



Mrs. Lydia Lawson Simmons

May 2, 1923 - May 29, 2021

Lydia “Lala” Lawson Simmons, 98, passed away peacefully on the morning of May 29, 2021.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday June 5, 2021 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Washington, LA.

Interment will be in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Washington, LA. Rev. Matthew Higginbotham, Pastor, will officiate the Mass of Christian Burial.

Lydia was born in Washington LA on May 2, 1923 to the late Emily Gauthier and Isiah “Sonny” Lawson. She was the third of seven children born to the couple.

She was a high school math teacher, catechism teacher, track coach and avid bowler. But her favorite jobs were being a mother to her four daughters, grandmother to nine, great-grandmother to sixteen, great-great grandmother to four and the matriarch of the Lawson Clan of Washington LA.

As a proud graduate of Southern University, she enjoyed traveling to football games and to the annual alumni conventions. She served as treasurer of the St. Landry Parish Alumni Chapter.

She is survived by four daughters; Lydia Annette Love, Houston TX, Janet Rami, Baton Rouge, LA, Bernadette Mills and Jocelyn Haynes of Opelousas, LA., 9 grandchildren, 16 great grands and 4 great-great grands and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Lydia was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers; William Henry of Los Angeles, CA, Wiley of Port Arthur, TX and Harold of Houston, TX, and

sisters; Annie Mae Richardson of Baton Rouge, LA, Delia Rucker of Washington, LA, Catherine Jones of Opelousas, LA and Hazel Bozeman, of Houston, TX.

The family requests visiting hours be observed on Saturday, June 5, 2021 from 8:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. at Williams Funeral Home of Opelousas, 817 E. South Street, 337-942-2037.

Share words of comfort with the family of Lydia "Lala" Lawson Simmons on her Permanent Life Tribute Page at www.williamsfuneralhomes.net. Be the first to post your most treasured memory of Lydia. Show your support by sharing a personal message or story, meaningful photo or video, or record a video message using your webcam. On behalf of the family, we encourage you share your personal experiences and preserve the memory of Lydia Lawson Simmons, known affectionately as "Lala", for future generations to come.

Final arrangements entrusted to Williams Funeral Home of Opelousas, 817 E. South Street, 337-942-2037.

Cemetery Details

Cedar Hill Cemetery

Washington, LA 70589

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 5. 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Williams Funeral Home - Opelousas
817 East South St.
Opelousas, LA 70571
(337) 942-2037
williamsfuneralhomes.1932@gmail.com
<https://www.williamsfuneralhomes.net/>

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 5. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
318 E Moundville St
Washington, LA 70589
(337) 826-7396

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Lydia Lawson Simmons*

January 28, 2023 at 08:52 AM



“ *Our hearts stretch to try an embrace unfathomable concepts such as the depth of grief and the heights of honor for the duty bound who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the protection and freedoms of others.*

Casting a soft shadow on our ceremonies beyond the cemetery is the glowing backdrop that is the uncertainty of this life. Even as our minds race for answers to the profoundly unanswerable questions uncertainty is the constant we can count on.

To contemplate death is a ubiquitous spiritual practice that spans philosophies, religion and time periods and is among the effective ways to focus oneself on how a day should be spent.

As I remember others also think about what you accomplished while breathing in the unique atmosphere of this lifetime. You are a remarkable woman, a profound mother, teacher, mentor, coach, activist, community leader and community friend. Your job was very well done. You will be greatly missed and always appreciated.



Cassandra Armstrong - June 05, 2021 at 01:40 PM



Thank you very much!

Lydia Love - June 06, 2021 at 03:56 PM

BR

“ Lydia,
You welcomed me into your family as one of your own. You will be
dearly missed!
Sending my love and condolences to the family.

Bernadette Fontenot-Rubin

Bernadette Fontenot- Rubin - June 05, 2021 at 11:41 AM

LL

Thank you very much!

Lydia Love - June 06, 2021 at 03:57 PM

AF

*Mrs. Simmons was one of the teachers at Paul Lawrence Dunbar who
inspired me to join the education arena and pursue a career in
teaching. Whenever I revisited my past, I always thought about the
time she loaned my mother money to pay for my school pictures. She
had a big heart and lived a Godly life. My condolences to her family.*

Anna Anna Frederick - June 20, 2021 at 08:40 AM

MR

“ Our deepest sympathy to the family. God bless your family. We will
keep all of you in our prayers.

Mae Ritha Rose-Poindexter - June 04, 2021 at 09:53 PM

LL

Thank you very much!

Lydia Love - June 06, 2021 at 03:58 PM

ML

“ Ms. Simmions, you were the pillar of the community. You were a great educator. The Sky was the limit when you took math with Ms. Simmons. She Also Helped to make the Town of Washington what is today. She Helped to divide the town council seats into districts to give everybody an opportunity to serve on the town council.



Thank you for your hard work Never looking for anything in return

Thank you for the long talks when we walk to the post office together

Love you,

Mary A Lavergne

Mary A Lavergne - June 04, 2021 at 08:59 PM

LL

Thank you very much!
Her daughter, Lydia Love

Lydia Love - June 06, 2021 at 04:00 PM

LA

“ The best math teacher ever!! Rest In Paradise

Laura - June 04, 2021 at 04:31 PM

LL

Thank you very much!
Her daughter, Lydia Love

Lydia Love - June 06, 2021 at 04:01 PM

JF

My Deepest Sympathy to the Family. Love you all.

Jacinta Frank

*Daughter Of: Nathan T-Bud Frank & Irma Mae Comeaux Frank, Sister:
Goretti Frank Fontenot*

Jacinta Frank - June 28, 2021 at 08:42 PM

CJ

“ *What a legacy.. an aunt, mother to my cousins and a community leader! She will never be forgotten! We send our thoughts and prayers to the family! Praying God keeps you all in perfect peace as you mourn the loss and yet cherish the memories of your dear mother! Love you all!! The Family of Corliss Greene Jackson and Carolyne Garriette Eaglin.*



CorlissGreene Jackson - June 04, 2021 at 04:21 PM

LL

*Thank you very much!
Her daughter, Lydia Annette Love*

Lydia Love - June 06, 2021 at 04:03 PM

DK

“ *My deepest condolences to the Simmons family. Mrs. Simmons was a great Math teacher
She will be truly miss by her family and friends. My prayers goes out to the family. From Dorothy Tyler King & Family
Mukilteo, Washington*

Dorothy Tyler King - June 04, 2021 at 04:14 PM



*Thank you very much!
Her daughter,
Lydia Annette Love*

Lydia Love - June 06, 2021 at 04:06 PM



“ *Lois Alexander-Benjamin purchased the Beautiful
in Blue for the family of Mrs. Lydia Lawson
Simmons.*



Lois Alexander-Benjamin - June 04, 2021 at 03:09 PM

JB

“ *Teacher, Mentor, & Mother to many girls: although she had her own Beautiful girls!*

My memories are of a very personal nature. I spent many years growing up in Ms.

Simmons home, Sundays eating pineapple upside down cake that Joy had made

sharing stories of Dunbar Drama club, and chorus. However the special one is

getting married in her home! Bernadette, Joy & Chubby we will never forget what that

meant to us! Ms. Simmons also filmed the occasion & lovingly held on to those videos

for many years! Even after the fire she refused to give up on them and we were able

to get those precious memories. (Thanks Sandy)

Growing up in Washington I remember with great fondness all of the Lawson family

reunions I attended. Joy my oldest friend ,special to me & Jerry: Lydia, Bern & Sandy

thank you so much for sharing your mom we me. I will miss my visits with her when I

visit Washington. Jerry & I hope that your family find comfort in your mom's life well

lived and all of the tributes she deserve. We love you all.

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loves us and give

everlasting comfort, comfort your hearts and make you firm"

Jerry & JoAnn Belson

Roswell, Georgia

Jerry & JoAnn Belson - June 04, 2021 at 12:46 PM

LL

*Thank you very much!
Her daughter,
Lydia Annette Love*

Lydia Love - June 06, 2021 at 04:15 PM

BF

“ *Bonnie & Frank Anderson & Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mrs. Lydia Lawson Simmons.*



Bonnie & Frank Anderson & Family - June 04, 2021 at 11:00 AM

BA

“ *Aunt Lydia we loved the person you were. Beautiful inside and out and well respected. . I have very fond memories of you when i was a little girl. You were a joy to be around. Frank and I enjoyed great conversation with you and the family history lessons you shared with us. You will be truly missed. You were truly amazing!*

*Bonnie & Frank Anderson, Brigadier General, USAF (Retired)
& Anderson Family*

Bonnie R Anderson - June 04, 2021 at 10:52 AM

LL

*Thank you very much!
Her daughter,
Lydia Annette Love*

Lydia Love - June 06, 2021 at 04:16 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lydia Lawson Simmons.*



June 04, 2021 at 08:09 AM



“ *MRS,LYDIA WAS A GREAT PERSON,MY NINTH GRADE MATH TEACHER,FRIEND,COACH AND A EAR FOR PROBLEMS.SHE POSTED HER SELF AT THE BACK OF THE SCHOOL BLDG. AT PAUL L. DUNBAR. SHE WAS PRESENT AT ALL 5 REUNIONS OF THE CLASS OF 1960. PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY.*

Lola neal - June 04, 2021 at 04:54 AM



Mrs. Lydia Simmons, we the Class of 1974 from Washington High School in Washington LA will forever keep you in our hearts. Your passion for teaching math, your love of coaching basketball, and mentoring so many are values we will always remember about you. Thank you. Rest in peace our dear friend. WHS-74.

Charles R. Smith - June 05, 2021 at 11:41 AM



*Thank you very much!
Her daughter,
Lydia Annette Love*

Lydia Love - June 06, 2021 at 04:19 PM

RJ

“ I was a class of 78 graduate and she was not only my math teacher she was also our assistant girl's basketball and track coach.

She opened her home for meals before we left for many sporting events. She was always on the side line of our sporting events as assistant coach but more so playing everyone's mom.

She took every opportunity to mentor and share her wisdom with every student who would listen.

She shared her TIME.

My sincere condolences to the entire Simmons's family.

Rose Johnson-King, Lansing Michigan

Rose Johnson-King - June 03, 2021 at 11:19 AM

LL

Thank you very much!

Lydia Love - June 03, 2021 at 08:02 PM

SU

“ *Shelley and Cedric Upshaw!! purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Lydia Lawson Simmons.*



Shelley and Cedric Upshaw!! - June 03, 2021 at 11:12 AM

WD

“ *My deepest and heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Lydia Simmons family! She will be sadly missed. She was a strong towel in the Washington community!*

Wilda Drawsand - June 02, 2021 at 11:37 PM

LL

*Thank you very much!
Her daughter,
Lydia Annette Love*

Lydia Love - June 06, 2021 at 04:22 PM

JA

“ *J. Wallace & Gladys Wortham, Peoria, Arizona purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Mrs. Lydia Lawson Simmons.*



J. Wallace & Gladys Wortham, Peoria, Arizona - June 02, 2021 at 06:53 PM

WW

“ To the family of Lydia "Lala" Lawson Simmons:

We would like to express our heartfelt condolences on the loss of your mother and grandmother. Mrs. Simmons lived a long and accomplished life. You all should be proud of the legacy she has left.

My fondest memory of "Lala" was spending a weekend in her home in Washington, LA. It seemed that she was cooking all the time and I was eating well the entire weekend. Her legendary gumbo remains one of my lifetime cuisine delights.

May the memories of Mrs. Simmons extraordinary achievements and her love for her daughters and grandchildren be a comfort to you in this time of bereavement.

*Wally and Gladys Wortham
Peoria, Arizona*

Wally & Gladys Wortham - June 02, 2021 at 06:33 PM

LL

Thank you very much! Love y'all!

Lydia Love - June 02, 2021 at 07:39 PM

LL

Thank you very much! Love Ya'!!!

Lydia Love - June 02, 2021 at 07:40 PM

LB

My sincere condolences to her daughters and all family and friends. Ms Simmons was my first and second grade teacher and my algebra teacher in ninth grade. She was loved by many. She was one of my favorite educators. I remember many happy moments wit her. She always encouraged me to apply myself and to not be so shy. RIH sweet lady. 🌹❤️

Lois Benjamin - June 05, 2021 at 12:46 AM

LL

Thank you very much!

Lydia Love - June 06, 2021 at 04:25 PM

TL

“ *The Family of Edward Lawson purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Mrs. Lydia Lawson Simmons.*



The Family of Edward Lawson - June 02, 2021 at 05:36 PM

JM

“ *Condolences to the family. Will keep the family in prayers. May the Lord watch over you/family. Curley/Joyce Milburn.*

joyce /Curley Milburn - June 02, 2021 at 12:54 PM

LL

Thank you very much!

Lydia Love - June 02, 2021 at 07:47 PM

LR

“ *A Beautiful Vessel used in a Blessed and Beautiful Life's Time to pour into many lives!
TO GOD BE THE GLORY, HONOR, AND PRAISE FOR THIS BEAUTIFUL ROSE OF 98 YEARS ON THIS EARTH!!*



*May The Grace of The Lord be with you all during your mourning and The Glory of The Lord, with your rejoicing!
Ecclesiastes says to "mourn with those who mourn, and rejoice with those who rejoice"*

Lillian RideauxSavoy - June 02, 2021 at 10:53 AM

LL

Thank you very much!

Lydia Love - June 02, 2021 at 07:48 PM

DC

“ *The sweetest teacher and coach ever. Greene you play ball as good as your sister, yes ma'am, let me see. Me little chubby girl trying to prove I can play basketball took off with the ball breaking ever rule 😂. Ms Simmons says Greene basketball is not your sport. She said it with so much kindness and I agreed 😂 because I was tired. Beautiful inside and out my love and you will be missed. Condolences to the family. Deborah Greene Clark. Paul Lawrence Dunbar/ Washington High class of 1973*

Deborah Greene Clark - June 02, 2021 at 10:42 AM

LL

Thank you very much !

Lydia Love - June 02, 2021 at 07:50 PM

MF

“ *Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Zachary & Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Lydia Lawson Simmons*



Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Zachary & Family - June 02, 2021 at 09:21 AM

LL

*Thank you very much!
Her daughter,
Lydia Annette Love*

Lydia Love - June 06, 2021 at 04:27 PM

AR

“ *My condolences and prayers to the family. Ms. Simmons was a great educator, neighbor and just a lovely person. She gave me my first summer job and it was a joy to know her and her family. She will truly be missed.
Cookie*

Annette Rosette - June 02, 2021 at 08:39 AM

LL

Thank you very!

Lydia Love - June 02, 2021 at 07:53 PM

LL

Thank you very much!

Lydia Love - June 06, 2021 at 04:29 PM



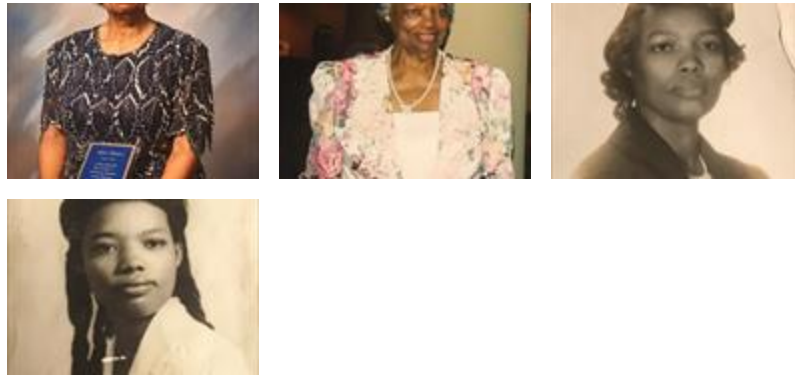
“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lydia Lawson Simmons.*



June 01, 2021 at 08:46 PM



“ *4 files added to the album Lydia through the years...*



Williams F H - June 01, 2021 at 06:24 PM



Joy, I'm so sorry for your loss. Praying for you and your sisters. Ann Leslie White

Ann Chevis White - June 01, 2021 at 07:06 PM



*To Lydia Love,
So sorry to learn about your mom's passing. May God give you and your family peace and comfort during this time.*

Ida Campbell - June 01, 2021 at 10:09 PM

MH

We are praying for the family that the Lord will give you peace . Mrs. Lydia Simmons was an amazing math teacher and had a major influence on the lives of those she taught. 'Math is the art of correct reasoning' was one of her favorite sayings in class.

Mary J Rose Hooker - June 02, 2021 at 05:07 PM

LL

Thank you very much!

Lydia Love - June 02, 2021 at 07:56 PM