



Marcellus W. Watkins

June 8, 1927 - October 16, 2020

Marcellus Winrow Ronald Watkins, Jr, aka “Marc”, of St. Louis, MO, passed away on Friday, October 16, 2020. He lived 93 years filled with exciting and historic careers. He accepted Christ as his savior and was a member of several Churches. Born on June 8, 1927, in Kinloch, MO, to Marcellus Watkins Sr. and Lucille Elizabeth (Settler) Watkins, he grew up in St. Louis, attending Sumner High School, before moving to Chicago. He was a dining car waiter and cook in the glamorous railroad industry in the 1940’s and 1950’s and became an active political organizer in Chicago in the 50’s. He worked as a haute cuisine chef for major Chicago and St. Louis restaurants and institutions like Playboy Club and Queenie Towers in the 50’s, 60’s and 70’s, transcribed medical records at St. Louis’ Homer G. Phillips Hospital in the 70’s, as well as wrote several manuscripts from the 70’s onward.

Retinitis pigmentosa started robbing him of his eyesight in the late 70’s, but blindness did not stop him from giving back to the greater St. Louis community. At various times throughout the latter part of the 20th century and into the 21st century, he took lessons at the School for the Blind on how to teach “DOS” computers to others, taught Sunday school at Centennial Christian Church and other Churches throughout St. Louis, and sang in the Men’s Chorus at Centennial and other Churches. He volunteered as a mentor to underprivileged children at schools in University City and as a bible teacher for prison ministry charities like Mission Gate and Sunshine Ministries.

His interests were wide and varied. He was an avid reader of all genres, fiction, non-fiction, histories, science, current events, religion, etc. He loved music and played every day either classical, jazz, opera, choral, or “Music of Motown” recordings. He always loved dogs and had pet dogs, preferably German Shepherds, throughout his adult life. Cooking was both his job and his passion and even into his 90’s he would prepare his own meals. And he was an avid sports fan, following the baseball Cardinals and the St. Louis football teams with equal fervor.

Marcellus Watkins came from a large family. He had 9 siblings: Lewin, Evelyn Clay, Emogene, Laverne, Lucille, Ola Mae Watkins-Senter, Ethel, Melvin, and Calvin Watkins. Marcellus is survived by his sister, Ola Mae, and brother, Melvin. In 1949, he married Doris Jane (Valson) Watkins (died 2006) in Chicago, Ill. Six children came from this union: Michael, Vicki, Ronelle, Candice, Paula and David Watkins. Michael and Ronelle have passed on. After Marcellus and Doris divorced in the early 1960’s, he married Gwendolyn Harriett (Bundy) Watkins (died 2001) in St. Louis, Mo. Two children were part of this union: Elizabeth Ann and Mark Gilbert. Marcellus was a father figure to numerous nephews and nieces. He was a loving grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather as well as a wonderful friend to many.

In lieu of flowers and gifts, please donate to his favorite charities:

<https://missiongateministry.org/donate-now-1>

<https://stpatrickcenter.org/donate/>

<https://give.sunshineministries.org/>

<https://newlifeevangelisticcenter.org/ways-to-give/>

Thank you and God Bless.

Cemetery Details

PRIVATE

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

OCT **30**. 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM (CT)

Archway Memorial Chapel
111 Taylor Road
Hazelwood, MO 63042
(314) 895-3900
info@archwaychapel.com

Tribute Wall

PM

“ *Mr. Watkins was such a smart and intelligent man who was a great example of a Father that I saw with my childhood friends, Liz and Mark. He was a Sunday school teacher and we all had a wonderful time growing up in Church. My condolences to you, Elizabeth and Mark and the entire family of Mr. Watkins*

Pamela Muhammad - November 03, 2020 at 02:15 PM

DW

“ *His children are as listed since it wasn't done. That was a BIG secret. Michael Watkins, (deceased) Vicki Watkins, Candice & Ronelle Watkins twins (deceased), Paula Watkins, David Watkins, Mark Watkins, Elizabeth Watkins (adopted) Grandchildren Michael Watkins Jr. (deceased), Andre Watkins, Tyrone Watkins, Joshua Watkins, Tony Monroe, Ladonna Watkins Clay, Trina Watkins Clay, Brittany*

David Watkins - November 02, 2020 at 11:19 AM

 Ziggy
Blue

“ *His children are as listed since it wasn't done. That was a BIG secret. Michael Watkins, (deceased) Vicki Watkins, Candice & Ronelle Watkins twins (deceased), David Watkins, Mark Watkins, Elizabeth Watkins (adopted) Grandchildren Michael Watkins Jr. (deceased), Andre Watkins, Tyrone Watkins, Joshua Watkins, Tony Monroe, Ladonna Watkins Clay, Trina Watkins Clay, Brittany*

Ziggy Blue - October 30, 2020 at 07:42 PM

EW

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Elizabeth A Watkins - October 30, 2020 at 07:31 PM

EW

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Elizabeth A Watkins - October 30, 2020 at 07:14 PM

DK

*Although you were my uncle, for some reason I always called you Junior. Your monologues on family history, world events, & life in our communities were factual, plus entertaining. I'm sure that's why I remember the information so well. You were truly a master chef. You barbecued the tastiest, tenderest meats I've ever eaten. They literally did "melt in my mouth." I knew you were very smart, but your melodious talents got pass me until I saw the video clip of you singing with your church chorus. I am so privileged to have been in your family and to have had you for my uncle. You made me feel so special because you gave me my own nick name, "DEE DEE." You shall always stay in my heart. You've earned your rest for a job "well done."
Your niece DEEDEE, (Diane)*

Diane Keys - October 31, 2020 at 11:45 AM

Ziggy
Blue

“ His children are as listed since it wasn't done. That was a BIG secret. Michael Watkins, (deceased) Vicki Watkins, Candice & Ronelle Watkins (deceased), David Watkins, Mark Watkins, Elizabeth Watkins (adopted) Grandchildren Michael Watkins Jr. (deceased), Andre Watkins, Tyrone Watkins, Joshua Watkins, Joseph Watkins, Tony Monroe, Ladonna Watkins Clay, Trina Watkins Clay, Brittany Mckinzy. And 6 Great Grandchildren.

Ziggy Blue - October 30, 2020 at 06:03 PM

TW

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Tim Watkins - October 30, 2020 at 05:18 PM

TW

I have many comic videos but I cant upload them....

Tim Watkins - October 30, 2020 at 05:19 PM

TW

“ I sure miss my beer drinking buddy, uncle and friend. We would spend all day sitting out back at 3835 Labadie drinking beer, laughing, and reminiscing about the good old days. Save a cold one for me in Heaven Uncle Mark; see in 40 years! (I hope). Tim Watkins

Tim Watkins - October 30, 2020 at 05:11 PM

TW

“ *Tim Watkins lit a candle in memory of Marcellus W. Watkins*



Tim Watkins - October 30, 2020 at 05:03 PM

BS

“ *Uncle Junior
Was always good for a good laugh, great jazz and some great food.
All of my friends were welcome in the backyard on Labadie. I will miss him greatly. God, just added a great conversationalist to his flock. Love you Junior, hope to see you later*

Brandon Senter - October 30, 2020 at 04:13 PM

CC

“ *We always called hm Uncle Junior and he always lit up the room wherever he was. I thank him for his great gift of story telling and animation. i thank him for teaching me the love of Jazz and the conversations we had about the various artists and styles of Jazz. i thank him for being a rock in a sea of torment. Uncle Junior always brought me joy and a deep feeling of family. I see him in paradise with his brothers and sisters (one of whom was my Mom Evelyn or "Sister") and his mother and father for whom he was named. May God grant you a place of light, comfort and peace Uncle Junior. Love your nephew,
Chuck Clay a.k.a. Chuckdaddy.*

Chuck Clay - October 30, 2020 at 04:07 PM

RO

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Robby Osborn - October 30, 2020 at 03:26 PM

DL

“ *Darryl P. Linden lit a candle in memory of Marcellus W. Watkins*



Darryl P. Linden - October 30, 2020 at 11:39 AM

DL

*To the Watkins Family;
As a proud African-American Veteran of the Navy, we were taught by our predecessors to honor and remember the proud Black men that served before us and paved the way for our success with their bravery, courage, and - sometimes their lives. I would like to honor the service of Mr. Watkins who served during the "Greatest Generation" of the United States Department of Defense - the Korean War and World Wars.*

Darryl P. Linden - October 30, 2020 at 11:49 AM

AW

“ *Our Grand Patriarch is absent from us and present with the Lord.*

A complex man of humble spirit, colorful imagination, fiery opinions, and steadfast faith, Grandpa Mark was many things to many people. I'll miss our time watching Sunday football, debates about everything and nothing at all, his commitment to lifelong learning, and the steaks he grilled to perfection! Throughout his life and through eternity, Grandpa Mark is loved. May God's peace embrace our family now and always.



A. R. Watkins - October 30, 2020 at 01:41 AM

DK

“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



Diane Keys - October 29, 2020 at 07:41 PM

MS

“ I, Melvin J Watkins, share the memories of my brother Marc (the family called him "junior"). He was a skilled and talented artist, and I often copied his drawings to develop my talent. He loved trains and answered any question I'd ask about them. He moved to Chicago circa 1954 and I joined the Marines. In 1957 I was stationed at Great Lakes near Chicago, and I would spend the weekend with him and his family. He would read each book of the New Testament to me and discuss them, just as he did when he told me about trains. After my discharge he took me to a car dealer to buy my first car. We never had a family car, so when I told him I was driving back to St Louis he wanted to ride with me. We had learned to trust each other as I did when he taught me to swim. I still have the spiritual values I hold because of Junior and can be certain his soul is with our Lord. We all who knew him will miss him.



Melvin J Watkins Sr - October 27, 2020 at 06:16 PM

JC

“ I would like to express my sincere sympathy to Dr. Mark Walkins and Elizabeth in the loss of your father! May God give you strength now and in the years to come. God bless.

Love,

Jimmie Chambers, Jr.

Jimmie Chambers - October 26, 2020 at 01:13 PM

VT

“ To the Watkins Family,

Please accept our sympathy to you for the loss of your loved one. Your father and grandfather was a very smart and kind person who taught us the Word of God at Centennial Christian Church. He was very loving in sharing the Word of God to all who wanted to learn more about Jesus Christ. He will be missed by all of us. God Bless you and know we are praying for your family.

Sincerely,

Joshua and Viola Thames

VIOLA THAMES - October 25, 2020 at 12:16 PM

GW

“ Dear Watkins Family,

Please accept our sincere sympathy and prayers for your bereavement. Our memories of Marc are as result of our membership at Centennial Christian Church. May God bless you and keep you in His care.

Gary & Jeanette White

Gary & Jeanette White - October 25, 2020 at 01:20 AM

CR

*Extending our deepest sympathies to the Watkins Family on the loss of your father. Praying God's comfort and peace to the family.
Cindy Marshall Roach and family*

Cindy Roach - October 26, 2020 at 07:23 PM

PB

Mark Watkins was such a kind, helpful, wonderful person. When I worked at the Boeing Company I decided to earn a Bachelor degree. After talking to Mark he said don't worry, I will help you. Every paper I wrote Mark reviewed and help me make changes when necessary. I will always remember him for that. Please accept my sincere sympathy and prayers for your loss.

Patricia Booker-Slate

Patricia Booker-Slate - October 30, 2020 at 10:24 AM

EW

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Elizabeth A Watkins - October 24, 2020 at 01:41 PM

KS

“ Ken And Archway Staff lit a candle in memory of Marcellus W. Watkins



Ken and Archway Staff - October 22, 2020 at 05:04 PM