



## Elsie Carnelia Sims

April 28, 1942 - April 6, 2015

Chicago, IL- Elsie Carnelia Williamson Sims transitioned from this life on to glory on April 6, 2015 at St. Joseph Hospital in Chicago after a long illness. Her life was a testament to her great faith and reliance on God no matter what circumstances she faced and a model for allowing the joy of our Lord to be our strength.

Elsie was born April 28, 1942 to John Henry Williamson, Jr. and Helen Anna Williamson (nee Hairston) in McComas, WV. She accepted Christ at an early age and was a member of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Bluefield, where she served on the usher board, the Ministry of Finance, and was a Trustee, serving faithfully in each role. Committed to service, she was also appointed by Governor Gaston Caperton to the West Virginia Commission on Aging. When she relocated to Chicago in 2010, she joined the Second Baptist Church in Evanston, IL.

Elsie received her education in public schools, graduating from Park Central High School and continuing her post-secondary education at Bluefield State College. She worked for GTE, first as an operator and, then as a customer service specialist. After retiring from GTE, her second career was as a bank teller at First Community Bank. Her warmth, caring, and infectious smile were beloved by her customers and co-workers alike.

Her kindhearted and giving spirit was shared with all, but especially with the loves of her life: Herb, Jay, Steve, L'Tanya, and all her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Helen Williamson; her

husband, Herbert M. Sims, her son, John David (Jay) Sims, and brother, Farris Hale.

She leaves to mourn her loss, her son, Dr. H. Steven Sims (Kesha), and daughter L'Tanya Yevette Sims; two brothers, John Williamson (Gloria) and Gregory Williamson (Eileen). Additional survivors are her sisters-in-law Mary Lee Hamlet, Gladys Pippens, Bessie Rose Dorsey (Ben), Doris Ross, Betty Ware (Albert); brothers-in-law Bishop. Eric Sims (Rose), David Sims, Jr. (Clariol); and sisters-in-love Deloris French, Donna Kelly, Lisa Taxley Brooks, Linda Thomas, Katherine "Cat" Kearns as well as host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

The family will receive friends at Mercer Funeral Home on Monday April 13, 2015 from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. and at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Tuesday April 14, 2015 from 1:00 until 2:00 p.m.

Funeral services will be conducted on Tuesday April 14, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. from Westminster Presbyterian Church with Rev. Eric Sims and Rev. Adrian Dowell officiating.

Burial will follow at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Princeton.

Donations can be made to the "Jay Sims Scholarship Fund" payable to Bluefield High School, 535 W. Cumberland Road, Bluefield, WV 24701.

Those wishing to share memories or condolence messages with the family may do so by visiting [www.MercerFuneralHome.com](http://www.MercerFuneralHome.com) Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family of Mrs. Elsie Carnelia Williams Sims.

# Cemetery Details

## Roselawn Memorial Gardens Cemetery

Princeton, WV

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 13. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory  
1231 West Cumberland Road  
Bluefield, WV 24701  
(304) 327-6155  
mercerc@mercercfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.mercercfuneralhome.com/>

## Visitation

APR 14. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
2005 Washington Street  
Bluefield, WV 24701

## Funeral Service

APR 14. 2:00 PM (ET)

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
2005 Washington Street  
Bluefield, WV 24701



# Tribute Wall



“ *Elsie Carnelia Sims*

October 05, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ *When I learned of Elsie's death it sadden me greatly. We were in high school together. Oh, the fun times we had. Herbert, who she later married, was also a good friend. Before she left Bluefield I would often see her at the bank where is worked. To the family, my deepest sympathy. I am so glad I knew her.*

**Julia Iona Green George** - September 23, 2017 at 08:33 PM



“ *I was sad to learn of Miss Elsie's death. Elsie, Herb and the boys were our wonderful, generous and kind neighbors on Albemarle Street in Bluefield. My wife Debbie and I were blessed to know the Sims and we were thankful to have such special folks living next door to us.*

**Carroll Sluss** - April 21, 2015 at 02:43 PM



*Thank you. We are grateful to have been a part of such a wonderful neighborhood. I have memories I will always cherish from Albemarle Street*

**Steven Sims** - April 21, 2015 at 02:52 PM



*I'm just finding out today that Ms. Elsie passed away almost 10 months ago. She and my mom worked together for many years at GTE and were very good friends. I remember when her and Mr. Herbert Sims and my parents and other friends used to get together all the time. Rest in peace Elsie!*

**Carmen T. Hurt** - February 03, 2016 at 02:25 PM

HS

*Ms. Carmen, I am sorry I did not see your message until now. Your mother had the BEST laugh and I remember her so well. Thank you for your kind words. Blessings to you.*

**H Steven Sims** - March 14, 2016 at 05:01 PM

TJ

*“ We are sorry about the loss of Mrs. Sims. Our prayers are with the family. A donation has been made to the Jay Sims Memorial Scholarship Fund in her memory.  
The Burch and Jackson families*

**Tamyka Jackson** - April 15, 2015 at 09:15 PM

HS

*Thank you, my sister*

**H Steven Sims** - April 17, 2015 at 05:52 PM

KR

*“ What a wonderful, precious woman! A great loss for those of us on earth, but I am so thankful that she will feel no more pain and sorrow. Her life and love for the Lord were such an amazing testimony. She endured a great deal here on earth, but always maintained her sweet, loving spirit.*

*She was a big part of my life growing up. She was more than our next door neighbor; she was family. My family will always remember her as our "adopted grandmother." Much love to Steve and L'Tanya and the rest of Elsie's family.*

**Kristen Clarke Runion** - April 15, 2015 at 03:44 PM

HS

*Kristen, you brought mom so much Joy! All of you were very special to her. Thank you*

**H Steven Sims** - April 17, 2015 at 05:53 PM

FC

“ We are saddened by the loss of Mrs. Sims. Prayers for her family. The Bradshers and Claytor s



francine claytor - April 14, 2015 at 02:00 AM

HS

Thank you

H Steven Sims - April 17, 2015 at 05:54 PM

HS

“ 1 file added to the album Elsie Sims



H. Steven Sims - April 13, 2015 at 03:33 PM

RD

“ I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Mrs. Sims. I always admired her strength and graciousness as she faced the untimely deaths of a son and husband. My thoughts and prayers are with her family, especially Steve, who I had the pleasure of knowing briefly as a student. May The Lord surround you with his comfort.

Roger Daniels

Roger Daniels - April 13, 2015 at 02:42 PM

HS

Thank you, Mr. Daniels, for your kindness and for Stage Band

H. Steven Sims - April 13, 2015 at 03:43 PM

GF

“ Greg and Family purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Elsie Carnelia Sims.



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**Greg and Family** - April 13, 2015 at 01:15 PM

CC

“ To say that Elsie was a beautiful person inside and outside would be an understatement. Our loss is Heaven's gain. She is with her Mother (Helen was such a wonderful and Godly woman, my friend who loved her family more than life itself), her father (I worked with John at Mercer Optical Co. so many years ago, he was such a great friend with a wonderful sense of humor and humility), her wonderful love of her life, (husband herb) and her vivacious son (Jay). I am so saddened by the loss of such a driving force of Godly encouragement, yet so thankful she is in the hands of such a loving compassionate Lord and Savior. We are saddened, but through our faith, (and knowing this wonderful woman of faith has been such a privilege) we will see her again. We will continue the work she applied herself to, we will bask in the afterglow of her beautiful countenance until we see her again. Thank you so much Elsie, for the positive influence you have been, not only in my life, but in all the lives you have touched, all those you have mentored, and all those you have inspired. Family, you have my sincere condolences, but you have far more than that, You have a legacy to live up to. She was proud of all of you, and she loved each one of you and you were always in her prayers. Now you remain in mine. Sincerely, and with sympathy, love and prayer,  
Chaplain Charlotte A. Farris

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**Charlotte A Farris, Chaplain** - April 13, 2015 at 09:16 AM

RL

“ *Robin Lefler sent a virtual gift in memory of Elsie Carnelia Sims*



Robin Lefler - April 13, 2015 at 08:29 AM

HS

*Thank you, Robin.*

H Steven Sims - April 27, 2015 at 12:26 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Elsie Carnelia Sims.*



April 13, 2015 at 04:28 AM

JV

“ *So sorry to hear of Elsie's passing on to be with our Lord and experience no more pain. I'm sure she is smiling that contagious smile of hers and dancing and celebrating with the angels in heaven. No sweeter lady on this earth will there ever be. Elsie always looked like she stepped out of a modeling magazine from head to toe. Her style was just as she was, full of grace and beauty. I know she would not want anyone to mourn her loss but to shout praises to the Lord that she is now with her beloved husband and son and all her relatives. I knew Elsie from the phone company, the bank, and I also worked for one of her doctors here. RIP gorgeous lady, you deserve to walk on those streets of gold.*

Jeanette Vernon - April 12, 2015 at 06:15 PM

HS

*Miss Jeanette. Thank you for those beautiful words!*

**H Steven Sims** - April 27, 2015 at 12:27 PM

MB

“*Mary L. Buford lit a candle in memory of Elsie Carnelia Sims*



**Mary L. Buford** - April 11, 2015 at 07:07 PM

PM

“*Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can not heal. The passing of a love one is always hard because their presence will be missed. We pray that God would bring comfort to the family of Mrs. Sims. The scripture says that there are some words that we can take comfort in. 1st Thess.4:13-18; Thank God for her life, love and legacy.*”

*Pastor Michael Rosier  
Strong Tower Ministry*

**Pastor Mike** - April 11, 2015 at 02:38 PM

HS

*Thank you, Pastor Rosier. I always appreciate when you preach the word and a word from you.*

**H. Steven Sims** - April 11, 2015 at 05:21 PM

JH

*To the Sims family - I am deeply saddened by the loss of Elsie. She was like a mother to me growing up. She & Herb always had a smile and never any negative comments about me. They always gave me good advice. Growing up with Steve and Jay was one of the highlights of my life in Bluefield. Steve & LaTonya - please be strong and keep the memories of your mother burning like the light of an eternal flame. She was a beautiful person inside and out and will be truly missed.*

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**Jerry Hairston** - April 13, 2015 at 09:17 PM