

Floral Bearers

Beverly Brown
Belva Belton
Bernice McCants
Christine Richmond
Roxie Woodard

Pall Bearers

Lavern Boone
Darreyl Davis
Tyrone Foster
Preston Hall, Jr.
Bobby Jackson
Walter "Larry" Woodard

Acknowledgements

The family of **Mrs. Willa McKinley Sims** wishes to express their deepest gratitude to the many friends, relatives and neighbors during their loss. The overwhelming outpouring of love, sympathy and prayers have made our loss much easier to bear. We pray God's continued blessings on each of you and we ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers.

The family would also like to extend special thanks to Nelson's Funeral Home, Cousin MeOcia Coleman Owens, Betty Young-Stewart, Town of Winnsboro Police Department, Creighton Coleman, USC Family Medicine-Dr. Charles J. Carter, Jr. & Staff, Columbia Heart Clinic – Dr. Charles W. Hendricks, and Palmetto Health Richland Hospital-5 East Unit and 8 West Unit and Staff. You guys took wonderful care of our mother. May God bless you all.



Nelson's Funeral Home
270 N. Dogwood Avenue
Ridgeway, SC 29130
(803) 337 - 4500 • www.nelsonsofridgeway.com

A Celebration of Life



Mrs. Willa McKinley Sims

Sunset: March 12, 2017

Saturday, March 18, 2017, 11:00 A.M.

Gethsemane Baptist Church

443 99 Road

Blair, South Carolina 29015

Rev. Eric Bell, Pastor

Hello

Hello! I'm so happy that you came, but I'm sorry I can't give you a hug or a friendly smile or a thank you for this is the day, I say goodbye. You will have to forgive me. I'm so busy getting ready for my permanent home. I will have a new address and new phone numbers.

My new home will be beautiful to talk about. It's everything you have dreamed. Streets of gold, bright sunshine all the time, large golden gates with angels playing harps greeting you one day just as I am today you will be and your dream will come true and you will be getting ready to move in your new home. If you call and I don't answer, I'll probably be walking around heaven's garden enjoying the flowers that they say bloom forever or listening to the angels sing and I know I'll be busy rejoicing with the Lord thanking him for being so good to me. I could not have asked for a better life and most of all I was blessed with three loving children who I loved with all my heart. Well, I going to walk around and see my parents and my brother and we'll rejoice together. Again, goodbye and I love you.

The Broken Chain

We little knew that morning that, God was going to call your name,
in life we loved you dearly, in death we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you, you did not go alone,
for part of us went with you, the day God called you home.

You left us peaceful memories, your love is still our guide,
and though we cannot see you, you are always at our side.

Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.

Farewell

Today is the last day you will see me. But remember, we will meet again. Just as I am now, you too one day will be. Do not shed tears, just say "goodbye." I always said "see you later, take care or bye." Saying goodbye is a way of letting you know I will be gone a long time now. It's that time and I am happy because I am going home. Yes, my eternal home is waiting for me. I had a good life here and I was so blessed. I had good parents, three wonderful and loving children and they made me very proud. I could not ask for better children.

Yes, I will miss you coming by and your daily phone calls but they have good memories and I'm taking good memories with me Jessica called every day to make sure I was fine and my close friends who showed love, compassion, and most of all friendship and I'm thankful they were in my life. Mary and Paul Prailleau, Martha Armstrong, Addie Suber, Christine Richmond, Betty Young, Walter Woodard, Belva Belton, Mildred Heath, Louella Inman, Deputy Chief Fred Lorick, Moses Seibles, Doris Seibles, Beulah Seibles, Wayne Yates, my friend and cousin Sheriff Herman Young (ret) and last but not least the Seibles Family.

I Had to Go, I Could Not Stay

I had to go, I could not stay
So, during the night, I slipped away.
I loved you then, I love you now
But, I must leave you for a little while.
Please do not grieve, nor shed a tear
And I, in turn, always be near.
Think of me when the bright sun shines,
Speak of me with a gallant smile.
Praise the Lord and always do good.
Remember the things I taught you during your childhood.
Again, I say I love you, so do not fret,
Jesus loves us all, this never forget.
I've gone to meet him in the sky,
So, I must say goodbye.

To My Family....

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

When tomorrow starts without me
And I'm not here to see
If the sun should rise and find your eyes
All filled with tears for me.
I wish you wouldn't cry
The way you did today
While thinking of the many things
We did not get to say.
I know how much you love me
As much as I love you
Each time that you think of me
I know you will miss me too.
Please try to understand
That an angel came and called my name
and took me by the hand.
The angel said my place was ready
In heaven far above
And that I would have to leave behind
All those I dearly love.
But when I walked through Heaven's Gates
I felt so much at home
When God looked down and smiled at me
From his golden throne
He said this is eternity
And all I promised you
Today for life on earth is done
But here it starts a new.
I promise no tomorrow
For today, will always last
And since each day's the exact same way
There is no longing for the past.
So, when tomorrow starts without me
Do not think we're apart
For every time you think of me,
Remember I'm right here in your heart.

Author- David M. Romano

Love Daye

Obituary

Willa Mae was called home to glory to be with her Lord and Savior on March 12, 2017 at Palmetto Richland Hospital in Columbia, SC. Mrs. Willa Mae McKinley Sims was born on June 11th in New York City, New York in Harlem Hospital to the late William and Jessie Lee McKinley. The two lovely parents were waiting to take their first-born home and present her with a silver spoon and she never let it go. She was the only daughter and was blessed with a handsome caring brother James, who proceeded her in death. During her early teen years, her father decided to relocate to his birthplace. The entire family was so excited because they had spent every summer in South Carolina and now it would be their year-round home. It was wonderful to be back around cousins and friends all year round.

During her early life, Willa was baptized and confirmed at St. Charles Catholic Church in New York, New York. She attended Catholic School until the eighth grade at which time her family returned to Blair, SC. She attended Gethsemane School for one year. Next the family settled in Winnsboro where she graduated from Fairfield County High School. She was married to the late Ladd Sims, Jr. also of Winnsboro, SC.

Willa Mae later joined Bethesda AME Zion Church where she was very active. She served as an Usher, Missionary, Asst. Secretary, Financial Secretary and Trustee. She was truly a member dedicated to Zion and was willing to donate whatever was needed, when needed, and as needed.

Willa, aka Wil, as she was called by her close dear friends, graduated from the Popes Beauty School where upon graduation she passed the State Board and became a Licensed Cosmetologist. Nevertheless, because of her passion for people and working with children she instead began working for the Fairfield County School District, from which she retired after 25 years of loyal and dedicated service. During her tenure with FCSD, she worked as a Teaching Assistant, Study Hall Monitor, Clerical Assistant and retired as the receptionist for the District Office. Wil was awarded the school district's 2002 Best of the Best Employee Award.

She not only loved her family and friends, but she also loved her community. She was a very outgoing and personable lady who always greeted people with a smile. She served as chairperson for the Town of Winnsboro Election Committee for over 25 years. Willa was also appointed the first black female magistrate in Fairfield County and briefly served on the County Planning and Zoning board. She was a member of Elks Canary Temple # 129 where she served as Daughter Ruler for one term and was past President of the National Council of Negro Women –Fairfield Chapter. In addition, she was a Girl Scout Den Mother; Clemson Extension Member; Founder of the Girls Ebonette Club; directed teen pageants; coordinated trips for local youths to Carowinds, the skating rink and the SC State Fair.

Her hobbies included writing, collecting bears and refrigerator magnets. She has always been a people's person.

Daye, as they affectionately called her their entire lives, leaves to cherish her ever loving memories three children: J. Ronald (Katrina) Sims of Columbia, SC, Deborah A. Sims-Walker of Winnsboro, SC and Juan M. Sims of Columbia, SC; six grandchildren, LaToya (Greg) Walker of Baltimore MD, Cordelia Sims of Irmo, SC, Travaski Walker of Columbia, SC, Brokawski Walker of Winnsboro, SC and Ashira and Sequoia Sims of Columbia, SC; seven great-grandchildren, Kadar, Tahgee, Israel, Ariyana, Melanie, Kam'ryn, Carter; one niece, Linda Nettles of Atlantic City, New Jersey; special cousins, Mildred Coleman, Willie Coleman and Thelma Coleman; and a host of other cousins and friends.

Order of Service
Reverend Carl Jackson, Jr., Presiding

Musical Prelude- - - - - -

Processional- - - - -Clergy, Family and Friends

Opening Hymn-----Choir

Scriptures:

Old Testament - - - - - Reverend Ricky Gibson

New Testament- - - - - Reverend Carl Jackson, Jr.

Prayer- - - - - Reverend Leonard Simmons

Poem- - - - - Mrs. Roxie Woodard

Solo- - - - - Reverend Leonard Simmons

Reflections- - - - - Ms. Mary Lynn Kinley

Mrs. Roxie Woodard

Mr. Robert E. Sweeney

Mr. Creighton Coleman

Solo- - - - - Ms. Angela Robertson

Words of Comfort- - - - - Reverend Carl Jackson, Jr.

Selection-----Choir

Recessional- - - - - Funeral Directors

Interment

Gethsemane Baptist Cemetery

443 99 Road

Blair, SC

Repast: Gethsemane Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

I Choose

I woke up early today, excited overall I get to do before the clock strikes midnight.

My job is to choose what kind of day I will have.

Today I can complain because the weather is rainy or I can be glad that my finances encourage me to plan my purchases wisely and guide me away from waste.

Today I can grumble about my health or I can rejoice that I am alive.

Today I can lament over all that my parents didn't give me when I was growing up, or I can feel grateful that they allowed me to be born.

Today I can cry because roses have thorns or I can celebrate that thorns have roses.

Today I can mourn my lack of friends or I can excitedly embark upon a quest to discover new relationships.

Today I can whine because I have to go to work or I can shout for joy that I have a job to do.

Today I can complain because I have to go to school or eagerly open my mind and fill it with rich new tidbits of knowledge.

Today I can murmur dejectedly because I have housework or I can appreciate that I have a place to call home.

Today stretches ahead of me, writing to be shaped. And here I am, the sculptor who gets to do the shaping.

What today will be is up to me. I get to choose what kind of day I will have.



A New Start

THERE IS A REASON FOR EVERYTHING

Our Father knows what's best for us,
 So why should we complain—
 We always want the sunshine,
 But He knows there must be rain—
 We love the sound of laughter
 And the merriment of cheer,
 But our hearts would lose their tenderness
 If we never shed a tear...
 Our Father tests us often
 With suffering and with sorrow,
 He tests us, not to punish us,
 But to help us meet TOMORROW...
 For growing trees are strengthened
 When they withstand the storm,
 And the sharp cut of the chisel
 Gives the marble grace and form...
 God never hurts us needlessly,
 And He never wastes our pain,
 For every loss, He sends to us
 Is followed by rich gain...
 And when we count the blessings
 That God has so freely sent,
 We will find no cause for murmuring
 And no time to lament
 For Our Father loves His children,
 And to Him all things are plain,
 So, He never sends us PLEASURES
 When the SOUL'S DEEP NEED IS PAIN...
 So, whenever we are troubled
 And everything goes wrong,
 It is just God working in us
 To make OUR SPIRIT STRONG.

‘THE HEAVENLY GROCERY STORE’

I was walking down life’s highway a long time ago, and one day I saw a sign that read “Heaven’s Grocery Store”. As I got a little closer, the door came open wide, and when I came to myself, I was standing inside.

I saw a host of angels who were standing everywhere. One handed me a basket and said “my child shop with care”. Everything a Christian needed was in that grocery store, and all you couldn’t carry, you could come back for more. First I got some PATIENCE, LOVE was in the same row. Further down was UNDERSTANDING, you need that everywhere you go. I got a box or two of WISDOM, a bag or two of FAITH, and I couldn’t miss the HOLY GHOST for it was all over the place.

I stopped to get some STRENGTH and COURAGE to help me run this race. By then my basket was getting full, but I remembered I needed some GRACE.

I didn’t forget SALVATION, for salvation was always free, so I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me. Then I started to the counter to pay my grocery bill, for I thought I had everything to do my Master’s will.

As I went up the aisle I saw PRAYER, I just had to put that in, for I knew when I stepped outside, I would run right into sin. PEACE and JOY were plentiful, they were there on the last shelf. SONGS and PRAISES were hanging near so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the Angel, “NOW how much do I owe? He just smiled and said “Take them everywhere you go.” Again, I smiled at him and said “Really, how much do I owe?” He smiled again and said, “**MY CHILD, JESUS PAID YOUR BILL ALONG TIME AGO.**”

TO: MY CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

**GOOD BYE,
WILLA**

