

In Loving Memory of



Retha Simmons-Ingram

Sunrise
August 3, 1938

Sunset
February 28, 2014

Service
Friday, March 7, 2014 - 11:00 a.m.

GREATER REFUGE TEMPLE

2081 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. • New York, NY

Obituary

Retha Mae Simmons, was born on August 3rd 1938, to the late Mr. Hudson Tarver and Mosolee Sassinet in Wrightsville, Georgia. Retha Mae departed from her biological parents at the age of two, because of their passing. Retha Mae was raised by her mother's aunt, Mamie Ingram who was known to her children as (Granny) and to many others.

Retha Mae departed this life on February 28, 2014 at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx, NY.

Retha Mae spent her childhood years attending school in Hugh Arkansa and later relocated to New York City in 1960, to pursue her Nursing career. She attended Bestcare Nursing school in the Bronx, and received a Nursing assistant certification. Retha Mae married James Ingram in the 80's, from that union they had seven children, Paul Anthony Simmons aka Toney, Amanda Patricia Simmons, Jacqueline Simmons, Estella Simmons, Lisa Simmons, Kevin Simmons and Keith Simmons.

Retha Mae began her employment as a Nurses Aide with Norwell Care in the early 90's for several years, going into the homes of the sick and elderly people. She enjoyed being a caregiver for those in need. Retha Mae always had a smile on her face when she greeted you.

Retha Mae was a woman that was totally devoted to her family, she spent many years caring and protecting her children whenever they were in need. She devoted her time to help raise her grandchildren, she was always there for them when they called upon her. She always loved listening to her religious music and her gospel channel "142".

Retha Mae joined Rescue Revival Temple in the early 80's, under the ministry of the late James Belk, Jr. where she faithfully gave her life to Christ and served on the usher board for many years. Retha Mae continued her spiritual walk with God and became a member of Greater Refuge Temple in the early 90's, there she received the holy ghost and became a missionary. Retha Mae served faithfully on the missionary board until her health began to fail her and she could no longer attend regularly.

Retha Mae suffered from numerous illnesses towards the last part of her life, she required frequent hospitalization and ongoing treatments. Despite her pain, she was determined to overcome her diseases. Retha Mae continued to push and put her trust in God and not the medical doctors, no matter how difficult her medical challenges were, although the majority of the odds was against her she still was determined to fight and beat the odds, she was God's hero a true warrior for Christ.

Retha Mae would give special thanks to her long term care giver, Yvonne Mitchell who was a devoted and caring home health aide worker who was there to assist her daily throughout her medical challenges.

Retha Mae leaves to cherish her memories: three sons, Paul Simmons, Keith Simmons and Kevin Simmons; four daughters, Amanda Patricia Simmons, Jacqueline Simmons, Estella Simmons and Lisa Simmons; two daughters-in law, Tammy Simmons and Angela Simmons; three sons-in-law, Gerald Watkins, James Collins and Alton Williams; seventeen grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, two step grandchildren, one god child, Patricia McMillian; four god grandchildren; and a host of other nieces, cousins, nephews, other relatives, her church family and friends.

Retha Mae had one brother preceded in death, James Poney of Memphis, Tennessee.

Respectfully Submitted by,
The Family

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Soloist

Missionary Aleatha Edwards

Acknowledgements

Reading of The Cards

Missionary Roszines M. Watson

Remarks

Obituary

Missionary Roszines M. Watson

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Viewing

Recessional

Interment

Fairlawn Cemetery
Fair Lawn, 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 Him call*

I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day.

To laugh, to love, to work or play.

Tasks left undone must stay that way,

I found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,

Then fill it up with remembered joy.

A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,

Oh, 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 savored 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!

-author unknown

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.

2352 8th Avenue • Manhattan, NY • (212) 666-8300

1406 Pitkin Avenue • Brooklyn, NY • (718) 774-1023

1018 Prospect Avenue • Bronx, NY • (718) 542-3833

Clifford V. James, President & CEO

www.unityfuneralchapels.com

email: unityfc@aol.com

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