

Order of Service

Reverend Tommy Dodd, Jr., Presiding

Musical Prelude- - - - -

Processional- - - - - -Clergy, Family and Friends

Opening Selection- - - - -St. John Baptist Church Choir
"Whisper A Prayer"

Scriptures:

Old Testament – Psalm 23- - - - - Minister Johnny Glenn

New Testament – John 14:1-4 - - - - -Reverend Larry Irby

Prayer- - - - - Reverend Leonard Simmons

Selection- - - - - St. John Baptist Church Choir
"The Birds Have Nest in the Top of the Trees"

Reflections (2 Minutes Please)

Deacon Ricky Mozie, Church

Mrs. Loretta Green, Friend

Purity Masonic Lodge #42

Reverend Alvin Richmond, Sr., Neighbor
Family

Selection- - - - - -St. John Baptist Church Choir
"I'll Be Alright"

Words of Comfort- - - - - Reverend Tommy Dodd, Jr.

Selection- - - - - -St. John Baptist Church Choir

Recessional - - - - - Funeral Directors

Masonic Rites
Committal Rites
St. John Baptist Church Cemetery

Floral Bearers
Nieces and Eastern Stars

Pall Bearers
Purity Masonic Lodge #42

Acknowledgements
The family of the late **Lonnie "Pops" Simmons, Sr.** would like to thank everyone for their support, visitations, expressions of love, cards, and flowers. Perhaps you sat quietly and whispered a prayer, or spoke kind words. Whatever you did to console our hearts during this time of bereavement, we whole-heartedly extend our sincere love and appreciation.

The Family of the late Lonnie Simmons, Sr.



Nelson's Funeral Home
270 N. Dogwood Avenue
Ridgeway, SC 29103
803-337-4500
www.nelsonsofridgeway.com

A Celebration of Life



Deacon Lonnie "Pops" Simmons, Sr.

April 27, 1936 – June 11, 2017

Saturday, June 17, 2017, 3:00 P.M.

**St. John Baptist Church
197 Anderson Quarry Road
Winnsboro, SC 29180**

Reverend Tommy Dodd, Jr. Pastor

Reflections

Lonnie “Pops” Simmons was born on April 27, 1936, in Fairfield County to the Late Elmore and Mary Byrd Simmons. He was the fifth of twelve children. Lonnie transitioned from this life into eternal rest on June 11, 2017 at his home.

At an early age, **Lonnie** accepted Christ and was baptized at St. John Baptist Church. Lonnie attended Jake Davis School in Fairfield County. In 1957, he was united in Holy Matrimony to the late Almeter Means and was married for 46 years. In 1960, **Lonnie**, his new bride and two children moved to Washington, DC. After relocating to Washington, DC, the couple were blessed with two more children. **Lonnie** worked in construction for Dale Michael and Albert Construction Company he later owned his own construction company, Simmons & Chip Construction.

He was a member of the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church where he served faithfully on the Number Three Usher Board and Male Chorus. He was a dedicated member of Ionic 17 Masonic Lodge, where he held various offices, Past Excellence High Priest Markwell Chapter #12, and Eminent Grand Commander in Gethsemane Commandery #3 in Washington, DC.

In 1991, **Lonnie** semi-retired and he and Almeter moved back to South Carolina to live. He then became employed in Fairfield County School District and retired in 1997. **Lonnie** also reunited with the St. John Baptist Church. He was ordained as a Deacon under the leadership of Reverend Lucius Speaks. He also served as Vice Chairman of the Deacon Board and Senior Choir Leader at St. John Baptist Church. He was a faithful member of Purity Masonic Lodge in Ridgeway.

In 2003, **Lonnie** was united in Holy Matrimony to Rayvon Gadson. The couple enjoyed traveling, spending time with family & friends, and their grandchildren.

Lonnie was an avid hunter, fisherman, farmer, photographer, softball pitcher and he loved playing spades, checkers and solitaire. He also enjoyed fishing, boating, riding in bumper cars, traveling, gospel music, family time and going to the SC State Fair where he was recognized as an “Outstanding Grandparent.” He always had a joke to tell. His favorite question was “who you?” Pops was also known as the “Watermelon Man.” At the age of 74, he took his first plane ride to Las Vegas.

He leaves to cherish fond & loving memories, his wife Rayvon G. Simmons; two daughters, Margie Simmons and Debra (Norman, a special son-in-law, friend, and caregiver) Seibles of Ridgeway, SC; two sons, Lonnie Jr (Vena) Simmons of Brandywine, MD and Keith (Rosina) Simmons of Clinton, MD; one step-son, Andrew (Crystal) Gadson of Charlotte, NC; ten grandchildren, Reverend Byron Holmes Jr., Erica Johnson, Darius Simmons, Lonnie Simmons, III, Sasha Simmons, Kimberly Seibles, Krisina Seibles, Jailyn Simmons, Dayzia Gadson and Chase Gadson; four great-grandchildren, Kailyn Holmes, Trevon Holmes, Jackson Holmes, and Alannah Jones; two adopted



Reflections cont'd

grandchildren, George and Geronda Stroman; three sisters, Maggie Watkins, Azzlee Pearson and Frances (James) Watkins; one brother, Willie J. Simmons; a devoted brother-in-law and friend Alfred (Mary) Jackson; seven brothers-in-law, William Jackson, Frank Myers, Marby Young, Alex (Mary) Gadson, Willie (RoseMary) Gadson, Charles (Betty) Gadson, and Michael (Debra); five sisters-in-law, Bobbie J. Colter, Marie Myers, Adia Gibbs, Bettye (John) Stewart, and Cleo Gadson; a special cousin, Maggie B. Means; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends who will miss him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, Almeter, five brothers and two sisters.