



Floral Bearers

Nieces

Pall Bearers

Nephews

Acknowledgements

The family of Lugenus "Steve" Simms would like to thank everyone for your kind words, deeds, prayers, and fond remembrances of Steve extended to us during our time of bereavement. Words cannot express how much it has meant, helped and encouraged us during this difficult time. Thank you for your loyalty, kindness and thoughtfulness.

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
Lugenus "Steve" Simms*



*Sunrise
October 17, 1929*

*Sunset
June 23, 2017*

Saturday, July 1, 2017

12:00 Noon

L. N. Forbes OFWB Tabernacle

1800 Lane Street East • Wilson, North Carolina

**Reverend Jeffrey Simms, Eulogist
Carrons Funeral Home, Directing**

The Order of Service

Processional of Clergy & Family

Final Viewing

Call to Worship & Invocation.....Pastor George Ward,
Greater Zion OFWB Church

Selection.....First Baptist & New Vester Choirs

The Holy Scripture Readings

Old Testament.....Reverend Renee Strayhorn,
First Missionary Baptist Church of Lucama

New Testament.....Pastor MK Smith,
Christ Temple of Praise

Prayer of Comfort.....Bishop JJ Wilkins,
Wake Chapel Church

Selection.....Choir

Church Resolution &
Acknowledgements.....Mother Shirley Everette

Silent Reading of the Obituary

Selection.....Choir

Eulogy.....Pastor Jeffrey Simms

Funeral Director’s Brief

Recessional



Interment

Rest Haven Cemetery
1717 Lane Street East
Wilson, North Carolina

The Obituary

Lugenus “Steve” Simms 1929 – 2017

Lugenus “Steve” Simms was the oldest son of the late Festus and Arabella Thompson Simms. He was born October 17, 1929 in Wilson County. As the oldest child of twelve, he was oftentimes referred to as “the man” of the house, therefore not only was he given the nickname “Steve,” but the nickname “Man” as well. In addition to his parents, the following siblings preceded him in death – James “Beet” Simms, Darvis Hall “Rod” Simms, Bob Simms, Agnes Barnes, Corrina “Yama” Farmer, Festina Lula “Bae” Kirkland, Redell Diggs, Bradford Simms and daughter in law Dorothy Walker Simms.

Steve was raised on a farm working closely with his father and it became clear that he had a gift for farming. As his father aged and stopped farming, Steve stepped right into his shoes and began working as a sharecropper with the Renfrow Family in Lucama. He was often described as the best tobacco curer in eastern North Carolina. Many of his nieces, nephews, cousins and various residents around Wilson County were employed by Steve throughout the planting and harvest seasons.

After close to fifty years of farming, Steve transitioned occupations and began working at GNC Corporation in Wilson. He eventually retired from there, but was frequently asked to come back and substitute for team members when they were on vacation up until he was about 72 years of age. Steve was known for always arriving to work at least one hour before his start time and remaining over until the work was completed. He established a number of life-long friendships during his time there and one special friend he called his adopted son is Carlester “PeeWee” Jones.

Steve married his soulmate, Etta Louise Diggs on January 12, 1955. To hear him tell the story, he literally saw Louise walking down the street while he had a date in the car with him and he turned the car around, took the young lady home and the rest is history. Anyone who met Steve or had a chance to converse with him, quickly learned that Louise was the apple of his eye and he never stopped loving her unconditionally.

In 2013, Steve’s health began to decline and his memory wasn’t as sharp as it used to be, but he enjoyed visits with his family and friends. In February of 2017 his health began to fail quickly. On Friday morning, June 23, he peacefully made his transition from his earthly journey to his heavenly reward. Throughout his sickness, God sent angels to support the family in the caregiver role. Those individuals are Janice Fleming, Pamela Deans, and Yvonne Spence.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife of 62 years, Louise Diggs Simms; one daughter, Chakela Medose Simms Butler (Rickey) of Matawan, NJ; three sons, Dexter Lugenus Simms (Patti) of Black Creek, NC, Darvis Reginald Simms and Pastor Jeffrey Antonio Simms (Laura) of Raleigh, NC. Five grandchildren that he truly enjoyed spending time with and driving them all over the farms in Lucama, 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 Raleigh, NC. His remaining siblings include his brother, Jonah Simms (Selma) of Wilson, NC; two sisters, Melverna Hagans (Tommy) of Philadelphia,

PA and Betty Hodges of East Orange, NJ. He is also survived by two brothers-in-law, Willie “Junnie” Kirkland and Robert Bailey; two sisters-in-law, Edna Simms and Arbor Fox; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.



Reflections on Life as Children of Steve Simms

“When I was about 7 years old we were parked on Goldsboro Street in Wilson waiting on Daddy to pick up his check from Export Tobacco Company. As my dad walked to the car, Aunt Redell told me that I walked just like my dad and I said no I don’t. My mom quickly looked at me and replied, you should always be proud to walk like your daddy and I have ever since.”
Dexter

“Daddy used to take me with him to all the baseball games that Dexter and Reggie played at Shaw’s Ball Park. We had so much fun and this was the BEST daddy and daughter outing a little girl could have.”

Kela

“My fondest memory of my father is when he would take me on the tractor with him while plowing the fields. I was around 4 or 5 years old. He’d hold me between his legs and eventually I would fall asleep. I never felt so much love in my life.”

Reggie

“It wasn’t easy growing up in the shadow of two athletic, older brothers, so I tried to play baseball just to please my dad. Not really enjoying it or wanting to play, daddy finally realized this and asked me what I wanted to do. I said take piano lessons. I’ll never forget my dad taking me to piano lessons every week and being just as supportive of me with those lessons as he was if I were playing baseball.”

Jeffrey