



Mr. Tommie Lee Watkins Sr.

January 23, 1944 - January 3, 2024

****NOTE: FIRST UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH IS HOSTING A SERVICE IN LOVING MEMORY FOR THE FAMILY OF MR. TOMMIE LEE WATKINS, SR. ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024.

*****SERVICE INFORMATION IS LISTED BELOW

*****PLEASE NOTE: MASKS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST AT THE FUNERAL HOME & AT THE CHURCH---BOTH BUILDINGS WILL PROVIDE HAND SANITIZER WHEN ENTERING THE BUILDING.

OBITUARY

Mr. Tommie Lee Watkins Sr. made his transition to his Heavenly Home on January 3, 2024 surrounded by his family, in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The son of Lee Henry and Eva Watkins, Tommie Sr. was born on January 23, 1944, in Cruger, MS. At an early age, he moved to Chicago, Illinois with his parents. Tommie went to secondary school in Chicago and later was employed in various capacities in Illinois.

While living in Chicago, Illinois he met the former Carrol Stribling who he united in marriage in 1966. To this union, 6 children were born: Charles, Alisa, Tommie Jr., Teresa, Angela and Jessica.

In 1968, Tommie and Carrol relocated with their children to Kalamazoo, Michigan. Tommie was a hard worker who also worked in various capacities in Kalamazoo until he became employed with Upjohn Company. He worked as a Pharmaceutical Technician for over 30 years until his retirement.

He was a member of Essential Lodge #10 under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of Michigan Free and Accepted Masons, where he served as Past Master of Central Lodge #10.

Tommie enjoyed many hobbies which include: bowling, playing cards (especially bid whist) and fishing. He was very competitive and was known for his skills as a “Master Chess Player” and “The King of Chess”. Many would come from all around just to compete with him but couldn’t beat him! Tommie enjoyed horse racing and he owned 2 horses: Wild Willa and Lazy Lisa. He would race them at Jackson Harness Raceway. Tommie also enjoyed spending time with his family and traveling during summer. At family get-togethers, Tommie loved to barbecue ribs etc. which his family also loved! He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Tommie is preceded in death by his parents, Lee Henry and Eva Watkins; 1 son Tommie Watkins Jr.; 2 granddaughters Jasmine Watkins and Allece Walker; 4 sisters, Ida Pearl Summer; Lillie Mae Valentine, Eva Watkins and Elma Lee Watkins; 3 brothers, James Watkins, John Watkins, and Neal Watkins.

Tommie leaves to cherish his memory, his loving wife, Carrol Watkins of Kalamazoo, MI; 1 son, Charles Watkins of Kalamazoo; 4 daughters, Alisa (Michael) Monroe; Teresa (Dennis) Stokes all of Kalamazoo; Angela Watkins and Jessica Watkins both of Lexington, KY; 28 grandchildren; several great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild. Also, one sister, Willie Mae Watkins of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Previous Events

Public Viewing For Family & Friends

JAN 15. 3:30 PM - 5:45 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel
521 Douglas Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI

Masonic Service

JAN 15. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel
521 Douglas Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI

Visitation For Family & Friends

JAN 16. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First United Baptist Church
821 S Burdick St
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
(269) 381-3996

A Service in Loving Memory

JAN 16. 12:00 PM (ET)

First United Baptist Church
821 S Burdick St
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
(269) 381-3996

Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Tommie Lee Watkins Sr.



Harper Funeral Home - January 12, 2024 at 11:44 PM

GS

Tommy was full of life and laughter. I have many fond memories of great times with him. RIP

Gersteen Sherrod - January 13, 2024 at 04:39 PM

JS

My condolence to the Watkins Family"

John C McMillon Sr - January 15, 2024 at 09:36 AM

LL

“ My deepest condolences to the family, may Mr Watkins rest in the care of our Father in heaven!gone but never forgotten!

Lula D Ligon - January 25, 2024 at 10:29 AM

RE

Thank you

Relative - February 07, 2024 at 03:19 PM

FF

“ Frank Betty Ford lit a candle in memory of Tommie Watkins



Frank & Betty Ford - January 17, 2024 at 10:05 AM

RW

“ Remenyi Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Tommie Watkins



Remenyi Williams - January 16, 2024 at 12:57 PM

CO

“ Praying for your family! God Bless you all. Cynthia Owens-White, and Family.



Cynthia Owens-White - January 16, 2024 at 05:32 AM

PK

“ PM G. Kimbrough lit a candle in memory of Tommie Watkins



PM Jerry G. Kimbrough - January 13, 2024 at 02:01 PM

PK

“ My PM and friend will truly be missed. He was a friend, father and leader. Rest in peace my Brother.

PM Jerry G. Kimbrough - January 13, 2024 at 01:57 PM

D.

“ D.Grant sent a virtual gift in memory of Tommie Watkins



D.Grant - January 13, 2024 at 12:45 PM

D.

“ D. Grant lit a candle in memory of Tommie Watkins



D. Grant - January 13, 2024 at 12:43 PM

GD

“ Brother Past Master, you will be truly missed. My Father and you were good friends I thank you for being there in my time of grief spending hours with me and family. I thank you bringing me into the Masonic Order and giving me the lessons of life. Rest will my brother.



Green Darryl - January 13, 2024 at 09:25 AM

SB

“ I can hear you now “Well I finally made it” , this is so unreal but I know you’re okay, I know you’re playing chess ♟ or dominos and you’re at peace. Grandad I miss you so much, I know it’s selfish but if it was up to me you would’ve lived forever.... I know I was one of your “role dogs” but I’ll be honest I’ve always been jealous of dude because you didn’t let us girls sit in your chair but your “main man” could. I always made the most money 10.00 for As and 5.00 for Bs and anything less than that your dumb😂..... I have SO many memories and stories. Just know that I still barely touch a thermostat and I still dislike SPAM.... I could keep going but I’ll stop here, I love you grandad 🤗 Get your rest!! ☐

Sharell Bowden - January 13, 2024 at 01:06 AM

EC

“ Ellen Chapman lit a candle in memory of Tommie Watkins



Ellen Chapman - January 12, 2024 at 08:47 PM

CG

“ Cordell/Brenda Gardner lit a candle in memory of Tommie Watkins



Cordell/Brenda Gardner - January 12, 2024 at 05:37 PM

RL

“ Ramona Lumpkin lit a candle in memory of Mr. Tommie Lee Watkins Sr.



Ramona Lumpkin - January 11, 2024 at 10:41 PM

GF

“ Gardner Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Tommie Lee Watkins Sr.



Gardner Family - January 09, 2024 at 10:04 PM

TP

“ The Patterson Family



Toney Patterson - January 09, 2024 at 05:21 PM

ML

“ Mary Ligon-Goens lit a candle in memory of Mr. Tommie Lee Watkins Sr.



Mary Ligon-Goens - January 08, 2024 at 09:30 PM

LL

“ My deepest sympathy for the family, may Mr Watkins rest in God's care, until we meet again! Gone But never forgotten!



Lula D Ligon - January 08, 2024 at 08:32 PM

RW

“ Rj & Anita Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Tommie Lee Watkins Sr.



Rj & Anita Wilkerson - January 08, 2024 at 04:44 PM

MM

“ Mozella Mosley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Tommie Lee Watkins Sr.



Mozella Mosley - January 08, 2024 at 03:51 PM

LB

“ LB lit a candle in memory of Mr. Tommie Lee Watkins Sr.



LB - January 08, 2024 at 03:51 PM

JG

“ Condolences to the family of Mr. Tommie Watkins Sr.



JoAnne & Renaford Owens Jr-Atlanta GA - January 08, 2024 at 10:41 AM

ML

“ *Malinda Ligon-Whitley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Tommie Lee Watkins Sr.*



Malinda Ligon-Whitley - January 07, 2024 at 11:21 PM

LS

“ *Lola Streeter lit a candle in memory of Tommie Watkins*



Lola Streeter - January 07, 2024 at 09:28 PM

DF

“ *Dallas and family lit a candle in memory of Tommie Watkins*



Dallas Boards and family - January 07, 2024 at 07:44 PM

BG

“ *Condolences to the Family*



Beverly Green - January 07, 2024 at 07:31 PM

GW

“ *GEORGIA WILLIAMS lit a candle in memory of Tommie Watkins*



GEORGIA WILLIAMS - January 07, 2024 at 03:57 PM

LG

“ *Larry and Karen Gray lit a candle in memory of Tommie Watkins*



Larry Gray and Karen Gray - January 07, 2024 at 03:11 PM

CG

“ *Cordell/Brenda Gardner lit a candle in memory of Tommie Watkins*



Cordell/Brenda Gardner - January 07, 2024 at 02:30 PM