

*Homegoing Service
Celebrating a Life Well Lived*



Claudia Beatrice Simmons

Alpha
September 1, 1922
Clopton, Alabama

Omega
January 22, 2015
Las Vegas, Nevada

Service

Wednesday, February 4, 2015 ~ 11:00 am

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church

1002 Rivington Street
(Rev. M. A. Byrd Corner)
Roselle, New Jersey

*Dr. Therman E. Evans, MD, PhD., Eulogist
Reverend Gilbert C. Young, Jr., Officiating*

Order of Service

Processional

Parting View

Hymn

Scriptures

Old Testament: Psalm 34:1-10.....Marquis Allen

New Testament John 14:1-10.....Joy Allen

Prayer of Comfort.....Reverend Gilbert C. Young, Jr.

Selection.....Choir

Words of Comfort.....Deacon West Coleman

TributesZeno Simmons, *son*, Jasmine Hansford, *great-granddaughter*
Sheila Givens, *niece*, and Deaconess Emma Carter, *friend*

Acknowledgement of CondolencesEudora Winston, Church Clerk

Obituary.....Eudora Winston, Church Clerk

Solo.....Renee Desarno

Eulogy.....Dr. Therman E. Evans, MD, PhD, Senior Pastor
Morning Star Community Center, Linden, New Jersey

Recessional

The Interment will be

Graceland Memorial Park, Kenilworth, New Jersey

Pallbearers

Grandsons: Phil Ivey, Jason Simmons
Troy Laurel and Gregory Hunt

Flower Bearers

Granddaughters of Claudia Beatrice Simmons

Services Entrusted To:

G. G. Woody Funeral Home, LLC

206 E. Eighth Avenue, Roselle, New Jersey

www.ggwoodyfuneralhome.com

“Where our Sympathy expresses itself through Sincere Service”

Life Reflections

"Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies." ~ Proverbs 30:10

Claudia Beatrice Simmons was born on September 1, 1922 in Clopton, Alabama, daughter of the late Richard and Mary Mathews. As a child, the family moved to Roselle, New Jersey where she graduated from Abraham Clark High School in 1940.

Claudia met and married Leonard "Bud" Simmons in 1942. This union of 65 years was blessed with eight children. In 1946, Bud and Claudia opened Veteran Cleaners in Roselle and operated it for 60 years.

Claudia joined Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in 1935, and was an active member of many auxiliaries which included the Emergency Choir and Sunday school.

A proud servant of her community, Claudia was a Charter member of the Roselle Branch NAACP. She also served as Secretary for the White Rose Court of Calanthe No # 9 in Roselle and served 40 years the Women's Service League as President and Secretary.

Her dinner table was always welcomed to everyone, including Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm Shabazz. She was especially known for her fried fish and delicious chocolate cakes and always had more than enough food for her family and friends who would visit.

For the past seven years, Claudia lived in Las Vegas, Nevada with her daughter, Pamela until her passing. Pamela and Claudia would go out for lunch and other afternoon activities every Saturday. She was still making her own breakfast and dinner into her nineties. During the week, she never missed an episode of her favorite soap operas.

She will be remembered as a soft-spoken woman with an ever-present smile. She was blessed with a great state of mind and spirit; although, she was mild mannered, she fought until the end.

On Thursday, January 22, 2015, Claudia received her angel wings and was called home to glory surrounded by her family at the age of 92.

She was predeceased by her husband, Leonard "Bud" Simmons; daughter, Gloria Hunt; 3 sons: Leonard, Jr., Jeffrey, and Gregory Simmons; sister, Rosemary Thompson; brother, Richard Matthews, Jr.; granddaughter, Nancy; and sons-in-law, Phillip Ivey and Don Hunt.

Claudia Beatrice Simmons leaves to cherish fond memories, her 2 daughters: Patricia Laurel and husband Jim, and Pamela Ivey; 2 sons: Dennis Simmons and wife Valarie, and Zeno Simmons; sister, Marjorie Holmes; 11 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild; and a host of nieces, nephews, dear relatives and friends.

May I Go

*Do you think the time is right?
I've lived my life and done my best, an example tried to be,
so can I take that step beyond and set my spirit free?
I didn't want to go at first; I fought with all my might.
But something seems to draw me now
to a warm and loving light.
I want to go, I really do, it's difficult to stay.
But still I try as best I can to live just one more day,
to give you time to care for me and share your love and fears.
I know you're sad and you're afraid, because I see your tears.
I'll not be far, I promise that, and I hope you'll always know,
that my spirit will be close to you, wherever you may go.
Thank you so for loving me. You know I love you too.
That's why it's so hard to say goodbye and end this life with you.
So hold me now, just one more time and let me hear you say
because you care so much for me, you'll let me go today.*

Lovingly submitted,
The Family

Tributes From the Grandchildren

Dear Grandma,

Thank you for the gift of love. You always saw good in everyone no matter what they've done. Even though there are many things we wish we said to you while you were here, we hope you know how much you were loved.

We will always remember seeing you sit in your chair at the cleaners, greeting everyone with that sweet smile and gentle laugh. We are remembering your good cooking and how you took care of Grandpa, making sure he always had plenty to eat. You can now reunite with him and see your children who have gone on before you once again. We know your place in heaven has a good view because God knows you want to keep an eye on a few. Just always know, the love you shared will stay with us forever. Rest easy.

Love,

Roxanne, Troy and Melanie

My Grandma,

I remember fish on Fridays, how she always had a yellow cake in the cake stand and how she always made sure grandpa had his iced tea. I remember how as soon as we walked in her house she would ask if we were hungry and if we said yes she would make us something to eat. I remember how during the week she would always watch her soaps on CBS, and every Saturday she would work at the Cleaners and if I was there she would buy me lunch. I remember how her kitchen would always be immaculate and how she always carried herself like a lady in public. I remember how she would always let me play in her jewelry box and dress up with her clip on earrings and how when we played outside she would always tell my older cousins to look out for me....especially Donna. Most of all I remember how much she loved her family and catered to all of us. She never once forgot a birthday. When my husband tells me I'm a good wife its because I'm putting into practice all the things I learned from her.

~Joy

Saturday hotdogs- a great memory I had was going to Roselle on Saturdays and grandma would boil hotdogs , they were really good.

~Jason

Dear Grandma,

I am missing you like crazy! I know you are in heaven, you were the only person I knew that never got angry or held a grudge against anyone.

The funniest thing I remember is how you always kept one secret ingredient whenever I asked you how to make a dish. I always laughed about that with my friends and would tell them how I would catch you sneaking a seasoning in the pot when I left the kitchen. I'm so glad God blessed me with such a wonderful grandma like you. May you rest in peace as you did in life.

Love,

Cheyenne

Tributes From the Grandchildren

Dear Grandma,

I found out you passed 4 hours ago and piece of me passed with you. Some of my best childhood, teenage, and adult memories are shared with you. Being around you and spending time with you has been a blessing from God. You were God's gift to me and the rest of the family. I always felt like I could talk to you about anything, as I felt you always had my back. I enjoyed just sitting with you in silence watching TV, it was therapeutic for me. Your children, grandchildren, and entire family all loved you. You are our angel and I can only hope to live life in the way that you did. You were always there for your entire family in any way you could be. My love for you and having a mom like you is what has shaped me into the man I am today.

You are a role model to me and many other members of the family, from the way you carried yourself to the way you loved everyone in our family. You were my living angel, and now you are my angel.

Love your grandson, ~ PD

Grandma -

you have always been there for us - you have truly been a second mother to all of us! There are so many things that we will miss of you - your famous sweet tea - the way you loved us - your beautiful cards - You never missed a Christmas, birthday, graduation, wedding or any other life event.

You personified grace, class, and humbleness. You were a great example of a Christian. Always leading by example by being gentle, peaceful, and kind. You didn't have to talk it because you walked it, and we are all better off because of it. We can't believe that we won't have you here with us anymore - but we know you are with us in spirit. Tell Grandpa, our sister Nancy and mother Gloria we said hello and give them a kiss from all of us!! Love you so much!

~ Greg, Pam, and Donna

Dear Grandma,

I know I haven't seen you much over the years but I haven't really had the luxury of just getting up and traveling due to finances and raising a child on my own over these past 10-years. I got married in May and this first year haven't been easy but we are still making it and working on it. I hope to grow old together just like you and grandpa. I never got to speak to grandpa before he died but even if you can't hear this in the physical, I know you will in your spirit. I love you.

You are the most classy lady I know and you lived a wonderful life.

I am so happy to have been born into this family so thanks for sending my dad to Virginia for college. Thank you for always looking after my mother and never forgetting my birthday and when you get to heaven one day tell grandpa I said thanks for all those 50 dollar bills he gave me when you all came through Virginia. You are a beautiful woman. And even in this hour I admire you for standing by our grandpa, all of your children, and all of your

grandkids and great grandkids no matter what. In my eyes you have always been perfect. I love you and I've never forgotten you even in my absence. Your summer smiles and your sweet tea will never be forgotten.

And when I grow old with my husband I'm going to always give him 3 chocolate chip cookies for lunch just like you always gave grandpa. I love you. May peace be with you and tell grandpa I said hello.

~ Love Lauren (Zerecia)

Together Again



A Mother's Love

*A Mother loves right from the start.
She holds her baby close to her heart.
The bond that grows will never falter.
Her love is so strong it will never alter.*

*A Mother gives never ending love.
She never feels that she has given enough.
For you she will always do her best.
Constantly working, there's no time to rest.*

A Mother is there when things go wrong.

A hug and a kiss to help us along.

Always there when we need her near.

Gently wipes our eyes when we shed a tear.

*So on this day we show our love, knowing you are with our
father above.*

We will miss you more than you'll ever know

Your Loving Children,
Pat, Dennis, Pam, and Zeno

Acknowledgements

The family of **Claudia Beatrice Simmons** acknowledges with sincere appreciation every thought and act of kindness expressed to us during this our hour of bereavement.

We will always keep you in our prayers.

May God continue to richly bless you.