



Mrs. Bernice Marie Roper Simmons

June 20, 1948 - February 15, 2024

Bernice Marie Roper Simmons, born on June 20, 1948, peacefully passed away on February 15, 2024, leaving behind a legacy of compassion, dedication, and love. Born to the late Mary Marie Roper Young and Moses Roper Sr., Bernice grew up in Charleston, South Carolina, where she attended Burke High School, graduating in 1966. She continued her education at Bethune Cookman University, earning a Bachelor's degree in Sociology. Bernice dedicated 36 years of her life in service to the South Carolina state system. She began her career with the Department of Juvenile Justice as a probation officer before transitioning to the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS), where she served as a social worker and adoption coordinator. Her commitment to her work positively impacted countless lives, offering support, guidance, and love to those in need.

Bernice was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Charles Simmons Jr., in November 2008. Bernice was a devoted matriarch, known for her unwavering support and leadership within her family. She had a firm yet fair approach to life, always ensuring that her loved ones were cared for and supported. Her strength and compassion served as a guiding light for her family and friends.

Bernice's impact as a social worker and adoption coordinator cannot be overstated. Her dedication to helping families find stability and children find loving homes left an indelible mark on her community. Through her work, she touched the lives of many, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, empathy, and

hope.

She is survived by her son, Mr. Trevor D. Simmons, and his wife Kim Simmons, as well as her cherished grandchildren, Kahlan Marie, Charles Benjamin, and Dominique Isiah. She is also survived by her siblings: Thelma Marie Alston Ravenel, Pearl Young McCoy Andrea Young Hicks Washington, Geraldine Roper-Jenkins, Moses Roper Jr., and Rosa Mae Roper, along with numerous nieces, nephews, and a host of other family and friends.

Bernice Marie Roper Simmons will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her. Her memory will be cherished, and her spirit will live on in the hearts of those she loved and inspired.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at Morris Brown A.M.E. Church, 13 Morris Street, Charleston, SC. The Interment will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens, 2915 Ashley Phosphate Road, N. Charleston, SC. A Public Walk-Through Viewing will occur on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at the Smith-McNeal Funeral Home, 2119 Dorchester Road, N. Charleston, SC, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Cemetery Details

Sunset Memorial Gardens

2915 Ashley Phosphate Rd
North Charleston, SC 29418

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

MAR 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

Morris Brown AME Church
13 Morris St.
Charleston, SC 29403

LIVE STREAM VIEWING

MAR 21. 11:00 AM.

Smith-McNeal - FACEBOOK PAGE

Tribute Wall

PO

“ I just discovered that Mrs. Simmons gained her wings and can only say, Mrs. Bernice Simmons was a joy to know, a great mentor at DJJ and a wonderful soul. That she left on the birthday of my birth child is the perfect memory for me to carry forward. Faithful servant and surely missed by her family and friends.

Patti L O'Brien - May 20, 2025 at 04:55 PM

JS

“ Jerod, jamilah, Sadida purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Bernice Marie Roper Simmons.



Jerod, jamilah, Sadida - March 20, 2024 at 09:16 PM

CF

“ Take Your Rest Big Sis. I will Miss you. No more late night text. But trust and Believe you are Missed and Will never be forgotten.



Cynthia Hearn Ferguson - March 20, 2024 at 05:52 PM

SG

“ Love you Auntie Bernice, may you rest in peace. We love you Auntie Bernice, Uncle Charlie. Deepest condolences to Mr. Trevor Simmons and Family.

Shad Glover - March 14, 2024 at 06:07 PM

AF

“ Alex and Marlene Glover and Family purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Mrs. Bernice Marie Roper Simmons.



Alex and Marlene Glover and Family - February 24, 2024 at 03:53 PM