



## Gilven George Simms

July 8, 1942 - January 23, 2018

Gilven Simms peacefully departed this world on Tuesday, January 23, 2018, at his home in Dover, Delaware. Gilven was born on July 8, 1942, in Hamilton Mountain, St. Mary's, Jamaica. He was born to Gershon and Bennetia (Ms. Benny) Simms. He was one of eleven brothers and sisters. Often sick as a child, but always a hard worker, Gilven left school during 6th grade and began working with his father in the field and raising cows, goats, and pigs. He also helped in his father's little grocery store. As a young man, he learned many trades but focused on commercial and residential painting. He worked as a painter for the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica. He even was a spokesman for Glidden paints, appearing on television, radio, and his image placed on billboards throughout the island.

He was married in 1963. To that union, two children, Garfield and Donna, were born. The family emigrated from Kingston, Jamaica and settled in Dover, Delaware, in August 1969. In 1974, they welcomed their third child, Angelia. Throughout his life, he maintained loving relationships that yielded three additional children, Theresa, Janavor and Yvonne.

Gilven always took pride in being a hard worker. He was employed at Firestone Tires, where he worked as a mechanic for several years. He later secured a position as a tradesman at Delaware State College (now Delaware State University) in Dover, Delaware, where he worked in maintenance for 32

years before retiring in 2006. He excelled as a painter and carpenter. However, many in the local community knew him because of the general contracting work he performed on their homes. He was primarily a house painter, but also did masonry work, built patios, decks, shingled rooves, installed siding, fixed furnaces, and refurbished dilapidated homes. For a time, he had his own business, D&G Contracting Services, which regularly handled painting dormitory rooms for Delaware State College and painting outdoor buildings for Scotts Paper.

He liked to cook, enjoyed gardening, and loved to watch sports. He especially loved a good wrestling and boxing match. He used those lessons learned to beat prostate cancer into remission. He kept abreast of political events and closely followed the election of the first African American president. As much as he loved being in the United States, he never relinquished his Jamaican citizenship. He passed on Tuesday, with a light smile on his face. We hope that smile represented the lifting of whatever burdens he bore, the easing of any ailments suffered and the joining of his spirit with his parents and siblings in Hamilton Mountain.

Gilven was predeceased by his grandson Cartier Peete. Left to cherish his memories are his children, Garfield Simms, Ph.D., J.D. (Teresa), Ft. Washington, MD; Donna Saunders, Dover, DE; Angelia Simms-Peete, Newark, DE; Theresa Jenkins, Bridgeville, DE; Janavor Weatherspoon (Anna), Crestview, FL; Yvonne Weatherspoon, Cambridge, MD; his siblings, Laurel Gray, Cora Brown, David (Onis) Simms; his grandchildren, Chaz Peete, Tyler Saunders, Micah Saunders, Garfield (Gary) Simms, Brandon Simms, Tykia Weatherspoon, Avieon Waples, Ty'mere Waples, Nikola Weatherspoon, Janavor Weatherspoon, Jr., Naomi Weatherspoon, Teona Andrews, Te'Neal Grandison, Teagan Simms; his great-grandson, Jahlil Kingston Banks, and a host of other loving family and friends.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Gilven George Simms, please visit our Heartfelt Sympathies Store.

# Tribute Wall

GR

“*My dear wife and I would like to extend our condolences for the loss of your loved one. All of us have experienced the pain of death in some way sad to say. And, so, at difficult times like this we are confronted with the stark reality of how precious and fragile life can surely be (James 4:14). So, my wife and I send this condolence to you with the hope that we can in some small way comfort you as it has comforted us with what the Bible reveals to us about GOOD NEWS from Almighty God. Please be assured that we are in no way trying to impose our faith on you; but we sincerely just want to extend comfort to you during your grief (Proverbs 17:17).*

*As recorded in the Bible, God's only-begotten son, Jesus promises that one day he is personally going to bring back to life all those who have died, just as he did when he was on earth as a man (John 5:28, 29; 11:43, 44). Just as death is an enemy to us, it is also an enemy to God (1 Corinthians 15:26). For that reason, as well as others, He promises to remove FOREVER all the pain, suffering, wickedness, and DEATH that mankind has had to endure for thousands of years (Revelation 21:3-5; Psalm 37:10, 11, 29). What a glorious and almost unbelievable day that will be! It's a reality and a sure hope we can rely on because it is absolutely impossible for God to lie (Titus 1:2; Isaiah 55:10, 11).*

*It is our hope that you NOT take our word for what has been written in this condolence; but we encourage you to please take a moment to read and meditate on all these referenced scriptures in your own Bible (1 Timothy 4:15, 16). My wife and I are confident you will be encouraged and comforted by the marvelous hope God has in store for us (Psalm 1:1-3; John 17:3). Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.*

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**George & Christine Ragusa** - February 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ My deepest condolences for the loss of your dear loved one. While nothing will completely take away your grief by meditating on Gods promises found in the Bible you can find real hope and the strength to keep going. My family and I have found the scripture at Isaiah 25:8 to be especially comforting. Here it promises that God "will swallow up death forever and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces."

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**H. Fields** - February 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ To the family of Mr. Simms my family. Adrian and I are deeply sorry for your lost and we are saddened and sad for your family. I think of of him and I have such fun memories of him even though he loved to tease me and then we would laugh and the best part for me is that he would cook up something really good afterward and would say "girl get you some food it's plenty and eat" which was not a problem for me. You the family yes you will miss him more than you will ever imagine but hold on to the memories for they do the heart mind and soul good. Until you get to see your dad again we send you Much Love Adrian and Sherrymaine Rodriguez ❤️

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**Sherrymaine O Rodriguez** - February 02, 2018 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ To Angie and the Simms Family,

*Mr. Simms was a nice man and excellent staff member. I recall he shared smiles and had a great sense of humor. He was an especially caring father and grandfather. May your memories of him bring you comfort now and in the days ahead.*

*Sincerely,  
Kim Sudler*

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**Kimberley Sudler** - January 31, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ *Would like to offer my sincere condolences to Martha and Family*

Demetria Toulson - January 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ *I would like to offer my condolences for your loss. How comforting it is to know that Jehovah, the God of all comfort, will soon eliminate all grief and provide permanent consolation when “all those in the memorial tombs will hear Christ’s voice and come out”! (John 5:28, 29) God promises that “he will do away with death forever, and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces.” (Isa. 25:8) Then, instead of having to “weep with those who weep,” all earth’s inhabitants will “rejoice with those who rejoice.”?—Rom. 12:15.*

M Jones - January 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AA

“ *Extending my sympathy on your loss. Sincerely,  
Althea Armstrong*

Althea Armstrong - January 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ *I extend heartfelt condolences to the Simms family. Mr. Simms was a pleasant professional who brought excellence to his work. I recall that he always had a smile and amusing words of wisdom. May your memories and the love of friends sustain you at this time.*

Lorene Robinson - January 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Prayers are with the family, Mr. Simms or we would call him "SIMMS" was a pleasant quiet but funny guy he always had a smile on his face when you would see him and Mr. Selby together, he will be greatly missed. To be absent from the body is to be present with the lord.

Jane F. Hicks  
Dept. of Athletics

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**Jane F. Hicks** - January 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ Sorry For Your Loss!

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**Thomas & Libby Widgeon** - January 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM

IR

“ Sorry for the passing of your love one. Read Psalms 46:1 for words of comfort and peace.

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**Irene** - January 25, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ Dear Family  
Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories of Mr. Simms to forever hold in your heart. My prayers are with you and your family.  
With deepest condolences.

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**JoyceA** - January 25, 2018 at 12:00 AM