

*In Loving Memory of*  
*Fred Simmons, Jr.*

**Sunrise**  
February 2, 1941

**Sunset**  
July 21, 2020



*Service*

***Friday, August 7, 2020 • 11:00 a.m.***

**COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE**  
1025 Bergen Street • Newark, New Jersey

## Obituary

Frederick Simmons Jr. was born in New Bern, North Carolina on February 2, 1941 to Frederick Sr. and Ethel Simmons. He made his transition on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at Newark Beth Israel Hospital in Newark, NJ.

Fred graduated from J.T. Barber High School in New Bern, NC in 1959 where he was noted as the School Yearbook Artist. Shortly afterwards, he enlisted in the XII US Army Corps where he served as an Armor Crewman in both Raleigh, NC and Fort Benning, GA. He was a decorated Marksman (Rifle), an Expert (various weaponry) and a Sharpshooter (Pistol). Due to broken arches, he was no longer able to serve, though his time there was quite memorable. He was Honorably Discharged in 1961.

An intelligent man, Fred enjoyed crossword puzzles, reading encyclopedias, playing along with Jeopardy and challenging family and friends on history and other topics. He was a sculptor and artist who enjoyed fishing and playing Bid Whist and Spades. He was skilled at both bowling and pool. Freddie J or Junior, as he was lovingly known, was a family man who was the life of the party, often making sure that everyone had what they needed while teasing them at the same time. He split his time between the two places he loved most: "Brice's Creek" or "home" in New Bern, NC and Newark, NJ.

For many years, Fred was employed as a Bus Driver with New Jersey Transit where he retired circa 1984. His favorite route was the "5 Kinney" because he would be able to check in on his family while working. While there, he and his colleagues formed the Orange Crush Softball Team. Many of his lifelong friendships were established here.

Fred was married to Gloria Yvonne Thompson on October 25, 1976. Of that union, one daughter, Sherita Simmons was born.

He is preceded in death by his parents Fred Sr. and Ethel, sisters Mae, Mable and Evergene Simmons and the love of his life Gloria whom he remained close friends until her death.

Fred leaves to cherish his memories: four daughters Sherita Simmons (Newark, NJ), Patricia Johnson (Greensville, NC), Chalon Howard (Lithonia, GA) and Kiana Carter (NC); five grandchildren, Stephanie, Yahnai, Quoryet, Dana and his hero Jace; three great-grands, Camille, Jordyn and Kai; one brother, Abraham Simmons; six sisters, Aretha Mahone (Bronx, NY), Geraldine Moore (Brooklyn, NY) Erma (Jerry) Best, Ann Clare, Ethel Wilson and Virginia (Bobby) Williams all of New Bern, NC; 8 nephews, 13 nieces and a host of other relatives and friends.

At 79, G-Pop felt he lived a full life without regrets. He asked that we not cry for his absence but smile at the memories we have all shared with him.

# *Order of Service*

Processional

Selection

Scripture Reading  
Old Testament  
New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Remarks  
(Two minutes each please)

Acknowledgements

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Recessional

## **INTERMENT**

William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery  
Wrightstown, New Jersey

# *When I Must Leave You*

*Please don't say that I gave up, just say that I gave in. Don't say I lost the battle, for it was God's war to lose or win. Please don't say how good I was, but I did my best. Just say that I tried to do what's right - to give the most I could, not do less.*

*Please don't give me wings or halos, that's for God to do. I want no more than I deserve, no extras, just my due. Please don't give flowers, or talk in hushed tones. Don't be concerned about me now, I'm well with God; I've made my home.*

*Don't talk about what could have been, it's over and it's done. Just see to all my family's needs, the battle has been won. When you draw a picture of me, don't draw me as a Saint. I've done some good, I've done some wrong, so use all your paint - not just the bright and light tones, use some gray and dark. In fact, don't put me down on canvass, paint me in your heart.*

*Don't just remember good times, but remember all the bad. For life is full of many things, some happy and some sad. But if you must do something, then I have one last request - forgive for the wrongs I've done, and with the love that's left, thank God for my soul's resting, thank God for I've been blessed. Thank God for all who loved me, praise God who loved me best.*

## *Acknowledgement*

The family of **Fred Simmons, Jr.** wishes to express our sincere thanks for the prayers and other expressions of love during our time of bereavement.

### **Professional Services Provided By**

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