

Memorial Celebration  
In Honor Of  
Lena Mills Sammons  
1932 - 2000



Saturday, February 12, 2000  
2:00 P.M.  
First Baptist Church - West  
1801 Oaklawn Avenue  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
Dr. Ricky A. Woods, Officiating



## The Obituary

LENA MILLS SAMMONS departed this life on February 5, 2000 after a valiant four year struggle with breast cancer.

Lena was born on May 19, 1932 in Charlotte, North Carolina to the late Mr. William and the late Mrs. Nina Mills. She was the youngest of three children. Her sister, Dr. Frances M. Kerr, and her brother, William W. Mills, preceded her in death. She was the wife of Charles E. Sammons, Sr. and the mother of two sons.

She attended Charlotte public schools, graduating from West Charlotte High School as Salutatorian in 1949. She then received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Johnson C. Smith University in 1954, graduating magna cum laude. Lena continued her education and received her Master of Education degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1967.

Her professional career began as a teacher in the public schools of Southport, North Carolina. Always interested in the affairs of her home town, she returned to Charlotte to continue her chosen profession as a teacher of speech and English at York Road High School. Lena exhibited an interest in all phases of education. As a result, she chose to leave the public school system and to accept the position of teacher in the Continuing Education Achievement Program (CEAP), and later as Director of Public Relations at her alma-mater, Johnson C. Smith University. After her return to the public school system, she taught at Garinger High School, becoming a Master Teacher. Lena retired after serving as Assistant Principal for Instruction at Hidden Valley Elementary School for several years.

During her adult life, she was fully involved in her church and her community. Lena was baptized at First Baptist Church as a child and was an active member until her health deteriorated in 1999. She sang in the choir and assisted in the church's historical research. Lena also organized and directed the First Baptist Church after-school computer learning and tutoring program. Additionally, she edited the church newsletter and served on the Installation Committee for the current senior minister.

Her civic and social activities included: a staunch supporter of the Johnson C. Smith University Alumni Association and the United Negro College Fund; one of the founders of the Charlotte Chapter of National Epicureans, Inc.; and secretary of the Las Reinas Club. She was also initiated into the Gamma Delta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Lena will be remembered for her God-given talents of singing, drama and public speaking as well as her love for people. Throughout her lifetime, she won many awards, tributes and plaques in these areas.

Those who remain to cherish her life and mourn her death include: her husband, Charles E. Sammons, Sr.; two sons, Darryl Dawson of Chicago, Illinois and Charles E. Sammons, Jr. of Charlotte, North Carolina; three grandsons, Marcus G. Dawson, Malcolm C. Dawson and Charles E. Sammons, III; one great-grandson, Da'Shon Dawson; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.