

*Celebrating The Life
Of
Rita Simmons*

*Sunset
January 1, 2017*



Friday, January 6, 2017- 11:00 a.m.

Union Chapel A.M.E. Church

209 Wainwright Street

Newark, New Jersey 07112

The Rev. Anthony Mitchell, Officiating

Obituary

Rita Simmons, daughter of late Champ and Adele Drake was born on March 10th in Newark, NJ. Her brothers Gary Drake Sr. and William Miles also preceded her in death. Rita departed this life on Sunday, January 1, 2017 at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, New Jersey.

Rita graduated from Weequahic High School in Newark, NJ. Thereafter, she obtained her bachelor's degree in Education from Tennessee State University in Nashville, TN. She was diligent and devoted to her career as a physical education teacher at Cicely L. Tyson Community School of Performing & Fine Arts where she retired. Additionally, she volunteered at the East Orange Public Library as an event planner and doing other miscellaneous duties.

Rita was known as "Ronnie" by her nearest relatives and friends. Everyone knew when Rita came into the building because she was the lady with light grey eyes, a stream of bracelets on one arm and a stern disciplinary with a no-nonsense type of attitude that got the job done. Needless to say, Rita was a "family historian" and impacted many lives by enriching others. She was known to love shopping, family time, a game of cards, recanting memories, collecting unique dolls and African art.

She leaves to cherish her precious memories: her two sons, James Simmons of Campbellsville, KY and Sharez Simmons of Newark, NJ; two daughters-in-law, Kella Simmons of Newark, NJ and Lorretta Simmons of Campbellsville, KY; three grandchildren, Marque Simmons, DiaMonte' Simmons and James R. Smith; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

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!*

Order of Service

Music Prelude

Processional

Hymn of Comfort.....“Blessed Assurance”

Scriptures

Old Testament.....Psalm 23

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Remarks.....James Simmons

Acknowledgements & Condolences

Resolutions

Obituary.....Latisha Ivey

Selection

Eulogy.....Rev. Anthony Mitchell

Recessional

Interment

Fairmount, Cemetery

Newark, New Jersey

A repast will follow the interment at
Union Chapel A.M.E. Church
209 Wainwright Street, Newark, NJ 07112

Forever Our Teacher

Mommy you did all you could to raise us right

Lessons taught, lessons learned, morning, noon and night

Tough love was the key to raise boys to men

A helping hand you always had when it was needed to extend

Your voice, your laughter, your wisdom, we will miss

Just pay attention my sons you would always insist

One touch, one call, always made our day

Even the times when you just let us have our way

We will always miss you this will forever be true

Forever our teacher

Mommy we will always Love You

Acknowledgement

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern, and kindness shown to them during this hour of bereavement. May God bless and keep you!

- The Simmons Family

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