



## Viola Stephenson Simmons

December 28, 1949 - September 6, 2021

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Hebrews 11:1

Viola Stephenson Simmons, the fifth child of the late James Stephenson Jr. and Elizabeth Tann Stephenson, was born on December 28, 1949 in Murfreesboro, NC. On Monday, September 6, 2021, she took her last breath surrounded by family and friends in the comfort of her home in Portsmouth, VA, to which she completed her final chapter and entered her home of eternal rest.

Viola or “Vee” as she was known to her husband accepted Christ at an early age and later joined Mount Caramel Baptist Church in Portsmouth, VA where she remained an active member until the sudden decline of her health.

She attended public school at CS Brown High School in Hertford County and graduated in 1968. Upon graduating high school, she attended Roanoke Chowan Technical Institute where she met the love of her life, Graylin D Simmons Sr. After Graylin enlisted in the military, both Viola and Graylin wed on May 9, 1970 in Ahoskie, NC. After being stationed in Portsmouth, VA, both Graylin and Viola transitioned from Ahoskie, NC to Portsmouth, VA to live in base housing. After spending a few years in base housing, both Graylin and Viola settled into their forever home where they raised their two children: Monique U Simmons (Monk) and Graylin D Simmons Jr.

Viola worked at Portsmouth City Circuit Court for 30 years. She had an

administrative role at various levels in the Circuit Court. She issued marriage license, filed legal documents for Partnerships/UCC Financial Statements, and Judgements, administered service to the general public and lawyers, assisted and responded to phone inquiries and collected fines and fees. Viola retired in March of 2012.

Viola was a loving daughter, sister, mother, grandmother, aunt, niece, cousin, neighbor, and most importantly a friend. She was a feisty young woman who could light up a room and have you “hollering” from one side of the room to the other. She was most known for her cooking and baking especially at church functions where the congregation was lined up outside the door for her home cooked meals. Viola always wanted to do her best for those she loved and cared for. She was never too busy to lend a helping hand for those who needed her. For these qualities, she will be forever missed and remembered by all who knew and loved her.

In addition to her parents, Viola was preceded in death by her two siblings: James Jacoba Stephenson and Louvenia Coleman.

Viola leaves to cherish and to reflect upon her many memories and legacies: her loving and devoted children: Monique U Simmons (Monk) (Franklin) of Chesapeake, VA, and Graylin D Simmons Jr. of Portsmouth, VA; her precious grandchildren Briana S Monk (Fields) (Brandon) of Sneads Ferry, NC, and Kayla and Nia Monk of Chesapeake, VA; her loving siblings: Margaret Hinton of Chesapeake, VA, Paul H. Stephenson (Vesta) of Murfreesboro, NC, and Geneva Griffin (Clarence) of Atlanta, GA, her sister in Christ, Carolyn Elliot and a host of other nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Albert G Horton Jr. Veterans Memorial Cemetery

5310 Milner's Road  
Suffolk, VA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 14. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church  
3310 Deep Creek Blvd.  
Portsmouth, VA

## Church Service

SEP 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church  
3310 Deep Creek Blvd.  
Portsmouth, VA

# Tribute Wall

SS

“ Grace & Peace:

*I am currently reflecting on the many chapters of my life while writing my memoirs, and my thoughts led me back to the Simmons family.*

*As I look back today through the lens of my Ministry, I realize how truly blessed I have been to encounter wonderful people like Mrs. Viola and her family.*

*At nineteen, I lacked the sense and maturity to fully appreciate the strength and protection this family provided, but with age comes the clarity of grace.*

*I am writing today simply to offer my belated condolences and to share my gratitude for having known such a beautiful family.*

*I pray that Monique and the entire family are continually blessed and walking in strength.*

*May the legacy of Mrs. Viola continue to shine through you all.*

*Sincerely,*

*Rev. Stacy Swimp  
stacy@stacyswimp.org*

---

**Stacy Swimp** - February 07 at 06:19 AM

SN

“ *I have great memories of working with you. We always got a laugh! Rest in peace Viola. Keeping your family in my prayers.*

Susan Nespoli - September 12, 2021 at 02:39 PM

AF

*Thank you Ms. Viola for my microwave n toaster oven. To most it's something simple. You n Graylin blessed me with those appliances to start my house. Every time I do anything with them I think of you. Rest in peace my friend.*

Antoinette Franklin - September 15, 2021 at 10:33 AM



“ 32 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - September 11, 2021 at 10:14 AM

LM

“ *I will miss talking and visiting with my dear friend. God Bless you. May you rest in peace in the arms of our loving Father. Love, Lili*



Lilimarlana Meiring - September 10, 2021 at 01:57 PM

DS

“ *Diane S. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Viola Stephenson Simmons.*



---

**Diane S.** - September 09, 2021 at 06:30 PM

SP

“ *Shelia Parker lit a candle in memory of Viola Stephenson Simmons*



---

**Shelia Parker** - September 09, 2021 at 03:51 PM

DB

“ *Donna(Ryta) Barnes lit a candle in memory of Viola Stephenson Simmons*



---

**Donna(Ryta) Barnes** - September 09, 2021 at 10:32 AM

VH

*Viola W. Vaughan- Holland:  
C. S. Brown High Sch. 1968  
May God bless you and keep you safe during these hours of bereavement. Both Viola's had much fun in high school with our names being the same!!!! Sleep on Viola and take your rest, we love you but God loves you best!!!!*

---

**Viola W. Vaughan- Holland** - September 12, 2021 at 08:50 PM