



## Mr. Shannon Denovous Watkins

February 22, 1969 - January 6, 2025

Shannon Watkins Sr., a beloved father, grandfather, fiancé, son, brother, coach, mentor, entrepreneur, and community leader, passed away on January 6, 2025, at the age of 55. Born on February 22, 1969, Shannon dedicated his life to uplifting others, leaving a legacy of love, service, and unwavering commitment to his family and community. Known for his big heart, outgoing and sociable nature, and ability to connect with people from all walks of life, Shannon made an undeniable mark on everyone he encountered.

Shannon graduated from Van Horn High School, where he began his journey of perseverance and determination. While still a student, he worked as a dishwasher, a role that soon led to becoming one of the main cooks, foreshadowing his entrepreneurial spirit. His drive and work ethic earned him a scholarship to Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, where he majored in criminal justice. Shannon also attended Langston University, further building the foundation for his lifelong commitment to service and leadership.

After college, Shannon discovered his passion for working with troubled teens, dedicating himself to guiding and mentoring young people at several group homes. His compassion and desire to make a difference shaped the trajectory of his life's work.

In 1999, Shannon's entrepreneurial journey began with the opening of Club

Mulan, a BBQ restaurant and nightclub that became a beloved gathering place for food, music, and community. Around 2004, he expanded his impact by opening the Watkins Christian Child Development Center, where he cared for hundreds of children, helping to lay the foundation for their lifelong learning journeys.

In 2000, Shannon founded the 39th Street KC Giants, a youth sports organization dedicated to coaching young people life lessons through football, baseball, and basketball. His leadership also extended to KC Night Hoops, a recreational basketball league supported by the Mayor of Kansas City, providing youth with a safe and constructive environment.

In 2018, Shannon expanded his vision even further by founding Live and Growth, a healthcare agency for physically and mentally disabled individuals. As CEO and Founder, he worked tirelessly to help clients build sustainable, joyful lives, solidifying his legacy as a compassionate advocate for underserved communities.

Shannon is survived by his loving children: Dion Blanton, Shantel Watkins, Shanna Watkins, Shannon Watkins, Shannel Watkins, Shain Watkins, and Shakil Watkins. He cherished his role as a grandfather to Nova Pearre and Noé Rozell, finding immense joy in watching them grow. He also leaves behind his mother, Betty Vaughn, whose love and support were steadfast throughout his life, and his brothers Hosea Simien and Justin Vaughn.

Shannon also leaves behind his fiancée, Misty Stockdale, the love of his life, whom he met in 2006. Their bond was unbreakable, and they stood side by side, supporting each other through life's joys and challenges until his passing.

Shannon was preceded in death by his grandparents, Lee Ed and Mildred

Watkins; his uncles, Lee Ed Watkins Jr., Raymond Watkins, Bill Watkins, Eugene Watkins, Charles Watkins, and Daniel Watkins; and his dear aunt, Dorothy Rodgers.

He leaves to mourn many aunts: Barbara Bryant, Ruthie Watkins, Sheila Brock, Josephine Gordon, and Jamesetta Davis (AKA Tiny); as well as cousins, nieces, nephews, and countless friends whose lives he touched deeply.

Shannon Watkins Sr. was more than a man; he was a beacon of hope, a source of inspiration, and a true pillar of the Kansas City community. His life's work touched thousands, and his legacy will live on in the hearts of those he inspired, mentored, and loved.

Rest in peace, Shannon. Your kindness, passion, and dedication to creating a better world will never be forgotten. You will forever be known as the 39th Street Legend.

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, January 24, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) at Palestine Missionary Baptist Church 3619 East 35th Street KCMO 64128. Interment: Brooking Cemetery. Visitation: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (noon) at the Church. Arrangements entrusted to Lawrence A. Jones & Sons Funeral Chapels. Condolence may be shared on our website [lawrenceajones.com](http://lawrenceajones.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Brooking Cemetery

10004 E 53rd St  
Kansas City, MO 64133

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 24. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Palestine Missionary Baptist Church  
3619 East 35th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64128

## Funeral Service

JAN 24. 12:00 PM (CT)

Palestine Missionary Baptist Church  
3619 East 35th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64128

# Tribute Wall



“ Edith W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Shannon Denovous Watkins.

Edith W. - January 26, 2025 at 11:43 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Shannon Denovous Watkins.



January 21, 2025 at 06:04 PM



“ This Rochelle from L & G. Shannon was a good friend too me always, and gave me the chance to work with him, grew our friendship. He was always lending a helping hand to someone or giving them work to get on their feet. Shannon will truly be missed. My prayers and condolences to his family.

ROCHELLE Holmes - January 13, 2025 at 11:27 AM



He was a great mentor to the 39th Street youth. My Condolences to his family 🌸

Lawanda Davis - January 15, 2025 at 10:49 PM

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“ Sending our heartfelt sympathy to the family



Shannon was a good friend in so many ways....Rest Well 🌹💛❤️ Love, Mr.Mrs James Alexander-Poddie ( the cake lady)



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**Angie Alexander** - January 13, 2025 at 09:58 AM

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“ This is his cousin Angie Raglon. Shannon will be surely missed. I loved the way he would talk all day. Tell jokes and just educated on some things. May God bless the family at this time, but that is one brother I will surely miss. My lil cuz rest in peace. Until we meet again cuz! Luv u much

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**Andrea D Raglon** - January 11, 2025 at 08:52 PM