



## Mr. Lonnie Simmons Jr.

March 18, 1929 - April 29, 2015

Statesboro, GA.,

Mr. Lonnie Simmons, Jr., the son of the late Lonnie Simmons, Sr., and the late Gertrude Cone Simmons was born March 18, 1929 in Statesboro, Georgia. He departed this earthly life on Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at the St. Joseph's Hospital, Savannah, Ga. Mr. Simmons was educated in the public school system of Bulloch County and at the age of 17 he enlisted in the United States Army, which he served for over 21 years of service before retiring in 1967.

Mr. Simmons served as the first African American Correctional officer for the state of Georgia, and later served in various positions as an Alcohol and Addiction Counselor. He was retired from Pineland Mental Health and he retired from the state of Georgia in 1991. Mr. Simmons was a proud member of the John Wesley Lodge #161, served as chairman of Bulloch Alcohol and Drug Council, and was a life time member of the NAACP.

He also served as Grand Parade Marshall for the 2015 Martin Luther King Day Parade. He received numerous awards such as, the John Moony Distinguished Service Award, the Deen Day Smith Award, many awards from the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles and many other community and civic awards. He was a member of the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church.

Mr. Simmons leaves a legacy of love to be cherished by his children, Mrs. Gwendolyn (Johnny) Andrew, Trenton, NJ., Mrs. Ayanna "Sharon" (John) Shepherd, Burke, VA., Ms. Gertrude Simmons, Springfield, VA., Mrs. Bonita (Richard) Johnson, Statesboro, GA., Mrs. Michelle (Ollie) Troupe, Largo, FL., Mrs. Georgella (James) Smith, Terre Haute, IN., Mr. Stuart (Rhonda) Rasor, Indianapolis, IN., Mrs. Victoria (Deundray) Robinson, Montgomery, AL. and Chris Frink, Statesboro, GA., a sister, Mrs. Julia Pearl Simmons, Statesboro, GA., a brother, the Rev. Hilton (Carrie) Simmons, Orangeburg, SC., fifth teen grandchildren, four great grandchildren, a host of other relatives and friends.

Family visitation will be held on Wednesday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Ben Samuel Hill Memorial Chapel of Hill's Mortuary, Inc.

The funeral services for Mr. Lonnie Simmons, Jr. will be held 1:30 p.m. Thursday, May 7, 2015 at the Elm Street Church of God, 29 Elm Street Statesboro, Ga., the Rev. Alexander Smith, Jr., Pastor, Rev. E. Charles Lee, Eulogist. Burial will follow in the Bulloch Memorial Gardens with military honors.

Mr. Simmons will lie in state of the day of service from 12:30 p.m. until the funeral hour. There will be no viewing after the eulogy.

Online condolences may be expressed at [hillsmortuaryinc.com](http://hillsmortuaryinc.com)

Final rites have been entrusted to Hill's Mortuary, Inc.

# Tribute Wall

AA

“ *Uncle Lonnie I was so proud of you to have gotten to meet you and the family ! I am the mother of a niece Valerie Dowling and Velmon jr we recide in Pittsburgh's pa. We got to spend 31/2 years with you and loved it and was proud to be a Simmons family member! Audrey (Dowling ) Auman*



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**Audrey Auman** - October 13, 2025 at 11:40 PM



“ *Lonnie Simmons is one of the greatest men I have ever known. He had thegift of reaching into a man's heart and setting him free, no matter what the demon called itself.*

*Lonnie, so many of us love you and miss you, and you will be remembered as a True Soldier of Christ forever.*

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**Edward Moody** - July 15, 2015 at 01:22 PM

AB

“ *Adrienne Benjamin lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lonnie Simmons Jr.*



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**Adrienne Benjamin** - May 21, 2015 at 09:30 AM

AB

*Mr. Lonnie had a heart of gold. He would be there for you and talk to you whenever you were down or having problems. He welcomed me into his home and life and treated me as if I were one of his children. He has helped many of my family members before I even met him. I am grateful for having the chance to meet him. He will be missed and always loved! RIP Mr. Lonnie!*

Adrienne Benjamin - May 21, 2015 at 09:35 AM

JH

“*Mr. Lonnie was a beacon of light for those of us who had addiction problems with drugs and alcohol. He was not ashamed to share his story with others. He would ride the streets of Statesboro to help those who suffered from substance abuse. He spent many night and morning at the Waffle House and other establishments preaching the word of sobriety to young, old, black and white. He was not judgemental, but, used his own experiences to share with others. There are countless numbers of young men and women that he assisted in court proceedings to keep them out of jail. There are hundreds who probably who probably owe Mr. Lonnie now. Remember, he got clean and sober when there was no such thing as, "treatment", in the black community. Bulloch County will never have a person like Mr. Lonnie, who gave so much. All he wanted was for you to become clean and a productive citizen. God bless a true man of God.*

jerry heath - May 13, 2015 at 08:34 PM

BJ

“*Brandie Jenkins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lonnie Simmons Jr.*



Brandie Jenkins - May 07, 2015 at 08:45 AM

BJ

*Mr. Lonnie was a PHENOMENAL MAN, he has done so much for my family, as well as myself. I have never met such a selfless human being. I cannot count how many lives he has touched, and lead in the positive direction of life. He will be greatly missed, but his earthly mission is complete. Rest In Paradise Mr. Lonnie. <3*

**Brandie Jenkins** - May 07, 2015 at 08:49 AM

EM

*“ My deepest Sympathy and Condolences to Julia Pearl and the Simmons Family. Lonnie was my Friend, Mentor and Sponsor. Will miss him coming by in the afternoon and us sitting in his car in front yard watching traffic go by and discussing life issues. He helped so many. R.I.P. Lonnie.*

**Eugene Martin** - May 06, 2015 at 07:34 PM

MH

*“ LONNIE SIMMONS WILL BE MISSED BY ALL WHO KNEW HIM, HE SERVED MANY OF US HERE IN THIS COMMUNITY. LONNIE JUST NOT GO TO CHURCH, HE CARRIED THE CHURCH, HE WENT ABOUT TRYING TO HELP OTHERS TO THIS FAMILY YOU STAY FOCUS ON YOUR BROTHER FATHER, I WILL FOCUS ON THE FRIEND HE WAS TO EVERYONE WHO NEEDED HIM, GOD BLESS EVERY ONE IS MY PRAYER.*

**MRS CARRIE HOWARD** - May 05, 2015 at 08:13 PM

CY

“ *My prayers are with all of you that you don't ask GOD "Why?" but give HIM thanks for the time HE allowed you to spend with Uncle Lonnie as I so fondly would call him. May you reflect on the happy times and not the sad and get to know GOD and one another better. Be encouraged & GOD bless.*

*Minister Cynthia Norfleet-Jackson*

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**Cynthia** - May 04, 2015 at 09:18 AM