he was."

Kenneth Simmons said his brother Charles was always professional.

"Charles could always say things in a tactful way," he said. "He never tried to hurt a child's feelings. First and foremost, he was an educator. His whole persona, his interest and focus

on what he was doing were part of that professionalism."

Charles could have stayed in retirement, living a life of ease up on Toledo Bend Lake, but the lure of the classroom never left him.

"He enjoyed the students and education was his passion," Kenneth said. "He loved teaching kids. He was a kids' teacher. They respected him because they knew he really cared about them. If he got onto a student, he might also put his arm around that same kid and give a hug because the student needed it."

Kenneth Simmons said that education was always important to his entire family.

"Education was always important in our family. Our father had to quit school

early and he thought education was the road to success. When we were in college, we worked in the summer and enjoyed it, but when August rolled around, we could just look at our daddy and know he wanted us to go back to school. Five of the six of us taught school."

Jason Schofield and Kerry Mixon, both teachers at JHS, were also Charles Simmons' students in high school.

"He was always very disciplined and a good teacher," Schofield said. "You knew you had to behave in his class. I liked his class but I really liked to talk fishing with him. We could get him to talking about that in class but he didn't put up with anything. Pretty soon, he would say, 'We'll get back to fishing later,' and he would go on

with class."

Kerry Mixon remembers the fish stories but also that he was a teacher students could talk to.

"I loved Mr. Simmons," Mixon said. "I could always go and talk with him. He gave us the same respect that we gave him. He expected us to come in the class and listen to what he was teaching. He was short and to the point. He didn't give out a lot of packets and talk about rules. He lectured, we took notes, and

then he tested us. It was that simple.

"He also loved fishing and all the kids knew we could get him to talk about fishing. His whole face would light up and he would become so animated when he told fishing stories. He really was my favorite teacher.

"For students, he was very approachable. It was a neat experience for me to have been his student and then taught with him also."

Mixon is setting up a

donation point in the school cafeteria where students can donate their change. That way, students also have an opportunity to participate in the scholarship fund.

Donors wanting to honor this man who gave 45 years of his life to education should make checks out to the Charles Simmons Memorial Scholarship Fund at First Bank & Trust East Texas. The main bank is located at 204 E. Lamar Street. The Jasper branch office is at 275 W. Gibson.

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-lems in Jasper," Barber said. "Also, to insure accountability in your city government and to make sure the city serves all citizens equally, no matter what neighborhood you live in."

"I am running for mayor of Jasper because I believe our city can do better and I believe we need to make more progress throughout every part of our city," Horn said. "We need to work closer with our county officials and state officials."

In the race for District 2 city council position, incumbent Gayle Meigs will face the challenge of Randy Sayers.

In the race for Jasper's school board positions, four candidates are vying for two open positions on the board.

One incumbent, Carolyn Armitage is seeking re-election to the board along with Kevin Kipp, Melissa Armstrong and Keith Hilderbrand.

"I believe I have the experience and training to be an effective member of the board," said Armitage, who

is completing her third year of service on the board. "Having had three children in JISD for a total of twenty-five years, I have had years of experience volunteering in parent organizations, mentoring, and on various school committees, which provided me with a solid foundation for serving on the board. I have a strong desire to be part of the solution and have witnessed the power of involvement and the changes it can make in a child's life."

Kipp, a local businessman, is also seeking election to the school board.

"I believe this is my opportunity to do the right thing," Kipp said. "I believe that everyone has a civic duty, and I am passionate about serving the youth of our community. Serving on the JISD Board of Trustees is a tremendous opportunity to fulfill my civic duty in an area that I care very deeply about."

Melissa Armstrong is also a first-time candidate for office.

"I'm running for school board because this position is key to understanding our children and their families needs," Armstrong said. "The position can facilitate in assisting them to obtain from the school district the resources that will increase the chances of our children being successful. In addition to having two children in the school district, I believe it is important to be involved on as many levels as one can."

Hilderbrand is also seeking election to the board of trustees.

"I'm seeking a position on the Board of Trustees because I am a resident of this school district and have had for sometime a real passion for ensuring the quality of business and the conduct of the business in the district," Hilderbrand said. "More importantly, I'm running for a position because I have two children of my own and I want to do what I can to make their school system the best that it could possibly be."

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