



Mrs. Verneice Watkins

June 6, 1932 - November 28, 2023

WATKINS, Mrs. Verneice - Age 91, passed away Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at her residence. Family hour 10:00 AM Friday, December 15, 2023, at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, G-5443 N. Saginaw St., with funeral service commencing at 11:00 AM. Interment Great Lakes National Cemetery, G-4200 Belford Rd. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the Church 10:00 AM Friday, December 15, 2023.

Mrs. Watkins will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., and may be viewed from 12:00 PM-6:00 PM Thursday, December 14, 2023. Mrs. Verneice Watkins, known as Grandma or Gram, was born on June 6, 1932, in Millington, Tennessee, to Raymond Westbrook and Epsie Mays. Verneice accepted Christ at an early age and was a devoted follower of God. After finishing school in the South, She headed north and arrived in Flint, Michigan. Verneice was admired and loved by everyone for her unique style. Verneice's love for fashion would land her a lead job at The Vogue women's clothing store in downtown Flint, MI, where she worked before finding her true passion for childcare. She ran a home daycare for many years, providing compassionate care to countless children. At Verneice's daycare, she memorized every child's name and birthdate and formed a personal connection with each child and their parents. She was the wife of the late Reverend Jay Watkins. They were married on March 14, 1964, and remained together for 51 years. With the help of her husband, Rev. Jay Watkins, Verneice and her childcare business would become a staple in the

Flint community. Verneice and Rev. Jay shared a passion for traveling and enjoyed bowling together. Verneice and Jay were not only life partners but also business partners. They started multiple business ventures, one of which was a dry-cleaning company. Verneice faithfully supported her husband, Rev. Jay, throughout his pastoral journey and stood by his side as he was installed as Pastor of Austin Avenue Baptist Church in 1982. Shortly after, She became the first lady of Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church, where she proudly served for many years. In 2002, Verneice and Jay returned to Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, where she served in the Senior Choir and Usher Board #2. Verneice was also a member of the International F. & A.M. Masons Order of the Eastern Star. Verneice enjoyed reading the Bible, listening to gospel music on WFLT, and spending time with her Heavenly Father. Verneice loved hosting large gatherings with her family and friends. She taught her grandchildren to make classic dishes like turkey, dressing, mac & cheese, and fried chicken. Her famous German Chocolate Cake & homemade dinner rolls were her most beloved creations. She will be remembered for her love of flowers, photography, and culinary skills. Verneice spent her free time with grandsons Reggie and Vennise, watching sports, shopping with her grandson Bob, going for car rides with her dog Charlotte, and working on puzzle books she would get from her great-grandson Justin. Her great-granddaughters Jacqueline and Jessica would visit every Saturday to do her hair and makeup as they enjoyed cooking and joking together. Asia, God-great-granddaughter, would visit daily, spend the night, and have breakfast with her every morning she could. She was a remarkable person whose memory will be cherished forever by many. Verneice had an infectious warmth that radiated from her every word and gesture. Her kindness knew no bounds, and she always went to help those in need. Her love for life was evident in her infectious laughter, which could light up even the darkest rooms. Verneice's belief in God was a fundamental part of her life, motivating her to be an inspiration and pillar of strength for all she met. Verneice, a beacon of light, left an unforgettable impact. Mrs. Verneice Watkins leaves to cherish her memory: 3 grandchildren,

Vennise (Kim) Person of Flint, Reggie (Maxine) Person of Port Huron, MI and Robert "Bob" Brown of Memphis, TN; 3 great-grandchildren, Justin (Tichanti) Blackwell of Grand Rapids, MI, Jacqueline Blackwell and Jessica Blackwell, both of Flint; great-great-grandson, Julius Blackwell of Grand Rapids, M; 3 nieces, Carolyn Stewart, Brenda Hall and Denise Stewart Hickerson; nephew, Ronald "Pugh" Stewart; 2 aunts, Skinny and Clara, all of Millington, TN; 2 sisters-in-law, Rev. Lois Watkins of Tulsa, OK an Mildred Watkins of Illinois; a host of other relatives and friends including special friends Berlin (Connie) Dobson, Sam (Virginia) Williams, Sandy Becoats, Rose Langely, Shirly Milton, Ervine Byrd; god-granddaughter, Tina Turner of Flint; god-great-grandchildren, Asia Turner, Jeremiah Davison, Alleya Gatlin of Flint and Lisa Blackwell. Mrs. Watkins was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Jay Watkins; daughter, Shirley Person; father, Raymond Westbrook; mother, Epsie Mays; and sister, Lue Aubrey "Aunt Sally" Hall. The family would like to express special thanks to McLaren-Hospice, Dr. Parul Sud, Pastor Alfred L. Harris Sr., Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church family and Mrs. Georgina.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

DEC **14**. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, Inc., Flint
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.
Flint, MI 48505
(810) 789-6666
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com
<https://lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

Family hour

DEC **15**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church
G-5443 N. Saginaw Street
Flint, MI 48505

Funeral Service

DEC **15**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church
G-5443 N. Saginaw Street
Flint, MI 48505

Tribute Wall

JE

“ I miss you soooooo much grandma

Jessica - May 15, 2025 at 02:13 PM

JB

“ Happy Mother’s Day . I love and miss you 🕊️💙

Jacqueline Blackwell - May 11, 2025 at 02:19 AM

JB

“ A year later 💙🕊️ still feels like yesterday. Happy thanksgiving and I miss you extremely

Jacqueline Blackwell - November 28, 2024 at 09:14 PM

JB

“ Almost a year later and it still feels like yesterday! I love you gram and I miss you soo much ! Rest Easy 💙

Jacqueline Blackwell - October 08, 2024 at 02:52 PM

JB

“ 💙💙 I did it

Jacqueline Blackwell - August 01, 2024 at 11:09 AM

JB

“ Happy Fourth of July Gram. I miss you so bad today. I need to hear your voice. I need a hug from you. I love you.

Jacqueline Blackwell - July 04, 2024 at 12:23 PM

JB

“ Today is a hard day for me gram. I love you and I'm taking it one day at a time. I miss you soo much I have soo much to tell you. 🕊️
💙

Jacqueline Blackwell - May 24, 2024 at 09:10 PM

JB

“ Happy Mothers Day Beautiful. I miss you and we are all good down here. You know Justin big day is coming up and I can't wait . I know you would've been marking the days off on your calendar. I wish I could hug you today and tell you how much I love you gram and thank you for being my mom 💙🕊️.

Jacqueline Blackwell - May 12, 2024 at 11:19 AM

JB

“ Happy Easter Sunday Gram. Sitting here thinking how you will be waking us up for church 😭 coming in the room all loud , blasting 92.7 to listen to Sam, finishing the last minute press with the pressing comb, picking out our stocking, shoes for Easter, painting eggs with you and Billy or seeing you in the kitchen starting your Easter dinner. I miss you in this holiday and I know you are enjoying your first Easter in heaven . 🕊️💙 I love you and miss you my angel 🙏. Watch over our family today it's very hard for me today . I know your with us and you will be there in spirit today.

Jacqueline Blackwell - March 31, 2024 at 12:22 PM

N/

“ I miss you so bad grandma.. so badddddddddddd

n/a - March 09, 2024 at 07:56 AM

JB

“ Thinking about you on this day grandma.. I miss you and love you beyond words 🕊️💙

Jacqueline Blackwell - March 02, 2024 at 02:10 AM

JB

“ Heyyyy grandma grandma. It's our day! I woke up and prayed today and asked god for strength and understanding at this time. I love you n miss you so much. Jessica n Jackie are doing good. Everything is good just missing you. I loveeeeeee you! I got a lot to tell you. See you later, never goodbye!!!



Justin Blackwell - February 11, 2024 at 09:31 AM

JB

“ 2 months later 💙🕊️ I love you gram

Jacqueline Blackwell - January 28, 2024 at 11:29 AM

JB

“ I thought it was suppose to get better !! It's not gram.. oh how I miss hearing your voice and seeing your smiling face. I listen to your voicemails to give me some relief 💙 I loveeee you and miss you dearly. There is NOBODY like my gram gram 🕊️💙

Jacqueline Blackwell - January 22, 2024 at 03:57 PM

JB

“ Gram I'm miss you ALOT today 💙

Jacqueline Blackwell - January 12, 2024 at 01:55 PM

JB

“ Hey grandma. Missing you more and more each day. They said it's supposed to get better but it doesn't seem like it. Just need to talk to you and tell you about my days. Love you miss you

Justin Blackwell - January 10, 2024 at 06:35 PM

JB

“ Grandma Grandma it's our day! I love you. Julius back to school in 2 days. We love you. Miss you.

Justin Blackwell - January 07, 2024 at 04:43 PM

JB

“ Missing you so much 🥺

Jessica Blackwell - January 07, 2024 at 12:29 PM

JB

“ I miss you gram 💙🕊️

Jacqueline Blackwell - January 05, 2024 at 08:33 PM

JB

“ Happy New Year Gram gram 💙💙💙

Jacqueline Blackwell - January 01, 2024 at 12:09 AM

JB

“ Grandma grandma. It's Justin Justin. It's our day! It's New Year's Eve and I'm ready for the next chapter of my life. You know my birthday is coming up I'll be 31!! Thank you for everything, everything I know and learned was from YOU! Tell Billy I love him !! See you later

Justin Blackwell - December 31, 2023 at 05:23 PM

JB

“ Jessica Blackwell sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Verneice Watkins



Jessica Blackwell - December 29, 2023 at 02:47 AM

JB

“ One month later & It still hurts.. I love you gram gram 🕊️💔💙

Jacqueline Blackwell - December 28, 2023 at 05:56 PM

JB

“ Merry Christmas 💔 it wasn't the same without you today 🕊️💙

Jacqueline Blackwell - December 26, 2023 at 12:23 AM

JB

“ Grandma Grandma. It's Justin Justin. We had a great Christmas this year. Julius got everything he asked Santa for. I miss you. I know you're with me. See you later

Justin Blackwell - December 25, 2023 at 10:05 PM

JB

“ Grandma Grandma. Merry Christmas! Love you. Miss you.

Justin Blackwell - December 24, 2023 at 01:27 PM

JB

“ Merry Christmas Eve Gram.. I am missing you BAD this holiday.. 💔
💔 I love you 🕊️

Jacqueline Blackwell - December 24, 2023 at 11:27 AM

JB

“ I’m missing you soooooooo much grandma

Jessica Blackwell - December 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM

JB

“ I miss you 🐦💙

Jacqueline Blackwell - December 21, 2023 at 05:34 PM

BR

“ Dearest Gram! May your legacy live on and on. Thank you for showing us love....and so much more. Today’s kids will never know. Love you always

Brittany (Adams) Renaud - December 19, 2023 at 01:16 AM

WH

“ Grandma Grandma Grandma. It’s our day! Julius is here and he made it to see you! I love and miss you but KNOW you’re still with me.

whopd74@yahoo.com - December 17, 2023 at 11:49 AM

JB

“ I love you grandma soo much

Jessica Blackwell - December 16, 2023 at 07:07 PM

EW

“ Evelyn Ward lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Verneice Watkins



Evelyn Ward - December 15, 2023 at 07:20 PM

GR

“ Grace lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Verneice Watkins



Grace - December 15, 2023 at 09:48 AM

RA

“ Grams you will forever be missed and loved. You fought a good fight you finished the course now take your rest 🙏👏👏
Lelia and ReGina Adams



ReGina Adams - December 15, 2023 at 06:51 AM

WM

“ Mrs. Watkins (Grams), you will truly be missed. Thank you so much for your loving care for myself and several of my family members that were apart of your daycare. Those days of early childhood development that you were so involved with helped shaped who we all are today! You will always be remembered, Grams! To the family, my heart, thoughts, and prayers are with you all!



Walter Moore - December 14, 2023 at 11:42 PM

WM

“ Mrs. Watkins (Grams), you will truly be missed. Thank you so much for your loving care for myself and several of my family members that were apart of your daycare. Those days of early childhood development that you were so involved with helped shaped who we all are today! You will always be remembered, Grams!



Walter Moore - December 14, 2023 at 11:40 PM

WM

“ Mrs. Watkins (Grams), you will truly be missed. Thank you so much for your loving care for myself and several of my family members that were apart of your daycare. Those days of early childhood development that you were so involved with helped shaped who we all are today! You will always be remembered, Grams!

Walter Moore - December 14, 2023 at 11:39 PM

RA

“ I have so much love for Mrs. Watkins. She has been special to me since I was a little girl, and I will miss our talks. My sincere condolences to the entire family.

Robbin Auston - December 14, 2023 at 10:22 PM

AT

“ Asia Turner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Verneice Watkins



Asia Turner - December 14, 2023 at 09:09 AM

GR

“ Vennis , Reggie and Bob, my prayers are with you during this time.



Grace - December 14, 2023 at 12:54 AM

GJ

“ Mrs. Watkin (Gram), you will forever be imbedded in memory and love of so many people! The loving and nurturing home childcare business was the best in the city of Flint. You always welcome me whenever I visited Flint or when I called or when you called me; you always had a voice of excitement. Your wisdom, friendship and endless love is a gem that will shine within my soul forever! Love you now and into eternity! Forever in my heart. Rest well!

Grace Adams Jones - December 13, 2023 at 06:12 PM

JB

“ Grandma this is your Jessica I am missing you soooooo much
💔 I love you forever

Jessica Blackwell - December 11, 2023 at 10:17 PM

CF

“ Check N Go Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Verneice Watkins.

Check N Go Family - December 11, 2023 at 02:05 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Verneice Watkins.



December 11, 2023 at 02:05 PM



“ Heyyyy grandma grandma. Today is our day. I've been listening to your voicemails that you left me and they bring me sooooo much peace to hear your voice. Tell Billy I love him!!! I know you are with me 💙💙💙

Justin Blackwell - December 10, 2023 at 10:37 AM



“ I will miss you Grams! Thank you for your everlasting care!

Jeremiah Davison - December 08, 2023 at 08:10 PM



“ I Love you grandma grandma.



Justin Blackwell - December 08, 2023 at 02:19 PM

KJ

“ My deepest condolences to Reggie and Vennis. May Vernice rest in peace.



Karen Dobson Johnson - December 08, 2023 at 10:07 AM

JB

“ Gram Gram!!! It's me Jackie again .. Wishing I can pick up the phone and call you. I love you soooooooo much and miss you, you don't understand how this is effecting me. I miss you I miss you I miss you gram .. hope you are having a timeeee up there. Tell Billy I said heyyy I miss yall 🕊️💔💙

Jacqueline Blackwell - December 07, 2023 at 11:10 AM

KB

“ Kulena Bell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Verneice Watkins



Kulena Bell - December 06, 2023 at 07:11 PM

MB

“ Monte Branch lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Verneice Watkins



Monte Branch - December 05, 2023 at 09:42 PM

MD

“ *Michelle Doby lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Verneice Watkins*



Michelle Doby - December 05, 2023 at 12:01 PM

MT

“ *Mrs. Watkins was a sweet person with a lovely smile. She will be missed by her family and church members. Blessings to all who knew and loved her.*
Rev. Dr. Meriann Taylor



Meriann Taylor - December 05, 2023 at 11:32 AM

BT

“ *Beatrice Taylor lit a candle in memory of Verneice Watkins*



Beatrice Taylor - December 05, 2023 at 11:28 AM

VP

“ *Vennise person lit a candle in memory of Verneice Watkins*



Vennise person - December 04, 2023 at 07:43 PM

VP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Vennise person - December 04, 2023 at 07:38 PM

VP

“ Vennise person lit a candle in memory of Verneice Watkins



Vennise person - December 04, 2023 at 07:36 PM

JB

“ Jessica Blackwell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Verneice Watkins



Jessica Blackwell - December 04, 2023 at 09:15 AM

RP

“ Reggie Person sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Verneice Watkins



Reggie person - December 04, 2023 at 08:40 AM

RP

“ *Grama I love you always and forever... your grandson REGGIE PERSON.....*



Reggie person - December 04, 2023 at 08:39 AM



“ *Lula Lewis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Verneice Watkins*



Lula Lewis - December 03, 2023 at 07:44 PM

JB

“ *Hey grandma grandma. It's me again. Today is our day! I'm still doing what I said I would. I take finals this week. I know you will be with me. I LOVE YOU!!!*



Jay Blackwell - December 03, 2023 at 01:53 PM

TT

“ Gram,

I'm gonna miss you but GOD has elected to take you home! I knew you would not be here for eternity, but you have left a beautiful legacy in the earth! God is well pleased with you, because you were a good and faithful servant! Your imprint is definitely left on so many of us! Words can not express the influence, the love, the wisdom, the beauty, the precision, the wholeness, the virtue and prestige you've sown in me and my family! I so appreciate you being apart of my life and helping me through the worst times, always encouraging and never judging me! I love you to infinity!

Your gifts and talents were poured into so many lives that you will forever be multiplied in the earth. A True Woman of Love, Virtue, Compassion and Wisdom!

Thank you for nurturing me and my children, we will never forget you!

Love you Gram and tell Billy hello!

Forever your Tina Turnerlan!

Tina Turner - December 03, 2023 at 07:31 AM

KB

“ Mrs. Watkins—when I think of you I remember you fondly. You raised your grandchildren in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. You had high expectations and so much love for each of them. You will be missed. Enjoy your first Christmas in the presence of Jesus!

Kim Barker - December 02, 2023 at 11:22 PM

DJ

“ *What a wonderful, beautiful woman of God. My Aunt Verniece. Whenever we talked she would always say trust in the Lord He'll never leave you or forsake you. That stuck with me many years. It's time for you to rest now. I'll see ya later. I love you and will miss you.*

Deneice Jones - December 02, 2023 at 04:51 PM



“ *Wanda Baker lit a candle in memory of Verneice Watkins*



Wanda Baker - December 02, 2023 at 03:19 PM

JB

“ *Granny Granny Granny it's Justin Justin* 💙💙💙

Justin Blackwell - December 02, 2023 at 02:31 PM

JB

“ ❤️



Jessica Blackwell - December 02, 2023 at 10:16 AM

JB

“ Grandma ima miss you so bad 💔 I know you was loved by soo many people . Ima just miss hearing your voice everyday. Ima miss going to the grocery store every weekend. Ima miss Just coming to spend time with you. I’m so happy you was able to see me become an independent intelligent woman 💕 and grandma I’ll never forget anything you taught me. Thank you for being my mom my #1 supporter, my provider.. just thank you for teaching me everything I know today . If it wasn’t for you I don’t know how I would’ve got through life. Grandma this one hurt me so bad but no more of hearing your voice . I just know you in a better place now and you deserve it. You deserve to be at peace you lived 91 long years & I’m glad god placed you in my heart . No more pains just all joy and happiness. Tell Billy I said I love and miss him💕 you two are finally reunited and I know you both are so happy .. i love you grandma 💔 😞 - your granddaughter Ms. Jessica

Jessica Blackwell - December 02, 2023 at 10:01 AM

ML

“ Melvina Lawrence sent a virtual gift in memory of Verneice Watkins



Melvina Lawrence - December 01, 2023 at 07:24 PM

CM

“ Camilla McGee sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Verneice Watkins



Camilla McGee - December 01, 2023 at 01:41 PM

CW

“ You all are in my prayers.



Crystal Williams - December 01, 2023 at 09:50 AM

ME

“ Wishing the family of Sister Verneice Watkins comfort during this most difficult time. I am so sorry that you've lost someone who meant so much to you !

Mary L. Evans - December 01, 2023 at 06:58 AM

CW

“ Cleola Wright-Griffis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Verneice Watkins



Cleola Wright-Griffis - December 01, 2023 at 12:21 AM

FM

“ Farrow Malone lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Verneice Watkins



Farrow Malone - November 30, 2023 at 11:09 AM

JB

“ *Jacqueline Blackwell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Verneice Watkins*



Jacqueline Blackwell - November 29, 2023 at 11:27 PM

RW

“ *Rudy And Geneva Ward lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Verneice Watkins*



Rudy and Geneva Ward - November 29, 2023 at 04:44 PM

LW

“ *My love and prayers continue with and for you all!*

Lois R Watkins - November 29, 2023 at 09:38 AM

BS

“ *Mrs. Watkins will always hold a special place in my heart. She was such a warm and caring person and I'm so grateful to have known her. I thank God that our paths crossed in life. Now she gets to take her rest. I pray for the family during this time of bereavement. May God provide his comfort and strength.*
Love, Benita

Benita Smith - November 29, 2023 at 08:46 AM

PM

“ *Paula McWilliams lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Verneice Watkins*



Paula McWilliams - November 29, 2023 at 06:16 AM

JB

“ *I love you Gram Gram, thank you for EVERYTHING! Get your rest you deserve it. FOREVER* ❤️❤️❤️❤️

Jacqueline Blackwell - November 28, 2023 at 08:56 PM

MW

“ *Mr Mrs Roderick Watkins lit a candle in memory of Verneice Watkins*



Mr & Mrs Roderick Watkins - November 28, 2023 at 02:37 PM

JW

“ *Jeanne Wells lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Verneice Watkins*



Jeanne Wells - November 28, 2023 at 11:15 AM

NW

“ It was such a pleasure to have known you Grandma. Whenever I saw you, you always gave me a big hug and we would have a nice conversation. I admired you from the first time I met you. You were a strong but loving woman. Your family was so blessed to have had you. Take your well deserved rest Grandma. Love you.

N. Jeanne Wells - November 28, 2023 at 11:14 AM

KT

“ You said it so many times that you didn't have much longer. At the time I said you did, but you knew better. I'm glad that God put you in my life. I never got to meet my grandparents so that's where you fit in person to me. You will most definitely be missed. Heaven has an Angel that I affectionately called Gramma. Until we meet again I love you always💔💔

Kimberly Tidwell - November 28, 2023 at 09:41 AM

PL

In memory of Mrs. Watkins, a very nice, caring, loving person, enjoyed knowing her

Patricia Luckett - December 02, 2023 at 06:27 PM