



Winona Frances Simms

October 20, 1947 - February 21, 2017

Winona Frances Simms of Norman passed away Tuesday, February 21, 2017. She was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico on October 20, 1947 to the late Yahola Simms and Beulah King. She is a Creek and Euchee member of Muscogee Creek Nation.

She graduated from Okmulgee High School in 1965 and in 1975 she earned a bachelor's degree in English and Voice from Oklahoma University. Winona attended the University of Oklahoma in the College of Law before transferring and earning a master's of Education in Community Counseling in 1986. Finally, in 1994, she earned a doctorate in Applied Behavioral Studies from Oklahoma State University.

Winona worked extensively with multicultural; students and was an advocate for students. "Much of that involved helping students reach their potential without changing who they are." She saw "that having a bicultural perspective is not a limitation, it's an advantage." She saw that it should be "regarded as a source of strength. If you know what your values are, you don't have to struggle with decisions."

She is preceded in death by her parents, older sister Sharon Clark and her younger sister Kay Freeland. Left to cherish the wonderful memories of Winona is her daughter Kimberley C. Oldham of Kennewick, Washington, sons Allen C. Hensley of Norman, Oklahoma, and Taylor S. Shilling of Stillwater, Oklahoma, three grandchildren Brennon T. Hensley of Hollis, Oklahoma, CreCre S. Oldham of Kennewick, Washington, and Mahiya N.

Shilling of Stillwater, Oklahoma, sisters Peggy S. Rains of Slaughterville, Oklahoma, and Yolanda Otero of Weleetka, Oklahoma, and one brother Yahola Simms of California.

Funeral service will be held 1:00 P.M. Monday, February 27, 2017 at the Tallahassee Church. Interment will follow at the Tallahassee cemetery. A wake service will be 7:00 P.M. Sunday, February 26, 2017 Tallahassee Church. Arrangements have been entrusted to the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home of Okmulgee.

Memories, condolences, photos and videos may be shared with the family on Winona's Tribute Page of our website at www.mcclendon-winters.com

Cemetery Details

Tallahassee Indian Cemetery

11270 Celia Berryhill Rd.
OK 74447

Previous Events

Wake Service

FEB **26**. 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Tallahassee Indian Methodist Church
11270 Celia Berryhill Rd
Okmulgee, OK

Funeral Service

FEB **27**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Tallahassee Indian Methodist Church
11270 Celia Berryhill Rd
Okmulgee, OK

Tribute Wall

PG

“ *Pat Garrison lit a candle in memory of Winona Frances Simms*



Pat Garrison - March 09 at 09:28 PM



“ *Winona Frances Simms*

December 20, 2022 at 11:29 AM

GG

“ *For many years Winona stood strong for Native student health and success at Stanford. She was a role model, colleague and friend; I will miss her. My sympathies to her kids and grandkids.*

Greg Graves



Greg Graves - February 28, 2017 at 11:57 AM

KL

“ *KoKo Lowe lit a candle in memory of Winona Frances Simms*



KoKo Lowe - February 27, 2017 at 10:34 AM

KL

My sincere condolences to the family of Winona Simms. Rest In Peace, Winona.

KoKo Lowe - February 27, 2017 at 10:35 AM

JR

“ *All my memories of Winona are happy ones- her kindness, her friendliness, her beautiful singing voice. I send my heartfelt sympathy to Peggy and everyone else in her wonderful family. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Jan Scott Rodd - February 26, 2017 at 09:42 AM

JS

Jan Scott Rodd

Jan Scott - February 26, 2017 at 09:43 AM

DK

“ *Winona was a lovely young woman -- I have fond memories of her both at Okmulgee HS (especially Keynotes!) and at Oklahoma State. Sending my thoughts and prayers for her family.*

Donna Sone Kane - February 25, 2017 at 05:52 PM

JO

“ *She was a very wonderful & sweet young lady in high school. I believe she was a friend to anyone she met. Our thoughts and prayers are with her & her family. Our class has lost another beautiful heart!*

Jerry Oliver

Jerry Oliver - February 24, 2017 at 09:24 PM

PB

“ So deeply saddened to hear of Winona's passing. She was a light in our lives for my brother Paul and me during the time we lived in Okmulgee. He had an enormous crush on her from the moment he saw her, and I was privileged to share time with her and her sisters, Peggy and Yoyo in band and in church. I also held great admiration for her mother, Beulah, who I knew while we both worked at Rebold Manor. We will never forget, and are forever grateful for Winona's beautiful voice, lovingly shared at my brother's funeral, and at my wedding. She has been often present in my thoughts and heart over the years and it grieves me to know that there will be no opportunity to reconnect. I know that Winona could only have been a positive force in the lives she encountered and that her passing leaves a hole in the universe and in the hearts of all who have ever known her.

Patti Boguski - February 24, 2017 at 08:34 PM

KY

“ Kathy Blanchard Youngblood lit a candle in memory of Winona Frances Simms



Kathy Blanchard Youngblood - February 24, 2017 at 07:36 PM



She supported the dreams of many students during her lifetime...

Laura Williams - February 24, 2017 at 08:22 PM

DC

Thank you, Winona, for your work with so many engineering students through the University of Oklahoma MEP and way back to FATE (First Americans Tomorrow's Engineers) from 1981 with Wayne Steen. Your investment in the lives of others lives on. My sincere condolences to your extended family.

Dr Grass Culp - February 25, 2017 at 10:34 AM

GS

Winona was a whirlwind of energy from the get go! Fun to be with and always looking forward to the future and new adventures. I remember a discussion as seniors at Okmulgee H.S. about the meaning of life and the afterlife. She said when she passes on, she wanted "Joy To The World" played at her service! She will be missed, yet her legacy and laughter lives on! Ginny Bruch Staggers

Ginny Bruch Staggers - February 25, 2017 at 02:23 PM

SL

Saddened to hear of this. Shw was in my class at Okmulgee High School . Got to know her while we were walking to school every morning. At the time she lived on 8th St. Always was fun ,smart , and just a sweet down to earth young girl . Also she had a beautiful singing voice and was a pretty young lady . Just to let her family know , you certainly had a special jewel ...

Sherry Gunn Lewis - February 26, 2017 at 08:04 AM

HS

The Navajo have a saying about learning to "walk in beauty." That is just what Winona did. I knew her in high school and was always glad to see her smiling face and great contributions to whatever she was involved in. I am saddened to see that her light in this world has gone out - but I know her spirit lives on in the lives of her family and those whom she knew. She is well on her way back home to where she began her journey in this life.

Howard Savage - February 27, 2017 at 11:11 AM