

Flower Attendants
Family Members

~I Love You~

I love you for so many reasons, I love you because you understand me better than anyone I've ever known... You can make me happy with just a touch or a word. I love you because we have so much fun together... You can make me laugh just when I need it the most. I love you because of the dreams we've built together.

Your loving wife,
Jackie

Acknowledgement

Our sincere thanks to our many family members and friends, for every act of kindness, support, sympathy and prayers during our time of bereavement. Your thoughtfulness gave us strength and inspiration and we appreciate you.

- The family of the late James Franklin "Big Jim" Simmons

Arrangements in care of:



4315 N. Main Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32206
904-765-1234
Tyrone S. Warden, FDIC
www.tswarden.com

A CELEBRATION *Of Life*



James Franklin Simmons

December 14, 1945 — August 18, 2015

Memorial Service

11:00 AM, Saturday, August 22, 2015

New Covenant Ministries

2360 St. Johns Bluff Road South
Jacksonville, Florida 32246

Obituary

James Franklin “Big Jim” Simmons was the youngest of seven children. He was born to Guy Clifford and Edna Ruth Henderson Simmons on December 14, 1945 in Good Shepard Hospital, in New Bern, North Carolina. “Big Jim” as he was affectionately called by those who knew him, was a lively spirit and left a lasting impression on all he met. At an early age, James joined Clinton Chapel Memorial AME Zion Church. James was a 1964 graduate of Jones High School. As a student he excelled in academics. He was an active member of the Jones High Blue Devils football team. As a member of the high school chorus, he prided himself on his ability to sing and serenade the ladies. He played a large array of musical instruments. His love for music led him to churches all over the world during his military career and after returning home. Upon graduation, James joined the United States Army and proudly served from 1964 to 1978 with the 82nd Airborne Division. He was awarded the Purple Heart. Serving four tours of duty in Vietnam, the war never killed his lust for life and laughter. Big Jim could spin a tale and whether it was true or not, eventually you would believe it. His personality was a great source of wonder and amazement to his family and friends. He enjoyed his friends and entertained with lively conversation and “words of wisdom.” James adventures took him to Jacksonville, Florida, there he met Jacqueline Geddes and married her on October 5, 2003.

James leaves to cherish his memories his loving and devoted wife, Jacqueline Simmons; his sons, Kendall Simmons of Pollocksville, Terrence Simmons of New Port, Rhode Island, and Leonard Geddes, Jr. (Cindy) of Hickory, NC; daughters, Michelle Simms (Corey) of Jacksonville, FL, Sabrina Geddes of Charlotte, NC; grandchildren who will miss his stories are Kenayah Simmons, Kelisa Simmons, Aja Simmons, Alexis Simmons, Terrence Simmons, Jr., Deandre Simmons, Corey Simms, Jr., Nicholas Simms (Janet), Ariel Simms, Jamal Mareus, Tyrone Saunders, Jr., Cassidy Geddes, and Brandon Geddes; three great-grandchildren, London Simms, Paris Simms and Drake Simms; an adopted son, Charlie Johnson; three sisters, Edna Catherine Murphy, Doris Elizabeth Jones, and Julia Lee Smith all of Pollocksville; three brothers, Guy Christopher (Mary Elizabeth), Alvin Randolph of Pollocksville, NC, and Maurice Edward Simmons (Margarete) of Columbia, South Carolina; two sisters-in-law, Patricia A. Zackery, Vanessa Meuse all of Jacksonville, FL; three brothers-in-law, Donald McQueen (Ora Lee), Ronald McQueen, John Cohen (Vanette) all of Jacksonville FL.

Big Jim always had a special group of friends, among the many were, Bob Wilmot, Alvin Surrency (Willie Mae), Chester Hadley, Melvin Franks (Patricia), Billie James Franks (Jennie), Ulric Murrell, and Edgar McArthur Burney, as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends who will miss his wit, humor and colorful tales.



Order of Service

Pastor Carmen Baker, Presiding

Musical Prelude

Processional

Prayer Althea Campbell

Scripture Pastor Carmen Baker

Solo Arsie Hairston

Dance NCM Dance Team

Video “The Life of James Simmons”

Solo Catherine Williams

Reflections (2 Minutes Please)..... *Family & Friends*

Charlie Johnson

Alvin & Willie Mae Surrency

Ramona Caldwell

Words of Reflections (Altar Call) Deacon Robert Goodson

Closing Prayer Deacon Kory Campbell

Recessional

Repast

New Covenant Ministries, Upper Room
2360 St. Johns Bluff Road South
Jacksonville, Florida 32246