



## William Simmons

February 25, 1958 - November 28, 2020

William "Wine" Simmons, 62 of Saint Augustine, Florida originally from the empire state of New York passed away on November 28th, 2020 after valiantly battling COVID -19.

William Simmons was born on February 25th, 1958 to Harriet Curry who became Harriet Byas after marrying Victor Fredrick Byas whom William knew and loved as "pop". He attended both Brooklyn Tech and George W. Wingate which he graduated from in 1976. He went on to study at Cheyney State where he continued to pursue his love for numbers which he was innately brilliant at. Additionally, he was deeply dedicated to the Cheyney State football team whom he often referred to as the "Wolfpack". He was even honored at the Historically Black College by being inducted into their hall of fame due to his athletic passion. Whilst pursuing his higher education William welcomed his first child into the world, Ralph Bailey. In later years they eagerly awaited father son bonding moments during "football Sunday".

William spent some time in the reserves with the military. However, his love for numbers could not be stopped. He ultimately settled in a career with the Department of Treasury where he met many co-workers who became family. Throughout his career, he broke many barriers as he was the only African American in his position, in his field, on the entire East Coast. This is a fact that he was always proud to mention.

William loved the dance floor and that is how he met his late wife Allene Leslie Walker Simmons who he later wed in 1986. Through their union his daughter whom he affectionally nicknamed "firstlove" Aria Simmons was born. After his late wife's passing he navigated the role of a single father triumphantly. William carried many titles, but father and "Pop Pop" were the ones he was most proud of. After Allene's passing he married Carol Mcquillar where they resided in Mount Vernon, New York.

William was a man who could not sit still. He participated in martial arts, coaching youth football leagues, selling custom merchandise, exploring real estate, publishing books etc. As a retiree he headed the Murabella fitness club for his subdivision and ran for local office. In fact, he was re-elected shortly before his passing. In his last months William had taken up fishing, eating fine cuisine (especially imported seafood), frequenting the gym, wine making and a zest for travelling with his companion Karen Anderson.

William was predeceased by Allene Leslie Walker Simmons (wife), Harriet and Fredrick Byas (mother and father), and Edward Curry (brother). He is survived by Ralph Bailey (son), Aria Simmons (daughter), grandchildren Rakeem, Christopher, Zion and Zailynn, Robert Curry (brother), Carol McQuillar (wife) April Kirkland (sister), Olivia Amosun (sister), nephews Akuze Simmons, Dimitrius Simmons, Chad Curry and nieces Katrina Barnes, Simone Freeman, Majesty Amosun, Dawn Simmons and life companion Karen Anderson. As well as a host of cousins, godchildren, friends, neighbors and community members.

William will be deeply and inexplicably missed. When he gained his wings, many hearts were emptied. He'd always say "I love you as much as you love me" and there is no limit to the love he gave and received. May he rest in eternal peace and continue to shed his love on others.

Those unable to attend can view the service live streamed at <https://iframe.dacast.com/b/156599/c/iframe.dacast.com/b/156599/c/549019>

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**St. Johns Family Funeral Home** - December 12, 2020 at 09:02 AM



“ I had the great privilege and opportunity to meet Mr. Will at POSH Nail Lounge during his Pedicure & Manicure appointments . He sure lite up the Salon when he walked in . Our conversations were always pleasant and I know he Loved his family and wonderful girlfriend whom I had the pleasure of meeting when she came to visit him. I has left a great impression in my heart and may he Rest In Peace as many of us will miss him dearly . I hold onto our friendship in what little time we knew each other. Will had a big heart and he had so much Class just a wonderful man from Brooklyn NY. I called him my guy from Brooklyn. God Bless you Will and I'll see you someday soon again my “Brooklyn Guy”.  
From your friend , Julie

**Julie Casabo** - December 15, 2020 at 02:17 PM



“ I had the pleasure of meeting Will through my parents jack and anne Isenberg as well as the murabella fitness club. You always had a bright smile and kind word and genuinely cared about everyone. You taught both my sons how to use the fitness club equipment. My youngest son started to play football with the local football team and you even came to one of his games and that was one memory we will always treasure. Whenever I saw you, you would always ask "how is my boy?" You truly made an impact on him and all of us! Its hard to believe that I will not see you at the gym anymore. You will truly be missed ! Thank you for always caring about my family you will truly be missed. Kathy, Tyler, and Ryan Knee

**Kathy Knee** - December 22, 2020 at 01:51 PM

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“ Hello All,

Will was an outstanding human being! He gave me invaluable tools and advice that I use almost daily! I will carry him with me in my heart. I will always remember him!

I will feel forever connected with him as he past on my birthday!

I pray peace and comfort over every that has been effected by your leaving.

Will, God bless you and heaven smile upon you my brother!

Much love from your brother,

Chris Wiggins  
cw.wiggins@gmail.com

Chris Wiggins - February 02 at 05:21 PM

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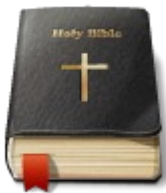
“ Will....where do I even start. I met this amazing man at the Murabella gym and he soon became a very dear friend to me. I remember him loving my pace on the treadmill...I'm a heavy runner and my footsteps on the treadmill set the pace for his boxing working out that he did every day. Will was also good on giving advice. Me being single and in my 50's have had some dating disasters. This smart man told me that at our age we all have baggage. According to Will...I had been too busy picking up steamer trunks when what I needed was a carry on! Great analogy! I finally have my carry on. Love you Will. You are greatly missed but never forgotten. God Speed.

Tami Miller - December 20, 2020 at 07:35 PM

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“ Tim Brymn sent a virtual gift in memory of William Simmons



Tim Brymn - December 15, 2020 at 08:56 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Tim Brymn** - December 15, 2020 at 08:45 PM



“ Will and I were roommates at Cheyney St. College in 1977. He was my friend and he will be missed. Not a day goes by that I don't think of him. Good bye my brother.

**Tim Brymn** - December 15, 2020 at 09:00 PM

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“ Will , I lite this candle for you because you lit up the Salon when you Came in for your pedicure and manicure. You will be greatly missed and I'm so glad I had the opportunity to meet you . You had so much “Class” and we had great conversations. My friend you will always have a place in my Heart I am honored to have met you. RIP Will !!



**Julie Casabo** - December 15, 2020 at 02:28 PM

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“ Aria, I remember running into you and your parents in co-op on the 4th. We were all waiting to watch the fireworks outside. We ran off to play and they were hanging out laughing on a blanket. Mr. Will was always so kind and welcoming to me and my family! He loved you so much, and you are protected by the best angels now. May he have the most peaceful rest

**Ariel N** - December 13, 2020 at 10:00 AM

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“ To the family and friends of my friend, alum, and teammate of William Simmons, ‘Willie Wine,’ I was truly sadden was I received the news of his passing. This one hurts. Wine meant so much to the Cheyney State College (CSC) football team and me. Just as fine wine is the substance of life, so was Willie Wine for us. He kept in contact with each grape on his Wine Vine, his Wolfpack brother. He was a joy who celebrated life and always festive. My prayer for the family is each of you ‘Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!’- 1 Chronicles 16:11, and may He give each of you comfort, confidence, and His peace of mind during your darkest hour. To the Wolfpack, even through another brother as kissed a full moon, on remembrance of Willie Wine, let us eat, drink a little wine, and be merry, each day, for God has accepted William Simmons work. Until we meet again on the eternal “Hill.”

The Reverend Anthony B. Thompson, M.Div. (Bosko #60).

Anthony B. Thompson - December 13, 2020 at 12:11 AM

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“ I remember coming to visit my best friend Lamount C. up at Cheyney State to see a Basketball game and while there met another best friend that will be in my life forever aka Willie Wine U man!!!

Storming Norm is what he called me and our last words when we talked on the phone was “kiss the dog and pet the wife!!!



Norman Jackson - December 12, 2020 at 06:21 PM

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“ In 1975 I tried out for pop warner football and was cut from the team. Cuz'n William reached out to me and convinced me to keep trying. The next year I made the team and named as a starter. In 2005 my oldest son passed away, again William reached out to me. My point is, no matter what the distance was between us, William could find a way to lift me up when I was knocked down. That poem he wrote about friendship was straight from his heart and 100% truth that practices what he preached. William wasn't just my cousin he was my friend. I love you, my cousin & friend. Be at peace as the others that have gone before you. We will all meet again soon.



**Gerald M Noyles SR** - December 12, 2020 at 05:51 PM

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“ CUZ, Remember how we would ALWAYS fight when you'll lived at 803 in The Bronx. You would run to my mom and I would run to Aunt Becky. You beat me to them Cuz. That means we're fighting again when I see you. Love and miss you so much Cuz. SIP

**Lilyan Starkes** - December 12, 2020 at 05:23 PM

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“ Anthony lit a candle in memory of William Simmons



**Anthony** - December 12, 2020 at 04:58 PM

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“ I am forever thankful to my former brother-in-law for always being real and treating my family as family. He was a blessing to my son in a time of need and although not blood - you would never know it. You will forever be in my heart and that of my family. He lived his life and didn't let others deter him from enjoy it to the fullest. The sound of his laugh will stay embedded with me throughout.



Adam Walker Sr. - December 12, 2020 at 04:02 PM

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“ I remember, in the summers, or at Christmas holiday when we were able to, visiting Aunt Harriet's house. It was always so exciting to visit and be in the presence of my cousins who I always thought of as being sooooo cool. :-). I miss those days when I was able to spend the time I had with William, and all of my cousins. Those are my strongest memories of him. He will always be a bright spot in my memories. Luv you cuz. Miss you.



Stephenye Burnett - December 12, 2020 at 03:20 PM

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“ 15 files added to the album LifeTributes



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - December 12, 2020 at 09:03 AM

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“ Will was a friend of Ian and the Cummings family. I was saddened to hear of his sudden passing. I will remember how much he loved and respected my parents and always showed up for our family functions. He was family. My deepest condolences to his wife, his daughter, his son and the entire Williams family.  
Peace and Blessings,  
Sandra Cummings

**Sandra Cummings** - December 12, 2020 at 01:14 AM



“ Apologies for the typo. Condolences to the immediate and extended families.  
**SCummings** - December 12, 2020 at 09:19 AM



“ Willy was my brother Ian Cummings friend/brother from another mother. He was apart of the Cummings family from the old neighborhood in Brooklyn. He was a funny, respectful and pleasant guy. It was sad and a shock to hear of his passing. Our deepest Condolences to the family. May his soul rest in peace and the lord surround his family in grace.

**Michelle Cummings-bovell** - December 12, 2020 at 12:42 AM



“ Godfather where do I start.. you have and will always be one of the most important men in my life. You have showed me so much love since a lil girl, something I didn't get from my own dad growing up. you've always reminded me of how much I meant to you and how beautiful I am, i remember your countless visits to my moms house to check on me, your phone calls and encouraging words. Your hugs were everything to me. Losing you is extremely hurtful for me.

I will always love you and you'll always be in my heart  
favorite Goddaughter

love always your

**michelle sheppard** - December 11, 2020 at 11:10 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Simmons.



December 11, 2020 at 10:55 PM

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“ My brother “wine aka Willie wino”, I miss the laughs already. You always wanted us to have a Fifty years reunion and I promise you, I'll try to make that happen. We had great times together from the times we were kids. You always reminded me how lucky and blessed we were to have the guys we all grew up with, still in our lives and all doing well. We are family and pray that our ancestors embrace you and keep you until we are fortunate enough to meet again. Rest In Peace and power

**Stanley O King** - December 11, 2020 at 10:52 PM

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“ My brother you will be truly missed. I remember my visits and we would talk on the patio till 3am in the morning. Our Friday talks that lasted for hours. It's rare for a friendship to have lasted for fifty years. Love you little brother I know we'll see each other again. Rest assure that the fellas will be there for your kids and grandkids. Miss you #44. Rest in peace

**Michael Sheppard** - December 11, 2020 at 10:41 PM

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“ My brother my friend thanks for over fifty years I know i will miss you but high will always be with me and my family rest assured we will Brb tethered for hat ever the family needs. One love my brother Rest In Peace. Ian Gina and family

**Ian Cummings** - December 11, 2020 at 10:07 PM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Simmons.



December 11, 2020 at 09:57 PM

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“ William Simmons better known as Willie Wine was my teammate at Cheyney State College. In 2007 we ran into each other at the Stop and Shop Supermarket in Mount Vernon and found out that we are cross town neighbors. In 2009 and every year after we would ride to Cheyney Homecomings. The thing is that we would always get lost and arrive at Cheyney a different way, Wine would say Big Daddy you lost again and I would say “we” are lost again and we would just laugh our behind off. Wine was the glue for us and would always call at least once a month to check on the Wolf Pack Brothers. In 2019 he talked me into coming to Pennsylvania early for our Hall of Fame Banquet and Homecoming. This was the last time we hung out and again we had so much fun and he will be truly missed. RIP Wine.

**Wayne Preston McCants** - December 11, 2020 at 11:26 AM



“ William “ Wine” was like a family member to the Cummings family. He would always come around that corner to our home on Remsen Avenue in Brooklyn NY to visit our brother Ian but always had a greeting for everyone. He always had a story to tell you and an infectious laugh. His passing was a shock to us all. He will be missed. Sleep in internal Peace William.

**Carolyn Cummings-Ellis** - December 11, 2020 at 09:40 PM



“ My Brother you will forever be a part of my life and memories. The times we shared both good and bad has made our friendship strong and our bond unbreakable. I love you Fam. May Peace Be Upon You.

Frederick Thomas (Tommy) Townsend, Jr.

**Frederick Townsend** - December 12, 2020 at 04:25 PM

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“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of William Simmons.



December 11, 2020 at 10:34 AM