

# LIFELONG GRADUATION TRIBUTE COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM CHARLES SIMONS, JR.

## IN THE BEGINNING

Born on December 28, 2001 at 9:59 A.M weighing 8 pounds 3.5 ounces to Penny L. Simons and William Charles Simons, Sr.

## SCHOOL MATRICULATION

Ashley Elementary (Pre-K-2nd Grade)  
Rural Hall Elementary (3rd-5th Grade)  
Northwest Middle (6th-8th Grade)  
Reagan High (9th-10th Grade)  
North Forsyth High (11th Grade)

## LITTLE/BIG BROTHER ENCOURAGER

Into Will's life came Corey Simons (#1 brother) who would prove to be an awesome inspiration in his life.



Will & Corey 2007

## UNCLE - MR. STANLEY L. BARR

(See picture - with cousin Trinity)  
We are celebrating my daughter Trinity Barr's graduation from high school. A very joyous occasion for her, but sad for some. There are many mothers and fathers who are not able to celebrate their child's graduation from high school because of a death through gun violence. I'm standing there at the grave site of my nephew (William Charles Simons, Jr.) who, if he was still alive, would be graduating today, 2020. But he was killed and struck down through gun violence. I'm sending out a prayer that we stop all the violence from the youth, stop them from killing each other so they can grow up to be young men and women and become successful in this society.  
LONG LIVE WILLIAM SIMONS, JR.



"WILL"

Reagan High School Football 2017

## PERSONAL REFLECTION OF WILL WRITTEN WITH HIS HANDS

Who is smart, loyal, determined, and self-driven  
Who is related to Corey Simons  
Who stays about his brother being happy  
Who feels that he can prove everyone wrong  
Who needs God in his life  
Who has motivation  
★ Who fears motherly love  
Who would like to see mother die  
Who wants you to know life is a series of choices  
Who wants to become famous  
★ who enjoys making mother happy

## REMEMBERING WILL - 2020

### UNCLE

#### MR. ANTHONY T. BARR

I was so proud of you after our last conversation when I took you to work. I was proud of how you were talking about things you wanted to do which let me know you were growing into a young man.  
#TRULY MISS YOU WILL!



### GRANDMOTHER

#### MRS. BARBARA J. BARR

Will was one of my many grandsons. He had such a beautiful smile. It seems like Will was taken from us too soon. But I know that God knows best!!

### AUNT

#### MRS. PRINCELLA B. BRAXTON

Your loss is still FRESH in my mind. Loving, funny, admired, and caring are the true characteristics of my nephew, Will Simons. I miss watching you as a little boy running around my house shooting nerf guns with Wesley and Corey. I loved it when you called me "Miss Prissy." Rest in Paradise my beloved nephew!

### AUNT - MRS. KIM BARR

#### (WIFE OF MR. ANTHONY T. BARR)

I remember being in the room the day he was born. He was the picture of perfection. He was handsome and strong. As Will grew over the years he continued to be perfect in so many ways. He had a beautiful smile, believed in loyalty, loved his family and brought joy and laughter to every family event. #LONG LIVE WILL!

## FRIENDS

### JAMON "GEICO" BROWN

Will was the type of friend that you only get once in a lifetime. He'll give you the shirt off his back if he had to. My best friend, my brother, you are truly missed! OTF 4L.

### JAHAUN BAILEY

I remember Will as a ride-or-die friend. No matter what the situation was, he didn't ask any questions. He was the definition of "real" to the fullest. He was always full of joy and laughter. Always wanted to make jokes on anybody. We would randomly call each other just to make a joke. We had a handshake we did every time we saw each other. I wish we could do that handshake one more time. LONG LIVE WILL!

### KEDRIC HICKMAN

I remember Will as the most entertainable person that I've ever met. There was never a dull moment when Will was around. I loved that about him.

### DEDRIC HICKMAN

I remember Will as a very energized loving brother. Nothing but joy and laughter when he came around.



### KOURTNEY JONES

Someone so young impacted so many lives young and old. We miss and love you so much!

### KYNDALL BARR

The most loving, protective, goofy person you could ever meet. He cared a lot about his family and close friends. He also helped others without anyone looking.

### KAMRYN BARR

Although you are gone, your spirit lives through us each and every day. I love you!

### WESLEY BRAXTON

Things ain't really been the same at all since you passed bro. Even before all of this Covid-19 stuff we weren't even going to Grandma's on Sunday like we used to. I think about you and how life would be if you were still here EVERY DAY... I forever love you gang!

### ALEXIS I. MCCULLOUGH

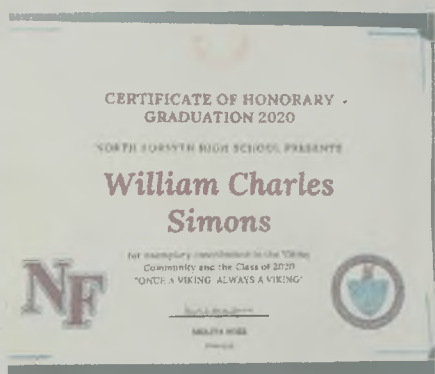
Someone who lit up an entire room whenever he entered it. He was so caring and loving, Will had a real genuine soul and it's missed dearly. I LOVE YOU WILL. #LLW!

### CHURCH - NEW DIRECTION MOVEMENT CATHEDRAL (PASTOR - ESSIE C. MCCULLOUGH)

Here is a young man who stood out in the church. His very presence changed the atmosphere. And it was always laughter and having a good time. As most children, Will was full of jokes, teasing, and pranks. He always stood out among others. That's how Will lived. Making every day count. Everyone will miss him because he meant the world to us. - Pastor Essie C. McCullough

### HONORARY GRADUATION CERTIFICATE

Special thanks to the staff of North Forsyth High School for presenting a Certificate of Honorary Graduation in memory of William Charles Simons, Jr. The staff was instrumental in making this possible. Special thanks to the wife of Will's uncle (Mrs. Kim (Anthony) Barr) who spearheaded the project to bring about this awesome event. Words cannot express the gratitude.  
#educationismorethantestscores #LLW #4everloved



William Charles Simons was only a student with us for a short time, but he has left a lifelong impression on this school community and the lives of those that know him. I got to know him a little while. There were many conversations between me and his family and was fiercely loyal to his friends. There are many people who know that Will would have absolutely never let them down. He was selfless, always giving of his time and talent, regardless of the situation. After Will's death, I heard time and time again that there was never a friend like him.

Since Will has been gone, I have also gotten to know him better through the eyes and hearts of other students here at North Forsyth. Will was dedicated to his family and was fiercely loyal to his friends. There are many people who know that Will would have absolutely never let them down. He was selfless, always giving of his time and talent, regardless of the situation. After Will's death, I heard time and time again that there was never a friend like him.

I want to share a brief story with you. There is a student who stopped coming to school for a little while. There were many conversations between me and this student's mother, trying to figure out a way to help the student find the motivation to continue and get their diploma. When the student did re-appear, they told me "Ms. Mackey, it doesn't finish Will would be so disappointed in me. I have to." Later this week, there was a smile on this student's face that I have never seen when they got their diploma. This is who Will was, and who he still is, in the hearts of those that love him. A motivator, a supporter, and a lifelong friend.

Maya Angelou has said, "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." For how he smiled, and for how he loved, and for who he was, the Class of 2020 will never forget Will Simons.

Today, we would like to present you, Ms. Barr, with a Certificate of Honorary Graduation in the Class of 2020 for William Charles Simons. You see on the certificate, it says "Honorary Contributions to the Making Community and to the Class of 2020". This graduating class would not have been what it is had he not been a part of it. Through the use of a Viking for only a short time, he will ALWAYS be a Viking.