



Ms. Deloris Sims

July 9, 1943 - July 30, 2024

Deloris "Dee" Sims was born on July 9, 1943, to the proud union of Annie Mae and Dock Donley Sr. in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. She was the third oldest of 10 children. At the age of six, she moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin with her family.

Deloris graduated from North Division High School (1961), where she was on the drill team and played softball.

Deloris was a proud candy striper and dietitian at St. Joseph's Hospital in Milwaukee, WI. She studied Business Administration at Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) and received her Graduate School of Bank Investments and Financial Management Certification from the University of South Carolina's, Moore School of Business.

Deloris met the love of her life Isiah (Ike) Sims when they were members of the Chancellor Choir at Saint Matthews CME Church. They were united in holy matrimony on July 19, 1964. They enjoyed going to church, traveling, and entertaining together. They were blessed with two beautiful daughters, Elise and Annette. As proud parents, they diligently provided love, guidance, and the strength needed to sustain a strong family unit.

Deloris started her career at Midland National Bank as a commercial banker

before joining First Wisconsin as a multipurpose teller. She quickly advanced to branch teller before becoming the operations manager, and eventually vice president of First Star. With over 30 years of experience in the banking industry, Deloris, along with Margaret Henningsen and Shirley Lanier, became co-founder, owner, and CEO of Legacy Bank, the first African American, women-owned, chartered bank in the state of Wisconsin.

As a trailblazer in the business community, Deloris was committed to ensuring the economic development and advancement of countless clients and businesses across the city. Under Deloris' leadership, the bank saw significant growth. Legacy provided support such as funding opportunities for thriving businesses such as Lena's Food Market, Mason Temple COGIC, IHOP, Palermo Villa, and Ponderosa, to name a few, creating thousands of jobs for the city and greater Milwaukee area. She was a force to be reckoned with.

Over the years, Deloris left an indelible mark on many lives, businesses, and organizations, from countless clients, board members, conference attendees, news and radio personalities, dignitaries, pastors, and church members alike. She was a matriarch, philanthropist, and guide to her family; a loving mother to Elise and Annette, grandmother to her only grandson, Elijah Jackson, sister to a cherished few, aunt to those she loved and adored, and friend to so many. Her family and the

community will miss her wisdom, advice, fun spirit, and generosity.

Deloris "Dee" Sims departed this life on July 30, 2024. She was preceded in death by her beloved

husband, Rev. Isiah Sims; parents, Mr. and Mrs. Annie Mae and Dock Donley Sr., sisters, Bobby Jean

Roberts (Leonard), Aria Donley, and Juanita Perry (Kenneth); and brothers, Robert Donley (Maria)

and Dock Donley Jr .

Left to cherish Deloris' precious memory and unconditional love: her loving daughters, Elise Jackson

(Todd) and Annette Wince (Kenneth); grandson, Elijah Jackson; brothers, William Clyde Donley,

Melvin Donley (Marva), Darryl R. Donley (Sharon), Gerald W. Donley (Marcia) ; and numerous nieces,

nephews, cousins and friends who were all like family.

We all know that Dee was an experienced shopper, dancing enthusiast and an avid reader. One

of Deloris' favorite quotes is by Maya Angelou: "I've learned that people will forget what you said,

people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Please know

that your presence here today is a testament to her love for you and how she made you feel.

Cemetery Details

Graceland Cemetery

6401 N. 43rd Street
Milwaukee, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **16**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Mason Temple COGIC
6098 N. 35th St.
Milwaukee, WI

Funeral Service

AUG **16**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Mason Temple COGIC
6098 N. 35th St.
Milwaukee, WI

Tribute Wall

KT

“ As a young professional, I worked a job to pursue my passionate dream of investing in real estate. I grew my portfolio large enough to obtain a blanket mortgage and engaged in banking with Legacy Bank. Deloris Sims played an instrumental role in helping me grow my business, and I will never forget how she expressed her wish to find 100 Keith Terry's. She knew I lacked extensive experience, but I possessed what was necessary for her to approve the loan, and I appreciate her taking a chance on me. Legacy Bank proved to be an ideal choice for me. Rest in heaven my friend

keith terry - August 15, 2024 at 07:58 PM

PJ

I'm Paula Johnson-Stanford Sending my condolences to the family of Deloris sims she will be missed. May God Bless you and Keep you in Jesus name Amen.

Paula Johnson-Stanford - August 16, 2024 at 11:13 AM

SM

I literally just found out on her passing and deeply saddened to hear this. I worked with Mrs. Sims at First Wisconsin Bank where she was the branch manager. I always loved her professionalism and learned a lot from her. She was a no nonsense type of person in which I greatly had respect for and admiration. To the family, my deepest condolences and keeping you all in my prayers.

Stacy R Moore - August 16, 2024 at 12:59 PM

EM

“ Deloris is was such a-pleasure to have known you for many years. From our first meeting at the Legacy Bank to our awesome times with many a cruises. Thank your family for letting me be a part of your life's journey. RIP

Evelyn Merriett - August 15, 2024 at 05:15 PM

BW

“ Wow Dee, from Pine Bluff to Milwaukee. What an awesome journey. Thanks for letting me share the ride! Rest in peace.

💜💛 Cuz Billy 💜💛

Billy Williams - August 15, 2024 at 11:54 AM

PT

“ Paige T. purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ms. Deloris Sims.



Paige T. - August 15, 2024 at 11:20 AM

PT

“ Paige T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Deloris Sims.

Paige T. - August 15, 2024 at 11:20 AM

TF

“ The Mantilla Family purchased the Strength & So lace Spray for the family of Ms. Deloris Sims.



The Mantilla Family - August 14, 2024 at 09:28 AM

TD

“ Dear Sims family:
My condolences and prayers to your family as you mourn but also celebrate the life and times of Delores (D) Sims.
She has always been a significant person in our community with her civic work and banking leadership . She freely gave advice and guidance to many who sought her counsel .
I'll always be appreciative of her willingness to be a mentor and role model to our community.
May she rest with God and now that she becomes an ancestor...as long as we speak her name so she lives on in our hearts, minds and spirits . May God be with you all and bring you peace, love and guidance!
Tyrone P Dumas

Tyrone P Dumas - August 13, 2024 at 05:38 PM

CW

“ Chonda W. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Deloris Sims.

Chonda W. - August 10, 2024 at 12:53 PM

KP

“ Rest In Paradise Aunt Deloris. My Condolences to Elise & Todd Jackson; Annette & Kenneth Wince.



Knievel Porter - August 06, 2024 at 06:55 PM

DH

“ *Douglas & Sharon Higgins lit a candle in memory of Ms. Deloris Sims*



Douglas & Sharon Higgins - August 02, 2024 at 03:09 PM