



## Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins

July 2, 1941 - February 13, 2021

WATKINS, Mr. Ronald - Age 79, passed away Saturday, February 13, 2021 at Warwick AFC Home in Grand Blanc, MI. Family hour 10:00 Am Saturday, February 20, 2021 at Grace Emmanuel Baptist Church, 3502 Lapeer Rd., with Memorial Service commencing at 11:00 AM, Pastor Rabon L. Turner, officiating. Family and friends will assemble at the Church 10:00 AM Saturday. There will be no public viewing. Mr. Ronald Alvin Watkins passed away peacefully at Warwick Adult Foster Care on February 13, 2021. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins was born July 2, 1941 in Columbus, Ohio, the son of Ivory and Martha Watkins. Later they made their home in Flint, Michigan. Ronald attended Clark Elementary, Whittier Jr. High and Flint Central High School. While at Flint Central, Ron was a two sport star in Football and Track. He was one of the fastest runners in the State. Ron was an outstanding Football Player at left half back. He earned honors on the All City Team, All Valley and unanimous choice on all the All State Team in Michigan. As a Sprinter in Track, he set a non-grad record. After Ronald graduated from Flint Central High School, "Class of 1959," he matriculated at Michigan State University and participated in Football and Track. Upon returning to Flint, Ron began employment with General Motors Corporation where he worked as a Skilled Journeyman for 34 years, retiring in 1998. On December 14, 1963, Ron was united in Holy Matrimony to his friend of many years, Lola Finley for 57 years. God entrusted them with sons, Ronald Scott and Rodney Scott Watkins. On February 26, 1995, Ron was inducted into the Greater Flint Afro American

Hall of Fame due to his accomplishments in Football and Track at Flint Central High School. In 2004, Ron and the entire football team was inducted in the Greater Flint Hall of Fame as the "1958 Flint Central State Championship Team." there is also mention of Ronald in the book "Bronze Pillars", a history of African Americans in Flint. Ron began his Christian Walk at Christ the King Catholic Church under the leadership of Priest, Father Dukette. He later joined Grace Emmanuel Baptist Church and was baptized by Pastor Marvin A. Jennings Sr. At Grace Emmanuel for 31 years, he served as an Usher and Member of the Hospitality Committee until he became disabled. Ron loved to travel and was a founding member of First Class Travel Club enabling travel to many exciting places. After retirement, Ron became interested in Golf. He became an avid Golfer, playing in several leagues and won many first place trophies with the help of his main golfing partner, Donald Brown. Mr. Ronald Alvin Watkins leaves to cherish his memory: wife, Lola M. Watkins; sons, Ronald S. (Barbie) Watkins of Marietta, GA and Rodney S. (Kristina) Watkins; grandsons, Courtney Watkins, Isaiah Watkins, all of Appleton, WI; sister, Debra Yancey; brothers, Stephen (Eva) Yancey, Reginald (Ida) Yancey, Jeffrey (Gwen) Yancey, sisters-in-law, Bernadine Yancey and Bertha Simmons; brothers-in-law, Joseph (Millie) Smith, Willie Finley and Tommy (Patricia) Finley; uncle, John Callahan; aunts, Lavinia Hartfield, Vernice Watkins, Lois Watkins and Joyce Saunders; many nieces, nephews and cousins. He also leaves god-daughter, Erica Thrash-Sall; a host of friends including special friends, Art (Gloria) Thrash, Moses (Sadie) Williams, Earl Stephens, members of the First Class Travel Club, classmates of the Class of 1959, "Usher Buddies", "Golf Buddies", Hospitality Committee and the entire Grace Emmanuel Baptist Church family.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents, Ivory (Geraldine) Watkins and Martha (Charles) Yancey; grandparents; brother, Douglas Yancey; step-sister, Vivian Smith; a host of aunts, uncles and cousins. The family would like to express special thanks to Pastor Rabon L. Turner Sr. and the Grace Emmanuel Baptist Church Family, Henry Mendoza MD, primary care

physician for 25 plus years, the All American Hospice Care staff with recognition of Erika RN, his nurse and the staff of Warwick Adult Foster Care for their humane and excellent care.

# Previous Events

## Family hour

FEB **20**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Grace Emmanuel Baptist Church  
3502 Lapeer Rd.  
Flint, MI

## Memorial Service

FEB **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Grace Emmanuel Baptist Church  
3502 Lapeer Rd.  
Flint, MI

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins*

October 09, 2023 at 07:02 AM



“ *Helen Donald and Family send condolences to the Watkins Family*



**Helen Donald** - March 06, 2021 at 11:55 AM



“ *On behalf of the 1959 graduation class of Flint Central, I extend our condolences to my friend Lola, family, and friends. Ronnie was a beloved member of our class.*  
*Dorothy Needham Moreno*

**Dorothy Needham Moreno** - February 23, 2021 at 03:16 PM



“ *Larry/Shirley Henderson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins*



**Larry/Shirley Henderson** - February 22, 2021 at 11:01 AM

JM

“ We will miss our neighbor, our prayers are with the family we are there if you need us. Love the Millers.

Janice Miller - February 21, 2021 at 05:24 PM

BD

“ Bobie Douglas lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins



Bobie Douglas - February 21, 2021 at 04:14 PM

MW

“ Maggie Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins



Maggie Williams - February 21, 2021 at 10:02 AM

DI

“ Daniel Irby lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins



Daniel Irby - February 20, 2021 at 07:01 PM

EP

“ I send my sympathies to the friends and family of this exceptional football player and even more outstanding man.

*I will always remember him, at lightening speed, breaking off huge runs against Northern. I had the honor of watching and playing with the finest running back Flint ever produced.*

*I send to his family the prayer said by soldiers going into battle and by Christ from The Cross.*

*“Father into your hands I commend my Spirit.”*

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**Edward Parker** - February 20, 2021 at 06:09 PM

JR

“ John And Tujunana Reaves lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins



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**John and Tujunana Reaves** - February 20, 2021 at 03:58 PM

JR

“ John And Tujunana Rravrd lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins



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**John and Tujunana Rravrd** - February 20, 2021 at 03:57 PM

RM

“ Thinking of You and the Family with Deepest Sympathy.

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**Rosalee Minor** - February 20, 2021 at 01:54 PM

RM

“ *Thinking of You and the Family with Deepest Sympathy,*

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**Rosalee Minor** - February 20, 2021 at 01:50 PM

VB

“ *My sincerest condolences and prayers sister Lola and family. May God give you comfort and strength in your time of loss.*



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**Vickie R Broome** - February 20, 2021 at 11:33 AM

ES

“ *My condolences to the Watkins family. Ronnie was one of the only football players to be selected for the Detroit Free Press Dream back in the day that was quite an honor.*

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**Ezra Artis Sr** - February 19, 2021 at 07:40 PM

KC

“ *my name is Ken Crowder; i just wanted to say that mr. Ronnie Watkins was one of best running backs that ever came out of flint,michigan and that he will truly be missed .*

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**kenneth crowder** - February 19, 2021 at 01:14 PM

TF

“ *We love you and you will be missed God Bless Tommy Pat and family*

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**Tommy and Pat Finley** - February 19, 2021 at 12:23 PM

KT

“ *Lola and sons and the Watkins family, and the Yancey family, in the passing of cousin Ronald, sending prayers of comfort and peace to you at this time of bereavement. The Tillage Family, Glen, Karen, Annette, Sheila and Kevin.* ”



**Karen Tillage** - February 19, 2021 at 11:58 AM

GC

“ *Gale L. Chapman sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins* ”



**Gale L. Chapman** - February 19, 2021 at 10:11 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of bereavement. Praying for the Watkins family.* ”

**Shirley Milton** - February 18, 2021 at 11:21 PM



“ *Shirley Milton lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins* ”



**Shirley Milton** - February 18, 2021 at 11:19 PM

CT

“ *Corine S Threlkeld/Regina lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins*



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**Corine S Threlkeld/Regina** - February 18, 2021 at 10:12 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins.*



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February 18, 2021 at 06:21 PM

MM

“ *Margie Diane Miles lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins*



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**Margie Diane Miles** - February 18, 2021 at 05:20 PM

DP

“ *Dorothy Payton sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins*



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**Dorothy Payton** - February 17, 2021 at 08:08 PM

BS

“ *Betty Sprinkle*



**Betty Sprinkle** - February 17, 2021 at 05:30 PM



“ *Dolores Harris lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins*



**Dolores Harris** - February 17, 2021 at 01:14 PM

JD

“ *Condolences to family, sorry for your loss....*



**Jesse & Janet Davis** - February 17, 2021 at 01:10 PM

JH

“ *Dear Lola, so sorry to read of your husbands passing. Sending prayers & peace to you & your sons. Think of you often. Jan Hulme*



**jan hulme** - February 17, 2021 at 11:36 AM



“ *Leon Adams PE lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins*



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**Leon Adams PE** - February 17, 2021 at 11:29 AM



“ *Love And Prayers Are With You At This Difficult Time From the Randall Family*



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**Lorene Randall** - February 17, 2021 at 10:11 AM



“ *Jimmye Maxwell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins*



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**Jimmye Maxwell** - February 16, 2021 at 08:59 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to Lola and the family. So sorry for your loss. Prayers being said and sent. Jerry Regan*



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**Jerry Regan** - February 16, 2021 at 04:30 PM

ME

“ LIGHT CANDLE IN MEMORY OF  
MR. RONALD RONNIE WATKINS  
MRS. KIMBERLY RENEE EDWARDS-  
ROBINSON  
SOUTHAVEN, MISSISSIPPI



MRS. KIMBERLY RENEE EDWARDS-ROBINSON - February 16, 2021 at 02:43 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the  
family of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins.



February 16, 2021 at 02:41 PM

RD

“ Lit a candle for Mr. Ronald Watkins. My  
condolences to the Watkins family.



Rudolph Wheaton DDS, MPA - February 16, 2021 at 02:36 PM

BW

“ Barbara Morris Wright lit a candle in memory  
of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins



Barbara Morris Wright - February 16, 2021 at 01:17 PM

EP

“ *Condolences to Lola and Family. With our Deepest, Heartfelt Sympathy.*  
*Earnest & Nancy Pouncy*



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**Earnest & Nancy Pouncy** - February 16, 2021 at 12:52 PM

LW

“ *"Ronald was a very caring individual. A most precious nephew that will be remembered always."*

*Aunt Lois Watkins*



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**Lois Watkins** - February 16, 2021 at 12:50 PM

RB

“ *Robert Byrd lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins*



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**Robert Byrd** - February 16, 2021 at 12:49 PM

VM

“ *So many great memories of this handsome giving man. My sister Kris sweet father in Law. Our hearts go out to you Lola and family. May the Lord hold you tightly in his hands. Rest in His Love Ron. James and Ginny McGhee*



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**Virginia McGhee** - February 16, 2021 at 12:09 PM

J(

“ *In memory of my oldest brother Mr. Ronald Watkins, who was a great inspiration to me and whom I loved very much. You will be sadly missed but never forgotten.*

Jeffrey yancey (brother) - February 16, 2021 at 09:09 AM

WG

“ *With Love, Jeff and Gwen Yancey and The Girls purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins.*



With Love, Jeff and Gwen Yancey and The Girls - February 16, 2021 at 08:53 AM

DW

“ *My condolences and prayers are with the Watkins Family 🙏*



Derrek & Regina Williams - February 16, 2021 at 07:52 AM

RF

“ *Rev Ira Gilbert Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins*



Rev Ira Gilbert family - February 16, 2021 at 07:29 AM

EY

“ *Deepest condolence to the Yancey family. So sorry to hear of Ron's passing. Ron and I worked at Fisher Body for years. He was a very nice man very polished.* ”

Eva Yancey - February 16, 2021 at 07:21 AM



“ *Pamela Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins* ”



Pamela Williams - February 16, 2021 at 01:37 AM

MR

“ *Mary Randle sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ronald Ronnie Watkins* ”



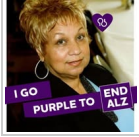
Mary R Randle - February 15, 2021 at 11:11 PM

AP

“ *Sending prayers and condolences to the Watkins family. Shelton and Anna Pinnix* ”



Anna Pinnix - February 15, 2021 at 10:12 PM



“ *May God bless the Watkins family.  
Daisy Epps Johnson & Family*



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**Daisy Johnson** - February 15, 2021 at 09:22 PM



“ *Velma Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of  
Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins*



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**Velma Williams** - February 15, 2021 at 08:55 PM



“ *Prayers for the family and friends.*



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**ORA CARTER** - February 15, 2021 at 08:54 PM



“ *Carolyn Cobb Lewis lit a candle in memory of  
Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins*



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**carolyn cobb lewis** - February 15, 2021 at 08:26 PM

WL

“ *Welton V Lewis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins*



welton v lewis - February 15, 2021 at 08:21 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins.*



February 15, 2021 at 08:02 PM

GF

“ *Gene and Vivian Stuart & Family*



Gene and Vivian Stuart & Family - February 15, 2021 at 06:18 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins.*



February 15, 2021 at 05:09 PM

BT

“ Betty Tipper lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins



Betty Tipper - February 15, 2021 at 03:01 PM

LC

“ Prayers for the Watkins family, may the Lord touch and comfort you during this difficult time. 🙏🙏🙏 continuously.



Loria Corder - February 15, 2021 at 02:16 PM

MP

“ Mary Parks-Deason lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins



Mary Parks-Deason - February 15, 2021 at 12:09 PM

MT

“ Mitch And Ella Teamer lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins



Mitch and Ella Teamer - February 14, 2021 at 07:11 PM



“ Betty Bell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins



Betty Bell - February 14, 2021 at 06:03 PM



“ Renita Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins



Renita Smith - February 14, 2021 at 06:02 PM



“ Deepest condolences to the Yancy family. So sorry to hear of my cousin's passing. Keeping the family in our prayers  
Sheila Tillage Haynes



Sheila Tillage Haynes - February 14, 2021 at 03:31 PM



“ Ida Harkless-Gibson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Watkins



ida Harkless-Gibson - February 14, 2021 at 10:35 AM