



## Johnnie S Watkins

July 12, 1928 - July 13, 2020

Johnnie Watkins 92, 7/13/2020 of Silver Spring, Maryland, was born on July 12, 1928 in Tupelo, MS, to the late Mount and Johnnie Shannon. She spent her childhood years in Tupelo where she attended elementary and high school, graduating from high school, as valedictorian at age fifteen. She graduated from Mississippi Industrial college in 1948, as salutatorian.

After graduating from college, Johnnie moved to Washington, D.C. and was employed by the Federal Government for 33 ½ years.

Johnnie married Joseph Watkins on October 20, 1956 in Washington D.C. To that union was born two children, John Adam, II and Monte Jean.

In May 1966, Johnnie, Joseph and Family became members of Christ Congregational Church, Silver Spring, Maryland. In November 2002 Joseph predeceased Johnnie.

Survivors include two children, Adam (Susan) of Kingsport, TN and Monte (Arthur) of Fort Worth, Texas, step – grandchildren, Arthur III and Ashley Boone, Crystal Garland, step – great grandchildren, Ashley and Autumn Garland. She is also survived by several nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

# Comments

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“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Johnnie S Watkins.



July 28, 2020 at 03:42 PM

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“ Fond memories of Mrs and Mr. Watkins.They were the reason my parents started going to Christ Congregational Church in Silver Spring MD. Mr Watkins was my sons mentor when he was confirmed at church.

**Linda Phelps** - July 21, 2020 at 09:41 PM



“ Thank-you Linda! Adam and I appreciate you! Love and God Bless You!

**Monte Boone** - July 22, 2020 at 10:13 PM

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“ Aunt Johnnie was a beautiful and intelligent woman. She had a unique sense of humor and loved and valued family. She had a mind that held every detail of the family and how we were connected to one another. Whenever she had the opportunity , she shared it with us. Now it is time for her to take her place in heaven. This poem says it all.

As I sit in heaven  
And watch you everyday  
I try to let you know with signs  
I never went away  
I hear you when you're laughing  
And watch you as you sleep  
I even place my arms around you  
To calm you as you weep  
I see you wish the days away  
Begging to have me home  
So I try to send you signs  
So you know you are not alone  
Don't feel guilty that you have  
Life that was denied to me  
Heaven is truly beautiful  
Just you wait and see  
So live your life, laugh again  
Enjoy yourself ,be free  
Then I know with every breath you take  
You' ll be taking one for me  
By Ronald R. Persaud  
Love,  
Melrose



**Melrose Faulkerson** - July 21, 2020 at 05:22 PM



“ Thank-you so much Cousin Melrose. Mom loved you so much! Adan abd I appreciate you and Ingrid! Love and God Bless You!

**Monte Boone** - July 22, 2020 at 10:15 PM

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“ Dear Monte,

It is such an honor to have known your mom and dad. They were so welcoming to my family, and they remained so special to us for all the years I spent at CCC. You mom was so real and serious and funny - sometimes all at the same time! And always growing, exploring, discovering, always wanting to live and love more and more fully. I adored her paintings which gave everyone so much pleasure and happiness. Such a modern artist! No one like her - EVER. And so proud of you!

With great love and appreciation,

Jim and Lois Todhunter

**Jim Todhunter** - July 21, 2020 at 04:53 PM



“ Aww, Jim and Lois. You were right on point about my Mother. My brother Adam and I thank-you. Love and God Bless you both!

**Monte Boone** - July 22, 2020 at 10:19 PM

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“ I have known Mrs Watkins for over 35 years. We shared so much for many years. She is a part of my family. Johnnie made you feel like you were her only and best friend.

We traveled the east coast on bus rides. Johnnie taught me how to really laugh. She will live on in our precious memories. Thank you Montie for sharing your mom.

**Gwen Long** - July 21, 2020 at 12:14 PM



“ Thank-you Sis Gwen! We go way from Beauty School and Mom loved you like a Daughter. Love you and Van

**Monte Boone** - July 21, 2020 at 01:11 PM

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“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Johnnie S Watkins.



July 21, 2020 at 11:50 AM

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“ Dear Monte and Adam and families;  
I just want to say how great it was growing up with you in the church, and part of that was thanks to your parents! Even when I wasn't excited to be there on Sunday morning, one or both of your parents would ask me how I was doing or what was new with me. Both had good memories to recall what school I was going to and my sister and brother as well.  
I had forgotten that Johnnie was an artist, and I enjoyed seeing a photo, as I like bright colors as well. I recall one December not too long ago when Johnnie's house was on the list for Christmas caroling, and it was great fun to stand with Marilyn Meyer, one of Kristen & Jim Brown's boys, and many others to sing at her front door. I know you'll miss her and we will as well. Take care and focus on the good memories. Love,  
- David Gayer

**David Gayer** - July 21, 2020 at 11:39 AM



“ Thank-you David. Both Mom and Dad were truly fond of you and your family. Yes, Adam and I appreciate you and your kindness towards my parents. C.C C. was an Amazing church to grow up in and gave us a great spiritual base foundation. Love and God Bless You David

**Monte Boone** - July 21, 2020 at 01:19 PM

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“ Dear Monte and Art,  
I am so sad to hear of your mom's passing. I believe she is at peace though. No one could have wished for a more loving and adoring daughter and son in law than Johnnie. You were that and so much more.  
I loved her too. We had a wonderful connection at CCC and we laughed a LOT! She was such an elegant and brilliant woman. I feel blessed for the time we had together. So glad we all had a sweet phone visit once she was with you.  
Many hugs love and memories to you all!  
Much much love to you all! Xo

**Kris Jewell** - July 20, 2020 at 09:56 PM



“ Thank-you so much Kris! Yoy ate so kind and Mom, Art and I appreciate you! Love and God Bless You.

**Monte Boone** - July 21, 2020 at 02:57 AM

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“ Dear Monte,  
God Bless your beautiful Mother’s soul. May God Bless you and your family as you celebrate her life. Sending love and my deepest condolences  
Love,  
Lynne

Lynne Shaw - July 20, 2020 at 08:44 PM



“ Thank-you so much Sis! I love you!

Monte Boone - July 20, 2020 at 09:43 PM

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“ It was my pleasure being able to be a companion to such a beautiful lady for over a year. But now that she has gained her wings, these poems are what have come to my mind:

DON'T CRY FOR ME

Don't cry for me, I'm not gone, my soul is at rest, my heart lives on.

Light a candle for me to see and hold on to my memory.

But save your tears, for I'm still here, by your side through the years.

Finally, as Life On Purpose says:

And then she realized that a fresh start was hers for the taking,

That she could be the woman she's always seen on the distant horizon--- her future self...

Love you Ms Johnnie, we will meet, talk and fellowship again on the other side,  
Pamela Roberts Jimison



Pamela Roberts Jimison - July 20, 2020 at 03:06 PM



“ Art and I truly thank-you for giving Mom such loving care. Mama loved you and we fo too.  
God Bless You Friend!!

Monte - July 20, 2020 at 03:25 PM

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“ Condolence Snacks was purchased for the family of Johnnie S Watkins.



July 19, 2020 at 04:35 PM

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“ My sister Monte.  
You had such a beautiful and loving mother. God blessed her with a caring, compassionate and lovely daughter. Thanks for sharing all the beautiful pictures of you and mom. (THE GLAMOROUS GIRLS). God Bless you and your family. With love RCR

RCR - July 19, 2020 at 12:43 PM



“ Thank-you So Much!

Monte Boone - July 20, 2020 at 09:09 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Monte - July 19, 2020 at 10:01 AM



“ Mom and her favorite Cousin Florence!

Monte Boone - July 20, 2020 at 09:11 AM

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“ Lavender Sympathy Box was purchased for the family of Johnnie S Watkins.



July 18, 2020 at 11:19 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Misc Photos



**Nancy Whipple** - July 18, 2020 at 04:03 PM



“ Johnnie was a very talented person in more ways than one. She was always very kind and patient to all the residents and staff at Bedford Court. Everyone enjoyed being around Johnnie as she was a good listener, and very dignified. I am sure she will be missed.

**Nancy Whipple** - July 18, 2020 at 04:09 PM



“ Thank-you Nancy! Mom was AMAZING!

**Monte Boone** - July 18, 2020 at 10:54 PM

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“ God wanted a beautiful soul in heaven. So he called Aunt Johnnie. Aunt Johnnie was a truly sweet soul. Always so kind. I will always remember her.

Love to my cousins Adam and Monte

Earna Louise Watkins Daniels

**Earna Louise Watkins Daniels** - July 18, 2020 at 02:34 PM



“ Thank-you Cousin Erna Louise!

**Monte Boone** - July 18, 2020 at 10:53 PM

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My Dearest Monte,

Your relationship with your mother was one I always admired. I always appreciated the photos you shared with me: Both of you “Fashionistas” dressed up with big smiles. You loved, protected, and took care of her. You kept her close. Your love for one another was so evident-always; and ever since I have known you.

Donn and I are keeping you and your family members in our thoughts and prayers.

Love Lina and Donn

**Lina Sturges** - July 18, 2020 at 07:25 AM



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Thank-you Lina and Donn! We love you!

**Monte Boone** - July 18, 2020 at 01:11 PM

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“ I wanted to share a couple of the stories that are on my heart, that Johnnie shared with me over the years. Please forgive me as they were so much more artfully told in her words and presence, Maybe you've heard some of them and can imagine her inimitable way of telling a story, full of humor, facial expressions, love and art.

There was the story about the time when she was 9 years old and her family home was picked up by a tornado and set back down again. She said it was only thanks to her father's instinct to cover everyone with a heavy carpet on the bed that they all survived.

She shared memories of treasured times with her mother, and how moved she was when her mother saved every penny to gift her a sewing machine to take with her on her journey to DC.

I loved the one about how her brother used to go skinny dipping with Elvis Presley, and how, in fact, it was he who first taught Elvis the Shake a Rey in his early dance career.

Johnnie also shared stories about her solo journey at age 17 on the train to Washington, DC, and her experience of the shifting and changing landscapes and politics of the city, racism, and the particular impact they had on her as a black woman.

Johnnie's stories also brought to life the vibrant and exciting accounts of DCs thriving black culture of 1950 and 60s with stories about going out dancing, listening to live music and going to cutting edge theatre down on 14th street. I could just imagine her back then dressed up in vibrant Johnnie colors, sparkling and dancing

One tender memory, for me was having the honor and privilege of taking Johnnie to see the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, soon after it opened in DC. I will never forget how she just stood there, and stared at it for the longest time, and then said “I never thought it would be so big, I wish my Mama could be here to see this with me today” as tears streamed down her cheeks.

I imagine them together now, looking down from heaven at that Memorial and all of us and sending prayers for peace for our world.

love and blessings to all who cherished Johnnie and her amazing gift for spinning a story.

**Deb FlyingHorse** - July 17, 2020 at 09:50 AM



“ Thank-you Deb! I love you! I'm crying tears of joy!

**Monte** - July 17, 2020 at 06:47 PM

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“ I send my heart full of compassion and deep sympathy to Monte, Adam, Alice and all of Johnnie’s family and friends for the loss of our beloved, Johnnie. I include myself here because Johnnie always made me feel like we were family.

Like the bold and vibrant colors and textures in Johnnie’s paintings, she was a brilliant, creative, fun, God Loving Soul and a very dear friend.

I have so many wonderful memories of the times Johnnie and I shared over the 14 years since that fateful day that we met at the CCC in Silver Spring, MD.

Johnnie was great storyteller, and I had the pleasure of hearing many of her stories over the years. We had planned to make a recording of her telling them, but life had other plans.

I especially loved hearing Johnnie’s stories about her childhood growing up in Tupelo with her Aunties and family members all around her.

We often spoke about love, life, faith and the loneliness of loss, especially after Joe passed. She was so easy to talk with, I really felt listened to and cared for when ever we spent time together. Johnnie taught me so much about life and love and friendship.

Most importantly, Johnnie always shared with me how much she treasured her children and her family. I am so grateful that she was blessed to spend the last years of her life surrounded by the love and care of family. Thank you, Monte and Art for offering her such a gift in your presence and care over these last several years at your home in Fort Worth. I know it was a big decision for Johnnie to make the move so far from her home in MD, and clearly it was in God’s plan for her to come home to you before going home to Heaven.

May Johnnie be reunited in heaven with all those beloveds who have gone before her and may she surrounded by beautiful vibrant hues and soothing Gospel hymns.

The last time I saw Johnnie was when she, Monte, Alice and I met for lunch in MD to celebrate Johnnie’s 87th birthday. Looking back now, I realize the preciousness of that moment. What a blessing it was to be able to celebrate this amazing Soul, in person one last time before we both moved away.

I will miss you, dear friend. You will always be held close in my heart with deep gratitude, love and respect.

The sky is a little brighter since Monday, with the shining of a new star in the heavens.

Love, Deb)\*



“ Bless you Deb. I truly love you and Mom loved you so much. She missed you terribly!

**Monte** - July 17, 2020 at 06:49 PM

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“ Deborah S Tyler is following this tribute.

**Deborah Tyler** - July 17, 2020 at 01:45 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album Misc Photos



**art boone jr** - July 16, 2020 at 07:50 PM

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“ What a wonderful soul. So glad you were able to be with her during her last years Monte! What a blessing I know that was to her. She's up there having her nightly parties now on those streets of Gold!!! I have enjoyed all the Johnnie stories you have shared with me through the years. Love you guys!

**nikki FawFaw** - July 16, 2020 at 02:42 PM



“ Thank-you so much Nikki. We appreciate you more than you will ever know. We Love you and your Family!

**Monte** - July 16, 2020 at 04:14 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Misc Photos



**art boone** - July 16, 2020 at 12:08 PM



“ Aunt JOHNNIE was highly intelligent. She could remember facts, details, and dates like none other. From a child through her adult life she strived to excel and do her best, especially working for the Federal Government because at that time, Blacks were very rarely hired for the position she was able to attain. My daughters and I have great memories of Aunt JOHNNIE, especially in the summers when we traveled together in the van to explore places all over Tenn. and beyond. We will forever hold a special place in our heart for A.J. Loving memories! Alice

**Alice Hurd** - July 16, 2020 at 10:39 AM



“ Thank-you Alice. You were like a Daughter to Mom. She truly loved you, Ben, Alicia, Deidre and Addison-Avery.

**Monte** - July 16, 2020 at 04:17 PM



“ Wow. What can I say about Mama Johnnie. From the first day I met her, I knew she would be someone that I would Love dearly . She is such a Special lady, who has lived a most remarkably, magnificent full life. I was just amazed at the wonderful stories, about her life, It Was A Great Life ! She has done great things; visited great places; met many, many great people, and I am sure she left her mark everywhere she went. I truly loved being in her presence, because she was such a sweet lady and she treated me as her very own daughter (thanks for sharing her Monte 😊). I know you are dancing with the Angels, Beautiful and Whole, but I will truly miss you here on this earth. I will see you after while Mama Johnnie

**Kim R Palmer** - July 15, 2020 at 09:13 PM



“ Ms.Johnnie it was such an Honor to Have met you, such Wisdom and Love and Sassy as well you will be missed, I was so grateful to have been in your company Thank you Monte for sharing your Mother with us. "Gone But Not Forgotten " Much Love From The Jacksons Family.

**Laura Jackson** - July 15, 2020 at 09:28 PM



“ Thank-you Sis Kim and Mama Laura! Mom loved you both and Art and I do too.

**Monte** - July 16, 2020 at 09:59 AM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Johnnie S Watkins.



July 15, 2020 at 07:55 PM

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“ My Auntie helped me alot when I was younger after my mom passed. I went to my uncle and aunt one summer. Aunt Johnnie was very understanding and compassionate. I loved being around her.

**Irma Watkins** - July 15, 2020 at 07:09 PM



“ Thank-you Cousin Irma! We love you and your children.

**Monte** - July 16, 2020 at 09:58 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album 91st Birthday



**Art Boone** - July 15, 2020 at 07:01 PM

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“ Johnny And Paulette Agnew lit a candle in memory of Johnnie S Watkins



johnny and Paulette Agnew - July 15, 2020 at 06:57 PM



“ Thank-you Johnny and Paulette! We love you both dearly.

Monte - July 16, 2020 at 09:57 AM

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“ 2 files added to the album Misc Photos



Art Boone - July 15, 2020 at 06:54 PM