

# A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

## Remember Me

To the living, I am gone, to the sorrowful, I will never return,  
To the angry, I was cheated, and to the faithful, I have never left.

I cannot speak, but I can listen. I cannot be seen, but I can be heard.  
So as you stand upon a shore gazing at a beautiful sea,  
As you look upon a flower and admire its simplicity, Remember me.

Remember me in your heart: your thoughts, and your memories,  
Of the times we loved, the times we cried,  
The times we fought, the times we laughed.  
For if you always think of me, I will never have gone.

## PALLBEARERS

Ron Applin - Richard Armstrong - Cameron Miles  
Mark Miles - Thomas Michael Simms II - Darnell Duncan  
Bryce White - Jordan White - Kelvin White  
Christopher Redmond - Cordie Greenlea - Scot Speakman

## FLOWER BEARERS

Shirley Smith and Denise DeWitt

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Family of Gerald Stanley Simms wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, kindness, and support shown to us during this hour of bereavement. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support and comfort.  
It is immensely appreciated!



## GERALD STANLEY SIMMS

SUNRISE

SUNSET

SEPTEMBER 12, 1948 – APRIL 27, 2026

SATURDAY – MAY 16, 2026

VISITATION: 11:00 AM

SERVICE: 1:00 PM



CENTRAL CHAPEL AME CHURCH  
411 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
YELLOW SPRINGS, OH 45387



**MARLAN GARY**  
**FUNERAL HOME**

1 FUNERAL HOME | 5 LOCATIONS

### MINISTRY OF COMFORT ENTRUSTED TO:

**NORTH CHAPEL**  
2500 CLEVELAND AVE.,  
COLUMBUS, OH 43211  
614-267-8310

**EAST CHAPEL**  
5456 LIVINGSTON AVE.,  
COLUMBUS, OH 43232  
614-604-8774

**MANSFIELD CHAPEL**  
753 MCPHERSON ST.,  
MANSFIELD, OH 44903  
419-524-6999

**SPRINGFIELD CHAPEL**  
823 SOUTH YELLOW SPRINGS ST.,  
SPRINGFIELD, OHIO 45506  
937-325-1447

**CINCINNATI CHAPEL**  
647 FOREST AVE,  
CINCINNATI OH 45229  
513-221-4812

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# OBITUARY

Born September 12, 1948, in Caledonia, New York, Gerald was the second of identical twins, sharing a lifelong bond with his twin brother, Thomas Michael Simms. He attended Caledonia Mumford High School, where he and his brothers were standout athletes, particularly in football.

He began college in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and later transferred to Wilberforce University, where he was joined by family and formed lifelong friendships. There, he met Linda Simms of Charleston, West Virginia. They shared 44 years of marriage marked by devotion, shared purpose, and a strong family foundation until her passing in November 2011. That relationship remained a meaningful part of his life story.

Gerald later married Deborah "Denise" Lennon. Together, they built a steady and supportive partnership, enjoying travel, daily life, and time together. Denise was a constant source of care, and strength, especially in his later years, and their relationship was grounded in love, companionship, respect, and commitment.

He was preceded in death by his parents: William "Stanley" Simms and Elizabeth Waters Simms; his brothers: Paul and Thomas Simms; his sisters: Patricia Greenlea, Marva Simms, and Jacqueline Redmond; brothers-in-law: Warren Greenlea and Robert Redmond; sisters-in-law: Ilene Simms and Muriel Berkley; his nephew: Brian Robles; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Gerald faced many health challenges, including a coronary bypass surgery, living as a Type 1 diabetic, and a battle with cancer, meeting each with strength and determination.

A man of deep faith, he was an active member of Central Chapel AME Church and the Sons of Allen. Gerald was a faithful and dedicated member of the Central Chapel Choir, the Sons of Allen Men's Choir, the Steward Board, and the Lay Organization. He also participated in the 365 Project of Yellow Springs. He served through action and presence—preparing meals, supporting church gatherings, and stepping in wherever help was needed. His quiet service and steady reliability strengthened his church family and community in meaningful ways.

He retired as a Strategic Planning Specialist with the Department of the Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. In retirement, Gerald enjoyed golf, often playing weekly when weather permitted with Ron, Fulton, Tom, Bill, Gary, John, Jack, and Dan, along with many other friends throughout the years. His love of the game spanned decades and brought him lasting friendship and joy. He also took pride in working in his garage and caring for his yard. Gerald loved shopping, coordinating outfits, and dressing sharp. He enjoyed working on puzzles, especially his beloved 750-piece puzzles, often spending hours sorting pieces with a system all his own and finishing them in just a day or two. He was also a devoted Cleveland Browns fan who faithfully supported his team through every season.

Gerald found joy in creating holiday traditions, especially through his Halloween and Christmas displays, which became a source of delight for the neighborhood year after year.

As a father, Gerald was present, dependable, and deeply committed to his daughters, Leslie White and Mikasa Simms, providing steady guidance, support, and love. As a grandfather, he found great joy in Bryce and Jordan, cherishing every moment spent with them.

A proud resident of Yellow Springs for over 60 years, Gerald served two terms on Village Council beginning in 2011, as well as on the Community Resource Board, Human Relations Commission, and the Yellow Springs School Board.

He was recognized for his service with honors including Top 10 African American Male (2018), the Hidden Figure Project (2017), and the Kwanzaa Nguzo Saba Award.

He leaves behind his *Wife*: Denise; his *Daughters*: Leslie White and Mikasa Simms (Richard); his *Grandsons*: Bryce White (Alex) and Jordan White; his *Sister*: Judith Simms of Caledonia, New York; his *Brother*: Lewis Simms of Stoughton, Massachusetts; his *Cousin*: Joyce Miles of Columbus, Ohio; his *Sisters-in-Law*: Carol Speakman (Scott), Lenora Berryman, Loretta Jefferson, and Regina Strickland of North Carolina; his *Brothers-in-Law*: Marcus Berkley (Lorraine) of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Gardell Berryman (Lorraine) of Columbus, Ohio; and a host of *Nieces, Nephews, Cousins, and Friends*.

Gerald Simms will be remembered for his faith, generosity, and unwavering commitment to his family and community. He will be deeply missed, and his love, example, and spirit will continue to live on in the hearts of his family and community.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

**Rev. Dwight Smith**  
Officiant

Prayer.....Rev. Dwight Smith

Scripture Reading  
Old Testament: Micah 6:8..... Pastor DeBora Duckett  
New Testament: Colossians 3:12.....Pastor Cordie Greenlea

Selections (2).....Central Chapel Choir

Acknowledgements/Condolences.....Grace Clark

Remarks.....Fulton Hendrickson and Ron Hendrickson  
Golf Partners

Kevin McGruder  
Central Chapel Choir and Sons Of Allen Choir

John Gudgel  
365 Project

Reading of Obituary.....Please Read Silently

Selection.....Built On The Word Praise Team

**The Eulogy**  
**Pastor DeBora Duckett**  
**Pastor Cordie Greenlea**  
Eulogists

"Pre-Committal Prayer"

Benediction.....Pastor DeBora Duckett and Pastor Cordie Greenlea

Recessional.....Clergy, Family and Friends

