

*In Loving
Memory
of*

A portrait of Odessa Foye-Simms, a woman with dark hair, smiling, wearing a black vest over a light-colored top. The background is a soft-focus field of pink and red roses.

Odessa Foye-Simms

Sunrise: November 29, 1954

Sunset: August 21, 2016

Service

Wednesday, August 31, 2016 - 6:00 p.m.

Mt. Neboh Baptist Church

1883 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. • New York, NY

Rev. Dr. Johnnie M. Green, Pastor

Obituary



Odessa Foye-Simms passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, August 21, 2016 at approximately 12:00am. Odessa died as a result of gun violence, of which she was an innocent victim. She was 61 years old.

Odessa was born November 29, 1954 in Harlem, New York. She was the middle of twelve children born, James Beatty, and Sarah Foye. She grew up on 131st Street between Lexon and 5th Avenue and there are very few if any people in Harlem who did not know and love her.

Odessa earned a Bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education from the College of New Rochelle. Although she was retired at the time of her death, Odessa was a passionate teacher for over twenty years. Many of Odessa's former students thought of her as a second mom, grandma or dearest friend. Her love for children began during her own childhood, when she would lovingly help care for her younger siblings.

Odessa enjoyed cooking and feeding the people in her community. She often gave her last to assist others in need. Odessa always gave selflessly of herself and she loved helping others. She was very generous, thoughtful and exceptionally kind. Odessa was a pillar in her community and a mother of her entire neighborhood.

Odessa had a thirst for knowledge and was as intelligent as she was kind. She enjoyed reading, writing and art, regularly writing her own poetry and short stories. During her retirement, Odessa went back to school to explore her interest in computer programming. She made great strides in her pursuit of a new skill set, earning various certifications and credentials. Odessa was known for her intellectual gifts and her extraordinarily beautiful penmanship throughout her academic ventures.

Her devoted husband of over 38 years, Basil Simms, Sr., and their children, Odyessey, Basil, Jr., Robert, Raymond and Ronald, as well as eight grandchildren survive Odessa. Words simply cannot express just how much Odessa will be deeply missed.

Order of Service

Processional Hymn.....“Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross”

Old Testament.....Isaiah 41:10-13

New Testament.....St. John 14:1-6

Prayer of Comfort.....Mt. Neboh Associate Minister

Selection.....Bro. Anthony Morgan and
Mt. Neboh Combined Choir

Remarks.....Dr. Raymond Crosky and
Pastor Florence Crosby, Kids for Christ Outreach

Obituary & Acknowledgements

Solo.....Sis. Betty Holland
Mt. Neboh Combined Choir

EulogyRev. Dr. Johnnie M. Green, Jr.
Pastor, Mt. Neboh Baptist Church

Benediction & Recessional

"May the Work I've Done Speak for Me"

Interment

Mt. Rest Cemetery
Butler, 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.*

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