



Myrtle A. Simms

July 23, 1931 - May 30, 2019

Myrtle A. Simms was born July 23, 1931 in Jacksonville, Texas to Bodie and Bennie (Franklin) Simms. Her family settled in Santa Barbara in 1944. She attended Santa Barbara High School, UCSB, earned her undergraduate degree from Langston University and her graduate degree from UCLA.

Myrtle's professional career began as a Statistical Analyst for Shell Oil Company in Ventura, California. She would later return to her alma mater Santa Barbara High School to teach math and once served as Math Department Chair. Myrtle was a phenomenal educator who genuinely cared about her students and their overall success in life. Miss Simms was a sounding board, mentor and life coach to her students inside the classroom and out.

She was an active member of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. Her family was one of the two families who were founding members of Lewis Chapel CME Church, Santa Barbara.

Thursday, May 30, 2019, Myrtle passed away peacefully at her sister's home.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Bodie and Bennie Simms, her brother John Wheeler Simms and leaves behind her devoted siblings: William B. Simms and Julia Simms Taylor, and many relatives and friends. Viewing will

be Thursday, June 13th, 2019 from 3pm-5pm at Welch-Ryce-Haider 15 E. Sola Street. The funeral service will be June 14th, 2019 at 11am at Lewis Chapel 202 E. Gutierrez Street in Santa Barbara.

Cemetery Details

Santa Barbara Cemetery

901 Channel Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93108
(805) 969-3231

Previous Events

Viewing

JUN **13**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (PT)

Welch-Ryce-Haider - Downtown
15 E. Sola St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 965-5145
info@wrhsb.com
<https://www.wrhsb.com>

Funeral Service

JUN **14**. 11:00 AM (PT)

Lewis Chapel CME
202 Gutierrez Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Tribute Wall

SW

“ My name is Scott Williams and I was a student of Miss Simms’s back in 1979/80. I was just thinking of her and tried to find what I could online and I found this. It is way past time, but I am saddened to see it still. She was a great teacher and I could tell she loved her kids at SBHS. I became a teacher myself in Northern California and recently retired. She was a wonderful woman who, although I didn’t know it at the time, helped me to make a decision to become a teacher. I hope her family sees this.

scott williams - March 31, 2025 at 05:07 PM