



Floral Bearers

Nieces

Pall Bearers

Nephews

Acknowledgements

The family of Louise Diggs Simms acknowledges with deep appreciation and grateful hearts all expressions of sympathy extended to us during our time of grief and despair. Your thoughtfulness and many acts of kindness have enabled us to bear the loss of one we held so dear with ease and comfort. Thank you for your kindness, loyalty and support. May the Lord bless you and keep you forever in His grace and mercy. Please remember us when you pray.

The Simms Family



To the Family

*It appears that nothing surpasses
All your grief and despair
But God is a mighty refuge
And your loved one is in His care
Carrons Funeral Home Staff*



Professional Services Entrusted to:

Carrons Funeral Home

325 East Nash Street

Wilson, North Carolina 27893

252-237-2169 Fax: 252-237-0120

www.carronsfuneralhome.com

Celebrating the Life of Etta Louise Diggs Simms



Sunrise
April 22, 1935

Sunset
November 10, 2017

*Saturday, November 18, 2017
12:00 Noon*

Contending for the Faith Church Ministries
1006 Academy Street • Wilson, North Carolina

Reverend Jeffrey Simms, Eulogist
Bishop Clarence Laney, Liturgist

The Order of Service

- Processional of Clergy & Family
- Final Viewing
- Call to Worship & Invocation.....Bishop Clarence Laney,
Pastor, Monument of Faith Church, Durham, NC
- Selection.....First Baptist & New Vester Combined Choirs
- The Holy Scripture Readings
 - Old Testament.....Reverend Darryl Owens,
Christian Faith Center
 - New Testament.....Reverend Renee Strayhorn,
First Missionary Baptist Church of Lucama
- Prayer of Comfort.....Reverend Rodney Parker,
Carter Memorial COGIC
- Selection.....Choir
- Church Resolution
- & Acknowledgements.....Mother Shirley Everette
- Selection.....Choir
- Eulogy.....Reverend Jeffrey Simms,
Pastor, First Missionary Baptist of Lucama
& New Vester Missionary Baptist Churches
- Funeral Director’s Brief
- Recessional

Interment

Rest Haven Cemetery
Wilson, North Carolina



The Order of Service - Graveside

- Committal.....Bishop Clarence Laney
- Closing Prayer & Benediction.....Bishop Clarence Laney

The Obituary

Etta Louise Diggs Simms

1935-2017

Etta Louise Simms was born to the late Rommie and Bessie Reid Diggs on April 22, 1935 in Wayne County, North Carolina. Although she was the youngest daughter, she served in the capacity of counselor, advisor and extended mother to numerous sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews, in-laws, friends and colleagues for many years. In addition to her parents, the following siblings preceded her in death – Jasper, Kennon, Alfred, Edison, Cleveland, Rommie, Zorabel, Lillian, Mavis, and Mildred.



Louise was raised in Wayne County and moved to Wilson County early in her life. She graduated from Williamson Springfield High School in Lucama in 1954. Following graduation she began working for the Wilson County School System and worked as a teacher’s assistant at the Lucama Elementary School until her retirement in 1996. Many of the students who attended Lucama Elementary would speak to her when out in the community and mention how influential she was in their elementary school education. After her fulltime retirement, Louise worked with the afterschool program at Lucama Elementary for a number of years.

In addition to her work in the classroom, Louise worked as a family attendant for the Carrons Funeral Home in Wilson. She began working in the funeral business in 1981 at Darden Funeral Home under the leadership of the late Charles Darden. The late Robert King took over management of King & Darden Funeral Home and Louise continued working and was named the senior family attendant under the management of Carla King Horne, current owner of Carrons. She was known at the funeral home as either Mrs. Simms or Momma Simms and was oftentimes requested by various families to serve as their family attendant. Louise thoroughly enjoyed comforting families during their times of bereavement.

Finally, Louise worked on the tobacco farm with her husband Steve during the many years when he was a sharecropper. She served as the bookkeeper, ensuring that all of the help was paid accurately and she oversaw all of the tobacco harvesting tasks at the barn. Oftentimes, Louise and her sister Mildred were known as the fastest tobacco loopers around Lucama.

For most of Louise’s adult life, she was an active member of the First Missionary Baptist Church of Lucama. She sang in the choir and served as the president of the Floral Club for many years. Most recently, prior to her decline in health, she served as a nurse aide for the usher’s ministry, always eager to serve with a gentle and compassionate spirit.

Louise married her soul mate, Lugenus “Steve” Simms on January 12, 1955

and together they had four children. On June 23 of 2017, Steve made his transition from his earthly journey to his heavenly reward and Louise sorely missed him. As her health began to decline, Louise was no longer physically active, but her biological and adopted children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, sisters, cousins and friends could expect routine telephone calls from her throughout the week. She was known for always beginning her telephone conversations with “Hi, how’re you” and ending them with “I love you.” Janice Fleming and Pamela Deans were her caregivers while she was at home. Many of her nieces, nephews and cousins were also supportive in providing care for her throughout the week over the last twelve months. Louise made her transition early Friday morning, November 10, 2017.

Left to cherish her memory is one daughter, Chakela Medose Simms Butler (Rickey) of Matawan, NJ; three sons, Dexter Lugenus Simms (Patti) of Black Creek, NC, Darvis Reginald Simms of Raleigh, NC, and the Reverend Jeffrey Antonio Simms (Laura) of Chapel Hill, NC; five grandchildren whom she enjoyed spending time with and spoiling – Brittany Lenise Simms of Atlanta, GA, Gregory Lance Simms of Goldsboro, NC, Rikeya Noele Butler of Matawan, NJ, Jeffrey Micah Simms and Nicolaus Gerald Simms of Chapel Hill, NC; one sister, Arbor Fox of Ayden, NC, and one niece who was reared as a sister, Vera Caldwell of Bailey, NC; three sisters in law, Melverna Hagans (Tommy) of Philadelphia, PA, Betty Hodges of East Orange, NJ, and Edna Simms of Cliffwood, NJ; three brothers in law, Jonah “Rudy” Simms (Selma) of Wilson, Willie “Junnie” Kirkland of Willingboro, NJ, and Robert Bailey of Sims; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Memories from the Grandchildren... ..

I don’t believe there was anyone who could do my hair like my grandma! My grandparents’ living room was my salon as a little girl and grandma would always style my hair in the prettiest ponytails. As she twisted each braid, she would tell me stories and teach me scriptures like Psalm 23. These are loving memories that I will always cherrish .

- Brittany

Grandma always had a way of making me feel special and loved. I stayed with my grandparents on many weekends and their house felt like home. During hunting season, grandma would wake up before 5am just to fix me breakfast. She wouldn’t let granddaddy take me anywhere near a deer stand until I had a breakfast made for a champion.

- Greg

Whenever I came to visit grandma and granddaddy every morning grandma would make me red hot dogs and grits DELICIOUS.

- Rikeya

Grandma always called us her “scooter booters.” We loved spending time with her.

- Micah & Nicolaus