



Nina Evans Sims

January 13, 1943 - December 4, 2017

Nina Evans Sims was born in Marianna, Florida on January 13, 1943 and died on December 4, 2017. She was preceded in death by her father, Millard Fillmore Evans, who died when she was 4 years old, and her mother, Oveta Stephens Evans who died in 1995. She is survived by her three adoring children and their spouses: Myla and Todd Wahlquist, Jinger and Jim Deason, and Joshua and Sara Sims. She is also survived by her sister, Phyllis Sakamoto of Arizona. Nina's grandchildren, Evan, Elyse, and Preston Wahlquist and Karley and Madison Deason were her dearest treasures and her greatest source of joy. She was a devoted mother and grandmother above all else in her life. Nina was a source of guidance, comfort, inspiration and assurance to her children and grandchildren and countless others that called her Aunt Nina, Mrs. Sims, and friend.

Nina was a striking beauty and had a gorgeous singing voice, performing in choirs and on stage, but education was her first priority from an early age. She followed her passion for science and education to earn a Bachelors from Florida State University in Science Education and later a Master's degree started at Louisiana State University and completed at Troy State University in Secondary Science Education. Nina had a brief tenure working as a teacher in Holmes County High School, Bay County High School, and Golson Elementary School, but spent more than 30 years teaching various sciences in Marianna, Florida, first at Marianna Middle School and then at Marianna High School. She was awarded Jackson County Teacher of the Year in 1989.

Nina later taught for 10 years in Leon County at Godby High School.

Outside her family, Nina was most treasured by her thousands of students for her life-changing gifts as a teacher of science. Nina had a way of making science relatable to students of all interest and achievement levels. She made it fun and engaging and even silly when needed to demonstrate the beauty of those truths that shape our physical world. Nina was able to reach the least engaged students and the most engaged simultaneously and inspire them to learn and marvel with her- a truly gifted teacher. Many students will remember the SSSS or the Super Simple Sims Specials - a small slip of paper with 5 questions that popped up frequently to check her student's understanding of the material! Nina knew her students as individuals and took an interest in their lives, many crediting her for success in careers of medicine, engineering and research. She worked tirelessly before and after school mentoring students in science research and she accompanied them to local, state, and international science fair competitions. Nina was a champion of science and of her students. She taught so many family members and made those who were not actual family feel that they were. It is no wonder that entire graduating classes often referred to her as Aunt Nina.

The family prefers donations be made to Big Bend Hospice in place of flowers. Nina will be celebrated in a private ceremony with immediate family only. Please visit www.bevisfh.com to share your memories of Nina Sims to be included in a book in her honor.

Tribute Wall

WD

“ Our first day in 7th grade science back in the early 70s she set a pecan half on fire and explained calories. She brought science to life. Then, many years later as I struggled through organic chemistry and study sessions at their house, she had a way of explaining things so that I understood.

Science became my profession. Mrs. Sims played a big part of that decision.

I am sorry for your loss and thankful to have been one of her students.

Wanda Lee Dyer. BS. MLS (ASCP)

wanda lee dyer - May 22, 2018 at 09:02 AM

BC

“ NINA WAS MY SCIENCE TEACHER WHEN I WAS A STUDENT AT GOLSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEARS AGO. I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN THE IMPRESSION SHE MADE IN MY LIFE. SHE WAS MY FAVORITE TEACHER! SHE WAS SO KIND AND UNDERSTANDING. SHE WAS TRULY AN INSPIRATION. SHE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED BY ALL WHO KNEW HER. BRENDA WILLIAMS CUMMINGS



Brenda Williams Cummings - December 11, 2017 at 08:13 AM

MS

“ I was very sad to hear of Nina's death. I knew her later in her life when she became a member of Acting Up. I was the Artistic and Executive Director of Acting Up, a theatre company for seniors. Nina was a talented and much loved member of our company. Her serene beauty was an asset on stage and she was always willing to work backstage when needed there. I remember her particularly in two of the Acting Up Players full length play productions, "Morning's at Seven" and "Breath of Spring" as well as several short plays which our company toured all over the area. I'm happy to have had the chance to work with Nina and to know her. I will miss her.
Martha Stewart

Martha Stewart - December 10, 2017 at 12:20 PM

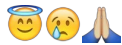
JS

“ Nina and I grew up "out" West End in Marianna, Florida. I will always cherish the memories of us as children making up "shows" with dancing and singing. Phyllis accompanied us on the piano. Latter Nina was the faculty sponsor for a theatre group at Marianna High School and my daughter Heather was in several of the plays she directed.
Nina was as beautiful inside as she was in person. I know her presence will be missed by her family and friends but her legacy of love and kindness will always be with us forever.
Janet Gray Stephenson

Janet Stephenson - December 09, 2017 at 08:39 PM

MF

“ Nina, what can I say!!! You have been such a special friend. We went through 14 years of school together. We lost touch for a few years but reconnected & I am so very happy we did. I know how you loved and was so very proud your children & grandchildren. I watched Elyse at so many performances at The Young Actors Theatre & saw the pride in your face. She loved & respected you. I remember you talking about Jinger's children coming to your house after school & how much you enjoyed having them there. You were a very loving, wonderful, caring soul & I will miss you very much!!!



Your friend, Margie Lupo Fletcher

Margie Lupo Fletcher - December 08, 2017 at 08:15 PM

MT

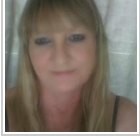
“ I was lucky enough to have been a student in Mrs. Sims’ science classes three times in different grades as she was moved around. I had her first in middle school and I was the new kid in town. She was such a tremendous teacher but even more, she made me feel like I belonged and was wanted. She was so brilliant and nurtured my interest in science while healing my heart in her classroom many recesses because I didn’t know people yet. She was always comforting, funny, engaging, giving, and full of sage advice. I’m so grateful to that she moved up to teach at Marianna High so I could wind up in her classes again. We had many after-class conversations and good laughs. Around 2005, I was shocked and thrilled to learn she lived in TLH and I started keeping in touch. The last time we had lunch was at Bella Bella shortly before she became ill. We ended up talking for two and a half hours. We talked about everything and I’ll always remember exactly where we sat. As we parted, we swore we’d keep doing that regularly. I’m so glad I told her how much of an impact she had on me from very early in my life—both in and out of the classroom. My heart hurts and I can’t imagine the world without her. My love and hugs to her family; especially to Jinger and Myla (since I knew them as friends from school). I know the whole family has to feel a great loss, though, and my hope is that your memories and her light will sustain you as you navigate through this grief.

Meredith Trammell - December 07, 2017 at 01:39 AM

BF

“ Nina and I were colleagues at Marianna High School. I remember her as a model of professionalism. Her students were privileged to learn from an extremely talented teacher but, more importantly, they learned about integrity and caring. I am sure that the origin of the success of many students today can be traced back to Mrs. Sims’ classroom. Belva Neel Free

Belva N Free - December 06, 2017 at 10:39 AM



“ She was my 4 th grade teacher at golson elementary school Marianna fla.she was most importantly caring for us encouraging us.she made an impact on me to always try don't give up keep pushing in life an I did.rip MS Sims.

Rebecca Cooley - December 06, 2017 at 10:20 AM



“ Nina and I were classmates at MHS and she was so kind, smart and possessed of a beautiful soul. Her smile could light a room. We are all diminished by her loss.
..Diane Alford Mitchell

Diane Mitchell - December 06, 2017 at 09:43 AM

PS

“ Taught at Marianna High School with Nina in the 80s. Will never forget her sweet smile and endless willingness to help. Will remember her fondly.

Pam Davis Selman

Pam Selman - December 06, 2017 at 07:07 AM

JB

“ I went to school in Marianna with Nina at MHS. She was a terrific girl and a fabulous woman. After graduation decades passed before I saw her again but when I did there was wonderful bond. We were both teachers, we shared the same interest and philosophy of politics. We found ourselves sharing the same compassion for so many. I was fortunate to spend time with her in Baltimore when she was visiting Josh at Johns Hopkins University. Her conversations were full of the pride she felt in her girls and she used to send me pictures of the grandchildren. We spent some wonderful times with other gals from our class at the beach, and there is no denying that she, with her white hair and piercing blue eyes was the most striking of us all. The last time we talked, I felt it would be our last, and that was several years ago. Thank you for the beautiful obituary.

jarrett perry boyd - December 05, 2017 at 10:24 PM

NP

“ Nina was a classmate of mine in Marianna. She was kind, smart, and loyal. What a wonderful legacy she has left us. —Nancy Fizzell Pugh

Nancy Pugh - December 05, 2017 at 10:18 PM

DM

“ I am so glad that I had the pleasure of knowing Nina. She was a smart, beautiful, loving mother, grandmother and friend. We shared a love of shopping and I would frequently run into her at various stores, especially Wal-Mart, where we would always stop and chat for awhile. We both also loved going to see her granddaughter, Elyse, in all her plays. I will surely miss her. Debbie Mandrup-Poulsen

Debbie Mandrup-Poulsen - December 05, 2017 at 10:01 PM