

Acknowledgements

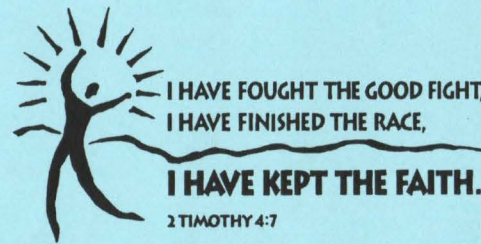
*We will always remember
the many expressions of care and concern.
Our thanks are given to each of you in love.*

Thanks from the depths of our hearts.

- The Sims Families -

PALLBEARERS

Aaron Sims
Adrianne Sims
Daniel Sims
Donald Sims, Jr.
Donald Sims, Sr.
Douglas Sims
Ronald Sims
Troy Turner



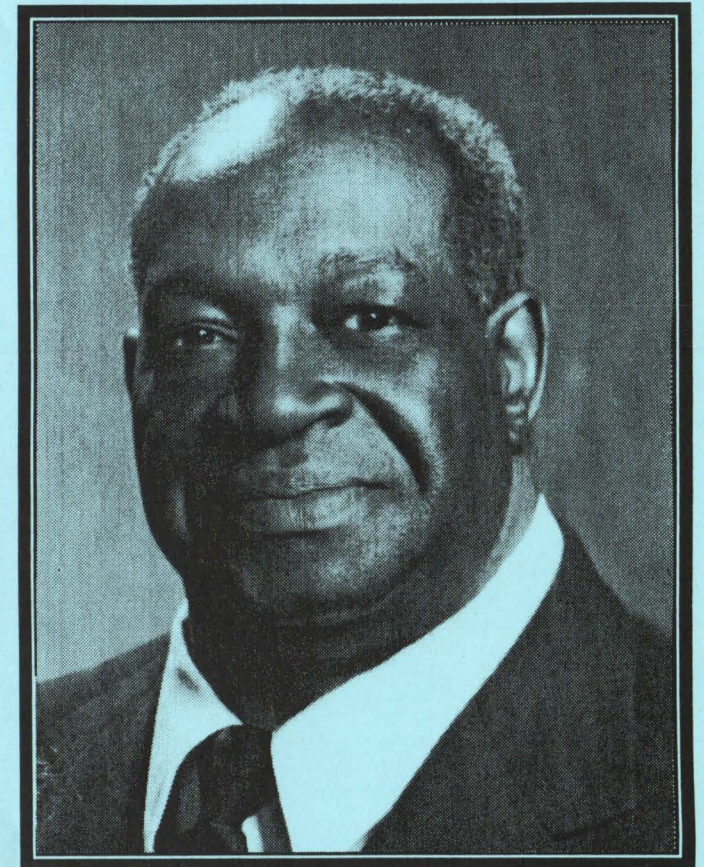
Funeral Director

Southwest Mortuary
9018 Rainier Avenue South
Seattle, Washington 98118

Interment

Evergreen Washelli
11111 Aurora Avenue North
Seattle, Washington 98133

We Will Always Remember



Rev. James McCormick Sims

SERVICE

Saturday, September 28, 1996
10:00 a.m.

MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

1634 19th Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98122

Rev. Dr. Samuel B. McKinney
Officiant

Reverend James McCormick Sims, Sr. was born in Huntington, New York on June 17, 1917. His father, Samuel Danuel Sims, who had never finished grade school, and his mother, Mollie Bell Johnson stressed the importance of the spiritual and intellectual growth to their children. He graduated magna cum laude from Summit High School, New Jersey, and with the highest of honors from Lincoln University of Pennsylvania with a degree in social work.

He had always wanted to work with the YMCA and upon graduation became executive secretary of the YMCA in Summit, New Jersey. It was there that he honed his skills and developed an abiding passion for helping others.

He enlisted and served in the Army Air Force during World War II and was stationed at Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, Washington. *Sarge*, as many of his Army friends called him throughout his life, left the Army Air Force in 1947.

He forsook the opportunities available to him in New York and decided to raise his family in Spokane, Washington. After leaving the service he worked two jobs for several years as a janitor cleaning the military PX and telephone booths for the local telephone company. During this time, he was also enrolled in a Masters Degree Program at Gonzaga University. He completed all his studies for a Master's Degree except his thesis. Based on his personal principles, he refused to change the subject matter of his thesis. He would spend the rest of his life standing on his beliefs, even when they were contrary to popular opinion.

He was very active in the Spokane area. For over seventeen years, he and his wife alternated as President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He led numerous peaceful demonstrations in Spokane that led to new employment and housing opportunities that will be enjoyed by citizens for generations. He founded the Spokane Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the nation's oldest African American Fraternity. He was a member of his Fraternity for fifty-seven years. He was a talented musician becoming a Master Organist. He served as Assistant Pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church for ten years and became Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in 1962 and served there until his retirement in 1989.

Reverend Sims was committed to the growth of his three sons and was known to attend every concert, graduation, baseball, football, track and basketball competition and ceremony in their lives. When the boy Scouts needed a pack leader, he volunteered. This required his spending many a weekend and weekday promoting and encouraging young boys to become Scouts. His enthusiasm was infectious and Spokane's *Pack 33* tripled its membership under his leadership.

Jim as he was affectionately called, wanted to be a social worker. He achieved the highest scores on the State of Washington's exam for four consecutive years. But was denied employment because of racial discrimination. Through perseverance he reached his goal in 1956, after threatening to sue the State of Washington. The advent of the War on Poverty resulted in his joining the State of Washington's Office of Economic Opportunity. He traveled throughout the State working with numerous community groups who had organized efforts to end poverty in their communities. He retired in 1986. He received numerous honors, including being honored by the Washington State Senate. Secretary of State, Ralph Munro, his long-time friend, presented the Proclamation to him.

After living a full and rich life, Reverend James McCormick Sims passed away September 23, 1996.

He is survived by his wife of fifty-five years, Lydia Theresa Sims; three sons, James, Jr. and Ronald of Seattle, Washington and Donald of Oakland, California; daughters-in-law, Carol and Cayan; grandchildren, Adrienne, Samuel, Douglas, Donald, Daniel and Aaron; his sister, Mary Sims of Summit, New Jersey; brother-in-law, Arnold Stewart of Plainfield, New Jersey; and a brother and sister-in-law, Walter and Sevilla Johnson of Citrus Heights, California; stepmother, Sadie Sims of East Orange, New Jersey; and many other relatives and friends.

We are Spirits, that bodies should be lent to us, while they can afford us pleasure, assist in acquiring knowledge, or in doing good to our fellow creatures, is a kind and benevolent act of God. When they become unfit for these purposes, and afford us pain instead of pleasure, instead of an aid become an encumbrance, and answer none of the intentions for which they were given, it is equally kind and benevolent, that a way is provided by which we may get rid of them.

Death is that way. Our friend and we were invited abroad on a party of pleasure, which is to last forever. His chair was ready first and he has gone before us. We could not all conveniently start together; and why should you and I be grieved at this, since we are soon to follow, and know where to find him.

Benjamin Franklin



ORDER of SERVICE

ORGAN PRELUDE

Rev. Frank M. Byrdwell, Jr.

OPENING SENTENCES INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Samuel B. McKinney

MUSIC

His Eye is on the Sparrow
Mrs. Michelle Benson

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 19:14

Rev. Vaughn Breaux

John 4:6-8

Rev. Allen Benson

PRAYER

Rev. Cecilia L. Johnson-Britten

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Rev. LaVerne C. Hall

RESOLUTIONS

WORDS of COMFORT

Rev. Happy Watkins
New Hope Baptist Church
Spokane, Washington

WORDS of APPRECIATION

Ronald Sims
King County Council Member

OBITUARY

Please read silently

MUSIC

Precious Lord
Mrs. Michelle Benson

EULOGY

Rev. Dr. Samuel B. McKinney

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL

Alpha Phi Alpha Graveside Service

Remembrances may be sent to Lincoln University, P. O. Box 179, Lincoln, Pennsylvania 19352-0999.