



## Vivian Lee Sims

September 28, 1928 - May 21, 2025

Vivian Lee Sims

September 28, 1928 – May 20, 2025

Vivian Lee Sims, age 96, of Pulaski, Tennessee, passed away peacefully on May 21, 2025, in

Nashville, Tennessee. Born on September 28, 1928, in Harlem, New York, Vivian lived a life marked by grace, wisdom, and an unwavering dedication to education and community.

Vivian pursued her passion for education at Fisk University, where she earned her Bachelor

of Education. Her commitment to academic excellence led her back to Fisk, where she later received a Master of Education. While at Fisk, she also became a proud and active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, embracing a lifelong commitment to sisterhood, service, and scholarship. Vivian devoted more than 40 years of her life to teaching, shaping generations of young minds with compassion and purpose. She later served as principal of Southside Elementary School, where she was admired for her leadership, dedication, and deep care for her students and staff.

A visitation will be held on Tuesday, May 27th, 2025 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm at Bennett-May & Pierce Funeral Home and Crematory

An additional visitation will be held on Wednesday, May 28th, 2025 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm at The Greater Richland Creek M.B. Association

The funeral service will take place on Wednesday, May 28th, 2025 at 2:00pm  
at The Greater Richland Creek M.B. Association

The interment will be at Maplewood Cemetery in Pulaski, TN

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Henry Sims; her mother,  
Ara Walls; and

her brother, Victor Battle. Vivian was a loving step mother to Derrick Coffey  
(wife Benita), step grandmother to Raven, Dede, Breanna, and Keaton and  
step great-grandmother to two great grandchildren. Vivian was also a  
cherished aunt and guiding presence to her nieces and nephews: Bonnie  
Coleman and Belinda McNealey (husband Donnie) Victor Aaron Poindexter  
(wife Abraia), Mary Pearl Carter, Arvis Sims (wife Sharon) great-nieces and  
great-nephews Monique, Briana, Donnie, Ricky, Aran, Tre, Nicholas and Victor  
A. Poindexter II (wife Sandra) Veronica Harvey (husband John) great-great-  
nieces and nephews Carter, Dejah, Victor A. Poindexter III, Julien. She is also  
survived by a special friend Carolyn Abernathy as well as a host of extended  
family and dear friends.

Vivian will be remembered for her quiet strength, enduring kindness, and the  
love she gave

to her family, students, and community.

Her legacy is one of devotion, service, and profound love.

Organization Affiliation

Giles County Senior Citizens

Boys and Girls Club

The South Central Tennessee Workforce Board and Youth Council

CDC of North Pulaski

Board of Directors of the Tennessee Education Association

Community Council for the Developmentally Handicapped Inc

Campbell Chapel AMEC

Pulaski Elementary Cub Run  
Tennessee Humanities Society  
C.A.R.E Children are Reason For Excellence  
Giles County NAACP

#### Awards

Congressional Record, House of Representatives by Eleanor Homes Norton  
(Cousin)

Tennessee Teacher of the year 1984

The Cornell Martin Unsung Heros Prestige Award

Woman of the Year Pulaski BPW

E. Harper Johnson Human Relation Award TEA

PTO Officers appreciation award

Black History.com

Woman of the Year Mattie Bridgeforth Temple #1120 and the Abraham

Mckissack Lodge #1489

and a host of other awards and organizations not mentioned

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 27. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (cst)

Bennett- May & Pierce Funeral Home and Crematory  
1910 Elkton Pike  
Pulaski, TN 38478

## Visitation

MAY 28. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (cst)

Greater Richland Creek Missonary Baptist Association Central Building  
1095 Bledsoe Rd  
Pulaski, TN 38478

## Funeral Service

MAY 28. 2:00 PM (cst)

Greater Richland Creek Missonary Baptist Association Central Building  
1095 Bledsoe Rd  
Pulaski, TN 38478

# Tribute Wall

AH

“ *May the Family Be Comforted and she will be dearly Missed but not forgotten*

Ashley Holley - August 03, 2025 at 07:56 PM

AH

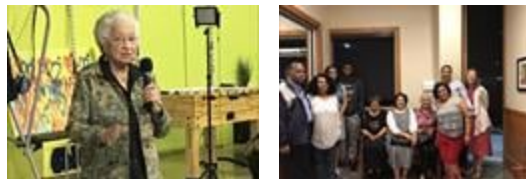
“ *Oh I loved this wonderful woman who was my principal at Pulaski elementary school wen I went back n day. She has become very successful in her life and will be well remembered and missed. Love you Mrs, Vivian.*



Ashley Holley - August 03, 2025 at 07:56 PM

DL

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*

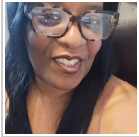


Dionne (Lewis) Lester - July 11, 2025 at 01:23 PM

RY

“ *Mr. and Mrs. Sims were both great friends to the ministry at New Canaan Ranch. She and her husband both shared so much love and wisdom with us and our men in the program. Mrs. Sims was a strong, hard working lady who practiced what she preached. She looked after the less fortunate and showed kindness to everyone. We truly loved her and I will miss my friend's sweet spirit* ❤️

Renee Yates-Schrengost - June 24, 2025 at 10:18 AM



“ I remember having you come in to my 4th grade classroom at East Elementary and shared 🎨 art with us. I was always excited to be in your presence. Rest Well Only heaven knows how many lives you touched here on earth.

-----  
**Pamela Cheers** - May 31, 2025 at 11:50 PM

VB

“ A true gift to the Giles County Community!  
Thank You for your dedication to our youth!



-----  
**Veronica Brown** - May 29, 2025 at 07:49 AM

RM

“ Ramona Myles lit a candle in memory of  
Vivian Lee Sims



-----  
**Ramona Myles** - May 28, 2025 at 02:28 PM

TG

“ Tamara Givens lit a candle in memory of  
Vivian Lee Sims



-----  
**Tamara Givens** - May 28, 2025 at 08:14 AM

MM

“ Mrs. Sims was truly a jewel. She was not only my neighbor growing up (and made the best candied apples),but she was my art teacher in elementary school, my former supervisor when I taught a summer reading and math program at Pulaski Elementary for students needing extra help with these subjects (over some 30 years ago.) She was kind and shared a wealth of knowledge of our community and its history. Mrs. Sims will truly be missed and her sweet spirit will be remembered by all that knew her. Thank you, Mrs. Sims for your love, support, leadership and tireless work in Giles County.

Michael McDade - May 27, 2025 at 11:27 PM

CW

“ She was the one of a kind person that if you only met her once you would not forget her. How lovely a person. Blessed to be slightly related!

Cris Walker - May 27, 2025 at 11:23 PM

RS

“ What a beautiful soul and a blessing to have met Mrs. Sims. Rest well dear friend.



Rev Dr Marvin L Pinchon Sr - May 27, 2025 at 08:48 PM

BM

Sorry to hear of the passing of Mrs.Sims She was my Art teacher! My junior and Senior year at Giles Co.High School! Bonnie Massey! She always remembered me! When I would see her! So very kind to me!

Bonnie Massey - May 31, 2025 at 01:59 AM



“ Jean & George Perry lit a candle in memory of Vivian Lee Sims



Jean & George Perry - May 27, 2025 at 04:57 PM

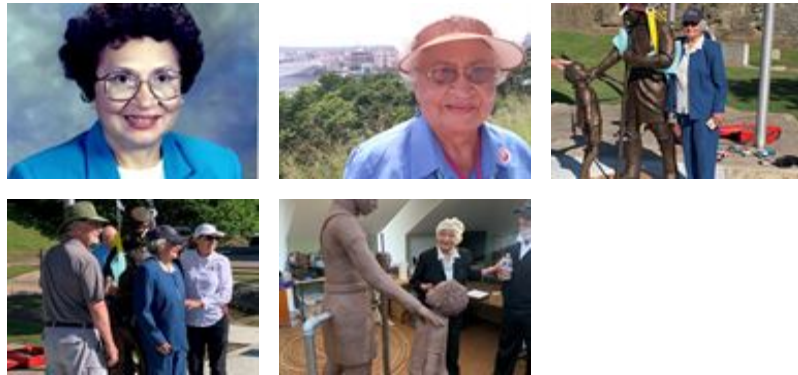


Mrs. Sims was an excellent role model for all in Giles County, who loved her home town. She was not born in Giles County/Pulaski but knew more of Giles County/Pulaski history than those who were born here. She had a excellent memory and I loved to hear her talk about her traveling days. She was a sweet person who always had a lovely smile and she will truly be missed by all. RIH Mrs. Sims!

Jean - May 27, 2025 at 05:03 PM



“ 99 files added to the album LifeTributes



Bennett - May & Pierce Funeral Home and Crematory - May 27, 2025 at 11:52 AM

MW

“ Ms. Sims was a big part of my life in high school. There are certain teachers who leave a lifelong impression on you like she did. An unforgettable shining, beautiful soul with a huge heart. I will never forget how she was patient, attentive, and supportive during my high school years. Not only did she teach me the foundations of art but also never failed to drop advice that had more meaning beyond. I will always remember the positive advice she gave; to be true and authentically yourself in life and in art. She never lost her sense of humor and I don't think I ever saw her mad at anyone. It took me a while to really comprehend what she was often trying to teach and imbed in our spirits. She never had a bad negative thing to say about anyone and always found a way to give constructive criticism. I will always be thankful for the real lessons I learned from her that I still treasure. I finally was able to get to the Louvre and all I could think of was her and how she told us about her trips there; her enthusiasm for life and learning. She encouraged us to embrace the world of feeling and use it to infuse our art. This was why she always wanted people to travel and see the world, for enrichment of soul and mind. Without the bad experiences you can't really feel the most positive moments. Miss you and wish your family love, peace and blessings - Mary Lou Ward



---

Mary Lou Ward - May 27, 2025 at 10:56 AM

LN

“ God has definitely gained a beautiful soul. Mrs. Sims will truly be missed by all the life's she touched here on earth. Praying 🙏 for the entire family at this difficult time. God Bless you all. Laurie Nwosu



---

Laurie Nwosu - May 26, 2025 at 11:30 PM

NR

“ *My Condolences A True Legend Heaven as Gained A true Angel 🙏* ”

Nikki Rivers - May 26, 2025 at 08:30 PM

BW

“ *Barbara Whittaker sent a virtual gift in memory of Vivian Lee Sims* ”



Barbara Whittaker - May 25, 2025 at 06:45 PM

SM

“ *Sonya Mayes lit a candle in memory of Vivian Lee Sims* ”



Sonya Mayes - May 25, 2025 at 06:32 PM

SO

“ *Sonya lit a candle in memory of Vivian Lee Sims* ”



Sonya - May 25, 2025 at 06:31 PM

YM

“ Yvonne Mcfann lit a candle in memory of Vivian Lee Sims



Yvonne Mcfann - May 25, 2025 at 04:52 PM

RS

“ Randy Shrader lit a candle in memory of Vivian Lee Sims



Randy Shrader - May 25, 2025 at 02:50 PM

RS

“ Mrs. Sims gave me an appreciation for art. She taught art at Campbellsville High School for my grades K-6 an was amazing. She will be greatly missed.

Randy Shrader - May 25, 2025 at 02:50 PM

VB

“ Vickie Burwell sent a virtual gift in memory of Vivian Lee Sims



Vickie Burwell - May 25, 2025 at 10:40 AM

CJ

“ Mrs. Sims is/was a very special lady in many ways. Mrs. Sims has blessed this community in so many ways and we can all see it as we ride in the North End every day with the park and statue. She will truly be missed.



Connie Johnson-Matthews - May 25, 2025 at 09:45 AM

BM

“ Betty Mcree lit a candle in memory of Vivian Lee Sims



betty mcree - May 25, 2025 at 12:39 AM

BM

MRS. SIMS WAS THE PRINCIPAL WHEN I WAS TEACHING--VERY KIND, FAIR AND DID A GREAT JOB--I ENJOYED WORKING WITH HER!! CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY!!

betty mcree - May 25, 2025 at 12:44 AM

GR

“ Gretchen Randolph lit a candle in memory of Vivian Lee Sims



Gretchen Randolph - May 24, 2025 at 10:24 PM

CJ

“ *Connie Jackson lit a candle in memory of Vivian Lee Sims*



---

**Connie Jackson** - May 24, 2025 at 08:07 PM

CC

“ *Crystal Cotham lit a candle in memory of Vivian Lee Sims*



---

**Crystal Cotham** - May 24, 2025 at 07:50 PM

PL

“ *Sincere condolences to the Family. We knew Ms Sims well and cherished her extraordinary caring and friendship. We also experienced her droll sense of humor and sharp wit. We were honored to know Ms Vivian Sims. We loved her and will certainly miss her.*  
*Pulaski Pokeno Ladies*



---

**Pokeno Ladies** - May 24, 2025 at 01:30 PM

EM

“ *Elizabeth Fry Maxwell lit a candle in memory of Vivian Lee Sims*



---

**Elizabeth Fry Maxwell** - May 24, 2025 at 11:17 AM

DW

“ Thank you, Mrs. Sims, and God bless you for the directions, challenges and inspiration you presented to all of us.

---

**David Walker** - May 24, 2025 at 10:30 AM

AL

“ She was a treasure to know. Love to hear her talk about her trips to other countries. Her tell about the adventure of real blood to eat and drink. Had her for art in school could listen to her talk all day. She never for got a face of anyone she has ever met. God truly gained a Angle with her. God bless the family during this time.



---

**Amy Gooch Lawrence** - May 23, 2025 at 05:55 PM