



Nettalyn Rae Tolbert

July 6, 1942 - August 4, 2023

Dr. Nettalyn Rae (Simms) Tolbert: A Life Dedicated to Education, Family, and Faith

Dr. Nettalyn Rae (Simms) Tolbert, an esteemed educator, devoted wife, loving mother, and cherished grandmother, passed away on August 4th, at the age of 81.

Born on July 6, 1942, Nettalyn embarked on a 45-year journey in education, leaving an indelible mark on countless lives. A graduate of Indiana University and a member of the Tau Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Elementary Education in 1964, Nettalyn's commitment to education as a catalyst for change was unwavering.

Nettalyn's teaching career began at William A. Bell Elementary School (#60) in Indianapolis, Indiana, before relocating to Atlanta in 1968. Joining the Atlanta Public School System, she shared her passion at Beecher Hills Elementary School while simultaneously completing her Master's Degree in Educational Psychology at Indiana University in 1971. Even as she nurtured her growing family, welcoming her sons Jason and Robert, Jr., Nettalyn's dedication remained steadfast. Her career evolved to become an instructional supervisor with Atlanta Public Schools, where she impacted teachers across the system for fifteen years. She embraced principalship at Hutchinson

Elementary School and Oglethorpe Elementary School, leaving a legacy of positive change and inspired programs that garnered heartfelt testimonials from students and teachers alike upon her retirement in 2001. She achieved her Ed.S. and then later her Ph.D. in 1994.

Dr. Tolbert's commitment endured even in retirement. Her influence extended through educational consultations, including a five-year professorship at Georgia State University. Her devotion to sharing knowledge remained undiminished as she continued to teach Bible Study at her church, exemplifying her unwavering faith until her passing.

Nettelyn would testify that she never could have done this without her loving and devoted husband Robert E. Tolbert, Sr. whom she met in 1970, and ultimately married in 1972, beginning fifty years of marriage. Her role as a grandmother brought her profound joy. She cherished her six grandchildren: Jason Jr., Daniel, Olivia, Robert III, James, and Madilyn. Her legacy of excellence, faith, and the pursuit of knowledge resonates in the lives of her children, grandchildren, and the students she mentored.

Dr. Nettelyn Tolbert is survived by her beloved husband, Robert E. Tolbert Sr., her sons, Jason (Tiffany) Tolbert and Robert (Rita) Tolbert, Jr., her cherished grandchildren, her siblings Cecelia Dodson, William (Johanna) Simms, Sharon (Alfred) Broome, Rosalind (Wesley) Wynter, and Laurene Simms. She is preceded by her parents Rosa Lee Simms and Frank T. Simms, Sr., as well as Frank T. Simms, Jr. (brother), Elizabeth Simms (stepmother), Beverly Harris (stepsister), Brian Dodson (nephew), and James Dodson (brother-in-law).

May her legacy of love, education, and faith continue to inspire all those who were fortunate enough to know her.

"In loving memory, forever in our hearts."

Services entrusted to Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home, Rockdale
Chapel, 1999 Hwy. 138 Se, Conyers, GA 30013

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 10. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett and Sons - Rockdale Chapel
1999 Hwy 138 SE
Conyers , GA 30013

Celebration of Life

AUG 11. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett and Sons - Rockdale Chapel
1999 Hwy 138 SE
Conyers , GA 30013

Burial

AUG 11. 2:30 PM - 2:45 PM (ET)

Georgia National Cemetery
1080 Scott Hudgens Dr
Canton, GA 30114

Tribute Wall

LB

“ Like Tracy Turner, I also had the privilege of knowing Nettalyn through our zoom Bible Study Fellowship group. She was such a beacon of God's graciousness. I want her family to know that we miss her and we still remember her in our group. I pray that you experience God's love and comfort as you move through your grief...and that you will look expectantly above and rejoice in the knowledge that you will see her again! Thank you for sharing her with us.

Libby Belasco - March 04, 2024 at 11:30 AM

TT

“ I had the joy of meeting Nettalyn through our zoom Bible Study Fellowship group. I fell in love with her sweet, kind, gentle spirit. I am so sad for her loss. And I am comforted to know that I will see her in heaven. I pray God's comfort for each of her friends and family as they grieve their loss.

Tracy Turner - March 01, 2024 at 09:49 AM



“ Jason and family,
My thoughts and prayers and sincerest condolences are sent out to you in the difficult time. Nettalyn was an amazing woman, and her life was filled with helping others, I am sure many people will carry her legacy forward.

James Cusack - August 11, 2023 at 03:17 PM

MM

“ To Jason, Tiffany and Family,
We are praying for the entire family that God will bring you peace and comfort in the coming days. Always remember the beautiful memories and share them often with a smile. We love you all and will continue to pray for you. God Bless!
Willie Frank, Modeste, Margie and Ida McCorvey

Modeste McCorvey - August 11, 2023 at 12:19 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Nettalyn Rae Tolbert.



August 11, 2023 at 02:45 AM

VH

“ Jason, Tiffany and the entire Tolbert family. We send our heart-felt Condolences to you all. We pray that God will continue to strengthen and console you all especially now. We are always hear for you and we love you.

Vivian Handy - August 10, 2023 at 12:52 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Nettalyn Rae Tolbert.



August 09, 2023 at 09:53 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Nettalyn Rae Tolbert.*



August 09, 2023 at 05:22 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Nettalyn Rae Tolbert.

August 09, 2023 at 05:22 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Nettalyn Rae Tolbert.*



August 09, 2023 at 03:50 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Nettalyn Rae Tolbert.*



August 09, 2023 at 09:17 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Nettalyn Rae Tolbert.

August 09, 2023 at 09:17 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of *Nettalyn Rae Tolbert*.



August 09, 2023 at 09:11 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *Nettalyn Rae Tolbert*.



August 09, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Tribute Wall*



Edith Holland Nealy - August 08, 2023 at 10:24 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *Nettalyn Rae Tolbert*.



August 08, 2023 at 02:34 PM