



Mr. Bill D. Watkins

February 10, 1952 - July 18, 2021

Obituary

Bill Dean Watkins was born February 10, 1952 in Kansas City, Kansas to the union of Lee Ed Watkins, Sr. and Mildred Lawrence Watkins. Bill was the sixth child of twelve sisters and brothers.

Bill grew up in the Kansas City school district where he attended Wendell Phillips Elementary, Sanford B. Ladd Elementary, Central Junior and Central Senior High School graduating in the alumni class of 1970.

At an early age, Bill sold the Kansas City Call weekly newspaper door to door and remained a loyal reader for the remainder of his life. As a teenager, Bill worked at the YMCA as a lifeguard. Following graduation, he worked as a laborer at Bob Eldridge Construction with his Dad and brother Eugene in the building of Crown Center. Bill was later hired at Ford Motor Company as a laborer, retiring as a Torque Inspector with 35 years of service. After retirement, he continued to stay active as the Building Engineer within his church home, the Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ.

Bill Watkins was an active member in the church. He began his walk with the Lord on July 29, 1985 at the Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ under the leadership of Suffragan Bishop Daniel Chavis Jr. He served as President of the Men's Ministry, treasurer of the church, and was a member of the Deacon

Board and the Board of Trustees. When it came to God's house, he was a dedicated and faithful steward working heartily unto the Lord.

On December 28, 1985, Bill was united in marriage to Betty Ann Watkins. To their union one beautiful daughter (Ayla) was born. Bill loved his wife and daughter with all that was in him. He made a promise to Betty that he would make sure his little "Ayla Cup" graduated from college, and that promise he kept.

Bill loved his sports. He was a member of the Central Senior High School Wrestling Team and played Basketball and Baseball for Ford Motor UAW Local 249. As a child, he dreamed of playing baseball for the Royals.

Though not well known, he loved music from Earth, Wind, and Fire and The Commodores (Zoom). But most of all, he loved the singing of his beloved wife and daughter – always making sure to have Ayla's cassette tape or CD (featuring Betty's background vocals) in his car.

Bill was a wonderful son, husband, father, grandfather, brother, nephew, uncle, cousin, and friend. He willingly gave to others and didn't expect to get anything back. It was just in his nature. He was very supportive of his family and took pride in attending family functions (he always had the ice and drinks covered). No matter how far, he made sure to attend the high school and college graduations of his daughter, nephews, and nieces.

He had an everlasting effect on anyone he met; he was fun to be around and had jokes for days. He never met a stranger; always sparking up a conversation with anyone around - whether on the elevator or in a grocery store line. His daughter called him "Mr. Big Man-on-Campus" because he seemed to know almost everyone, everywhere they went.

God called Bill home on July 18, 2021. His Wife, Betty Ann Watkins, Father, Lee Ed Watkins, Sr., Mother, Mildred Lawrence Watkins, brothers, Daniel Lucky Watkins and Eugene Kelly Watkins, and oldest sister, Dorothy M. Rogers preceded him in death.

He leaves to cherish his memories, one daughter, Ayla D. Jacobs (Harry) of Bowie, MD; one grandson, Landon Jacobs (and another on the way); three brothers, Lee Ed Watkins, Jr., Charles E. Watkins, and Raymond D. Watkins; and five sisters, Ruthie M. Watkins, Betty J. Vaughn, Josephine Conaway, Barbara A. Bryant and Sheila R. Brock, all of Kansas City, MO; a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, church family, and other relatives and friends.

Funeral service will be held Saturday, July 31, 2021, 2:00pm at the Watkins Heritage Chapel. Interment Brookings Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1pm-2pm at the chapel. Service conducted by Lawrence A. Jones & Sons Funeral Chapel. Condolences may be shared on our website. Services will be Livestreamed: mstcsunset.com. This facility requires social distancing and face coverings indoors

To send flowers
to the family or plant a tree
in memory of Mr. Bill D. Watkins, please visit our floral store.

[Read More](#)

Tribute Wall

AW

“ A Memorial Tree was planted for Mr. Bill D. Watkins
We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ the staff at Lawrence A. Jones
& Sons Funeral Chapels
Join in honoring their life - plant a memorial tree

A Memorial Tree was planted for Mr. Bill D. Watkins - May 25, 2023 at 01:05 PM

RD

“ Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Bill D. Watkins by
R. Denson. Send Flowers RIP cousin, u will be missed. Ronnie,
Anna and family R. Denson

R. Denson - May 25, 2023 at 01:05 PM

LS

“ A Memorial tree was ordered in memory of Mr. Bill D. Watkins by
Laura Mills Smith. Plant a Tree Thinking of your family on this
difficult day. My deepest condolences. Wish I could be with you
today. May this tree carry on your brothers precious memory for
many years! Laura Mills Smith

Laura Mills Smith - May 25, 2023 at 01:05 PM

JW

“ My deepest condolences to the family great childhood memories of
this big Watkins family always kind and respectful. Had a nice smile.
Bill was happy with whatever. He always talk to our late brother
Jack on the porch

Janice Butler Workcuff - July 31, 2021 at 10:45 AM

CS

“ With deepest condolences to the family... I will miss my Brother in the Gospel greeting me and always had an encouraging word for me.. farewell Deacon Watkins you will be greatly missed

Coranetta Stewart - July 30, 2021 at 11:35 PM

AJ

“ To the Watkins Family We are truly sadden to hear about the recent passing of Bill D Watkins. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends during this hour of sadness. May all please draw comfort from this wonderful promise from God where He assures all grieving hearts that our love ones will stand up again. (John 5:28-29) Yes God would cause a calling to go forth to those in the grave, and that our departed love ones would respond by standing up in life again. Oh what a powerful promise this truly is. Yes persons like Bill, and billions of others await their personal calling from God. God wants all to have strong faith in this promise, so He has taken the time to preserve nine accounts in the Bible that speaks about the resurrection blessings that is ever so near at hand. Reading these many account will provide true comfort for all grieving hearts. Here is just one such example recorded at John 11:32-44. I hope that all will get a chance to see how these verses apply to your love ones. So in closing, we say please keep this promise of God near your hearts at all times. Remember that when God makes a promise, it becomes reality. For it is impossible for God to lie. (Titus 1:2)

Albert Caldwell Jr - July 24, 2021 at 09:46 AM

MA

“ Marty cuz and his fiancé send the family our deepest condolences we are so sorry for your loss . May GOD bless your family we are praying for you love cuz

martin - July 23, 2021 at 05:47 PM