

In Loving Memory of



Joseph Simmons, Jr.

Sunrise: August 6, 1930

Sunset: September 24, 2021

Tuesday, October 5, 2021 - 5PM

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Obituary

On Friday, September 24, 2021, **Joseph Willis Simmons, Jr.** departed his earthly home to enter into eternal rest. Joseph was born in Charleston, South Carolina on August 6, 1930.

He attended Burke Industrial High School and after graduation he enlisted in the United States Army. He served in the Korean War, and he was discharged with honors.

Joseph relocated to New York City where he worked as a tailor and fashion coordinator for a famous New York fashion house. During that time he was introduced to the love of his life, his future wife, Estell by his cousin Lottie. They were married in April of 1958.

Joseph was a devoted Christian and a founding member of Metropolitan AME Church. He continued his formal education at Malcom King School of Continue Education and received an Associates Degree in finance. His love for fashion led him to a career at the world famous Barneys of New York. He retired after 25 years of service.

Joseph was the President and founding member of the Starlight Social Club for 40 years. This family formed group of seven, hosted bus rides, plane trips, and the annual Starlight Social Club Dance. Joseph was lovingly known as the “Silver Shoes”. His ability to dance the night away with flair and style equal to, if not better then Fred Astaire. His granddaughter Tonya was his “Ginger Rodgers”.

He was affectionately known by many names, Dad, Pop and recently “Papa Smurf”. His impeccable style of dress and gentlemen qualities were that of a Head of State. The Simmons’ home was a gathering of social flair, energy and fellowship. Joseph enjoyed cooking, dancing and frequent traveling with his daughter, Myra and son-in-law, Eric. Atlantic City and Las Vegas have dimmed their lights to honor him.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Victoria Simmons Davis; father, Joseph Simmons, Sr.; sister, Leola McFarland; brother-in-law, William McFarland; son, Charles E. Simmons; and his loving wife of 46 years, Estell Simmons.

He leaves to cherish his rich life of 91 years: daughters, Earnestine Washington (William Mack), Myra E. Simmons (Eric A. Ball) and Pamela McKnight of Charleston, SC; sons, June Davis and Shawn Joseph Simmons, Jr.; two adopted sons, Walter Gadson and Anthony Martinez; goddaughter, Danielle McFarland; brother-in-law, Louis Walwyn; sisters-in-law, Susie Reid and Louise Burch; the Sims family of Kansas City, MO; 10 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, 8 great great grandchildren; devoted partner in crime, cousin, Lottie Nugent-Settles; dearest phone family friend, Elenor Isler; daughters-in-love, Brenda, Cathy, Melvera, Minnie, Carol and Deborah; sons-in-love, Angel, Lewis Jr. and James; and a host of family and friends.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Viewing

Recessional

INTERMENT:
Rosehill Cemetery
Linden, New Jersey



I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard his call,
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of the day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My Life's been full, I savoured much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch,

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free.

Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.

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