



Obituary

Born: Thursday, July 5, 1951

Died: Thursday, July 8, 2021

It is with heartfelt sympathy that we announce the passing of Ms. Anetha "Nita Bell" Simmons, Gadsden, AL, who transitioned from her earthly life on Thursday, July 8, 2021 at the age of 70. We ask that you keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Anetha Rose Chapman Bell Simmons was born on July 5, 1951, to Mr. Walter Sarge Chapman and Mrs. Rosetta Davis Parker Chapman in Gadsden, AL, and her sunset on Thursday, July 8, 2021.

She confessed her faith in Jesus Christ at an early age and joined Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church in Gadsden, AL where she was a committed servant to the Lord. She loved the Lord and served as treasurer, trustee, choir member, nursing guild at Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church and Mission Baptist Church. She was a devoted speaker in the Wills Creek District and The Southern Baptist Convention all over the state of Alabama until she became ill.

Anetha graduated from Gadsden High School in 1969 where she was one of the first African Americans to integrate the high school and began her college education at Gadsden State Community College. She later transferred to the University of Alabama, Birmingham (UAB) school of nursing where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in 1977 in Nursing and became a Registered Nurse.

She began her professional career as a nurse at Cooper Green Medical Center in a high-risk Neonatal nursery, then she was recruited to teach in the Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program for 25 years at Gadsden State Technical College. She made lifelong bonds with her co-workers and students before joining UAB Hospital where she worked until her retirement in 2004.

She was preceded in death by her loving father, Walter Sarge Chapman, and mother, Rosetta Davis Chapman, beloved siblings Dorothy O'Neal, Shirley Wright, Walter Chapman Jr., Dorianne O'Neal- Bailey, Rev. Willie Parker, Colleen Holiday, and James "Trap" Parker and grandson Reginald Dewayne Wilson.

She leaves to cherish her memories and legacy: Sebrenna (Brian Sr.) Graves (Joliet, IL), Barry (Kimberly) Bell Jr. (Dallas, TX), and Kamilah Simmons (Gadsden, AL).
Siblings: John Parker (Simi Valley, CA), Gwendolyn Pearson (Cleveland, OH), Patricia Smith (Gadsden, AL), Michael

Service Summary

Visitation

5:30 PM to 8:00 PM, Fri Jul 16, 2021

Adams-Buggs Funeral Service ~ Etowah Chapel

401 N. 9th Street
Gadsden, AL 35901

Funeral Service

2:00 PM Sat Jul 17, 2021

Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church Gadsden

408 N. 9TH Street
Gadsden, Alabama 35901

Chapman (Ellenwood, GA), Allan Parker (Tampa, FL), Sylvia O'Neal (Ellenwood, GA) and Benjamin Parker (Athens, Ga). Nine Grandchildren: Alexis (Paige) Wilson, Tanesha Jones, Christopher Jones, Ebony Graves, BarTanya Bell, Brian Graves Jr., BreAsia Bell, Christian Simmons, and Ezra Simmons along with a host of nieces, nephews, and special friends.

Anetha had a love for the Lord, all things church, comedy, traveling, the casino, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She truly loved life and lived it like it was golden with fiery energy like no one else could exhibit but her. From singing songs using the wrong words at the top of her lungs, hitting the road to travel and see the world, to sending inspirational text messages in the morning and evening to encourage others all while she was fighting the good fight for her own life. She enjoyed the simple pleasures in life, such as talking on the phone, daily 9 pm prayer/Bible study on the phone, telling jokes (without trying to be funny), and spending time with family, friends, and some strangers that she sparked a conversation with. She never met a stranger, nor did she refuse to help others whenever there was a need.