



Mrs. Judith Austin Watkins

November 12, 1942 - October 31, 2020

Judith Austin Watkins, 77, child of God, died on October 31, 2020, following an extended illness.

She was born Judith Jenkins Austin in Bishopville, SC on November 12, 1942, to Hal Carnes (H.C.) Austin, Sr. and Betty McCutchen Austin. She graduated from Bishopville High School in 1961. She earned degrees from Coker College and Francis Marion University.

Judith was a retired educator who taught in public schools in Lee County. In her 30-year career, she was a third-grade teacher, a special education teacher, an administrator, and a grant writer with a personal passion for the beatification of the Bishopville and Ashwood, SC communities.

First and foremost, Judith was a disciple of Jesus Christ, having dedicated her life to Him in 1980. She was a life-long member of the Bishopville Presbyterian Church where she served, among other things, as a Sunday school teacher, deacon, elder, and treasurer.

Judith married William, the love of her life, on June 15, 1963. Together they raised two sons whom they love with all their hearts. Among her most cherished titles was "MiMi", as she was known by her beloved grandchildren.

Judith was an advocate and a voice for people and animals sometimes forgotten by society. She was a servant in the truest sense of the word. Those who really knew her will remember her for her faith in Christ, her kindness, gentleness, compassion, and her willingness to help any person or animal in need.

She was pre-deceased by her parents and her brother Hal Carnes "Buddy" Austin, Jr., who passed in 1992.

Surviving are her husband of 57 years, William Angus Watkins, of the home. Sons: William Britton Watkins (Josh Feldman) of San Francisco, CA; and Ryon Austin Watkins (Lendi) of Florence, SC. Grandchildren: Landon Austin Watkins and Julia Britton Watkins of Florence, SC. Her sister and best friend Gerald Austin "Geri" Cutler (Ken) of Columbia, SC. Sister-in-law, Bobbi Adams of Bishopville, SC, and cherished family friend Ruth Jackson, also of Bishopville. In addition, she was blessed with a large and loving family of brothers- and sisters-in-law, cousins, nieces, and nephews too numerous list.

Hancock-Elmore-Hill Funeral Home of Bishopville, SC, is caring for the family. Her family will have a private Celebration of Life Service.

The family expresses their sincere appreciation to the staff at Kershaw Health Hospice and McLeod Hospice for their compassionate care in Judith's final days.

Memorials may be made to the Bishopville Presbyterian Church, PO Box 66, Bishopville, SC 29010, or Friends of the Lee County Animal Shelter, PO Box 309, Bishopville, SC 29010.

Cemetery Details

Private

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Judith Austin Watkins*

October 08, 2023 at 04:16 PM



“ *Mrs. Judith Austin Watkins*

March 25, 2023 at 11:01 AM



“ *Wally DesChamps lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Judith Austin Watkins*



Wally DesChamps - December 05, 2020 at 09:49 PM



“ *Ann and I were saddened to learn of Judith's passing... only fond memories of her. Prayers for family. Johnny and Ann Reames*

Jay Dee Reames - December 02, 2020 at 10:25 AM



“ *To the entire Watkins family from the Turners, there can never Be any words said to make loosing a loved one any easier. We are all praying for god to give you all the strength and guidance during this time of loss.*



Gary Turner - November 07, 2020 at 11:07 AM

JM

“ *Janie And Reese Mathis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Judith Austin Watkins*



Janie and Reese Mathis - November 04, 2020 at 07:13 PM

RS

“ *Ryon you and your family are in our prayers. Robin and Paxton Smith*



Robin Smith - November 04, 2020 at 02:23 PM

RD

“ *Ryon, I am so sorry for your loss. Losing a parent is one of the hardest things you can go through. Your mother has experienced the ultimate healing. Now I pray for God's grace and mercy to see you and your family through this difficult time.*

robin dawkins - November 03, 2020 at 07:31 PM

JH

“ *From the Hatchell and Wiggins family, we want to extend our sincere condolences. We are keeping you all in our prayers and know the Lord will help and guide your family during this tough time. Mrs. Judith is no longer suffering and is now watching over all of you from heaven.*

Joshua Hatchell - November 03, 2020 at 07:05 PM

CA

“ *My Sincere condolences & prayers to the Watkins family, May God fill that empty spot in your heart w/ wonderful memories, God bless*

Chris Avant - November 03, 2020 at 06:03 PM

KS

“ *We are very sorry for your loss. Please know that you and your family are in our prayers.*

Jason & Kate Smith

Kate Smith - November 03, 2020 at 05:34 PM

SH

“ *Prayers for the family. Mrs Judith was always so sweet to our family. Love,
The Latimers*

Susan Hilditch - November 03, 2020 at 04:04 PM

JT

“ *My deepest condolences and prayers for your loss.*



joe talbott - November 03, 2020 at 03:03 PM

LH

“ *She was a true Angel of God and now has joined the Angels in Heaven. My family appreciated her joining my prayer warriors during my journey of cancer. May I extend my prayers and Love to help comfort the family in their time of loss.*

Lawrence Carl Holbrook - November 03, 2020 at 01:17 PM

KH

“ *Condolences and prayers for your family*

Kevin Holbrook - November 03, 2020 at 12:45 PM

TF

“ *Your family is in our thoughts and prayers*

The Holbrook Family - November 03, 2020 at 12:43 PM

NH

“ *Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.*



Nathan Hendricks - November 03, 2020 at 12:05 PM

JS

“ *Joshua Sellers lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Judith Austin Watkins*



Joshua Sellers - November 03, 2020 at 11:23 AM

TC

“ *Ty Christmas lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Judith Austin Watkins*



Ty Christmas - November 03, 2020 at 10:55 AM

KJ

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the entire family.*

Kevin Johnson - November 03, 2020 at 10:54 AM

BB

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. Y'all are in my thoughts and prayers.* ❤️

Britney Blackmon - November 03, 2020 at 09:16 AM

BH

“ *Prayers and sympathy for the family*



Bill & ANNETTE Hopkins - November 02, 2020 at 08:34 PM

RH

“ *My deepest sympathy and prayers to her family!*



Ruthie Houser - November 02, 2020 at 06:58 PM

RS

“ *Rick Schlattmann purchased the Gracious Laven der Basket for the family of Mrs. Judith Austin Watkins.*



Rick Schlattmann - November 02, 2020 at 06:38 PM

TT

“ *The Lowe Family and Tsuyoshi purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mrs. Judith Austin Watkins.* ”



The Lowe Family and Tsuyoshi - November 02, 2020 at 01:07 PM

KJ

“ *Prayers and love to the family. We will miss you Judith!* ”



Kathy Jackson - November 02, 2020 at 12:24 PM

VR

“ *Virginia Rogers lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Judith Austin Watkins* ”



Virginia Rogers - November 02, 2020 at 11:40 AM

ST

“ *Susan O Thrasher lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Judith Austin Watkins* ”



Susan O Thrasher - November 02, 2020 at 11:32 AM

KA

“ *Kay Amerson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Judith Austin Watkins*



Kay Amerson - November 02, 2020 at 09:52 AM

GC

“ *Judith was devoted to the children of Lee County. She was responsible for making its early childhood program so effective with her efforts and her talents, Her grant writing won many dollars for this program, and it benefited many young children. I am honored to have had the privilege of working with her. She will be missed, and many people in Lee County have been blessed by her dedicated devotion to public education.*

Gordon Correll - former administration Lee County School District

Gordon Correll - November 02, 2020 at 06:20 AM

DW

Judith was a jewel. She had a passion for the early childhood program here in Lee County. She shared her knowledge and wisdom with all who came in contact with her. She always gave encouraging words to you when things didn't fall in place. She will be missed and I say thank you helping mold my early childhood career. Diana Williams

Diana Williams - November 02, 2020 at 09:24 AM

BT

“ *Mr. William, Britton, Ryon, and Family, You All have my deepest and most heartfelt condolences. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. "May GOD bless you and keep you" as you grieve the loss of one of the most special and beautiful people The LORD has ever allowed me to know and call my Friend.*



Bobby Thomas - November 01, 2020 at 10:15 PM

MA

“ *Mr. Watkins and family:
We don't have the right words for such a hard time as this but we want you all to know that we care, and we share in your sadness. You've been and will continue to be in our prayers in the days ahead. God bless & be with each of you!
Sincerely, Mike & Tammy Amerson*



Mike & Tammy Amerson - November 01, 2020 at 10:03 PM

CM

“ *Clara McElveen lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Judith Austin Watkins*



Clara McElveen - November 01, 2020 at 08:50 PM

CM

Sending my deepest sympathy to William and family in the loss of your precious love one. May God give each of you comfort, strength and peace, knowing that your love one is out of pain and is in her Heavenly Home..

Clara McElveen - November 01, 2020 at 08:55 PM

MB

“ *Matt & Betsy Bramlett lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Judith Austin Watkins*



Matt & Betsy Bramlett - November 01, 2020 at 06:31 PM

JK

“ *Judy Kelley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Judith Austin Watkins*



Judy Kelley - November 01, 2020 at 06:27 PM