



Mr. Vernie Watts Jr

May 15, 1938 - April 19, 2022

In Loving Memory of

Vernie Watts, Jr. was born in Covington County, Mississippi on May 15, 1938, the son of Vernie Watts, Sr., and Lula V. Rankins.

Vern moved to Gulfport, Mississippi and joined Little Rock Missionary Baptist Church where he was baptized.

He graduated from 33rd Avenue High School in Gulfport, Mississippi. He attended Alabama State University in Montgomery Alabama on a football scholarship. After college Vern served eight years in the United States Army Reserve. Upon his discharge in 1964, he moved to Erie, Pennsylvania and was employed by General Electric Company. Vern also played for and coached the Erie Jets Semi-Professional Football Team. While living in Erie, he joined Antioch Baptist Church.

He married Charlie Mae Barney in 1967. This union lasted for 19 years. His family moved to Woodhaven, Michigan in 1976 where he was employed by Pennwalt Chemical Company as a maintenance supervisor for ten years. Vern then worked at Blue Cross and Blue Shield for an additional ten years until his retirement.

In 1987 Vern married Betty Jean Johnson, who after 35 years of marriage, preceded him in death.

Vern was a faithful member of Immanuel Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan where he served as a deacon and taught Sunday school.

He was preceded in death by his wife Betty Watts; parents Vern Watts Sr., and

Lula V. Rankins; brother Bobby Watts, and stepdaughter Debra Johnson. He leaves to cherish his memory: his two daughters Antionette Gates of Gulfport, Mississippi and Elizabeth Watts of Detroit, Michigan, and three stepdaughters Angela (Belton) Rose of Douglasville, Georgia; Barbara (David) White of Great Falls, South Carolina; and Sharon (Nate) Griggs of Auburn Hills, Michigan. His memory is also celebrated by his sister Minnie Cooley of Cincinnati, Ohio and his godchild Deanna McFarland of Erie, Pennsylvania. He also leaves a legacy to a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Vernie Watts Jr*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *Thanks Dad for being a gentleman and letting your girls know how she is supposed to be treated. Thanks for your modeling what faith, stewardship, and good works mean from a true believer in God. Thank you for my confirmation that all was well with your soul. 🙏*

Antionette Gates - July 01, 2022 at 08:55 AM



“ *The journey of life takes many turns and introduces many in and out of your life. On this journey I can say I am blessed to have known Daddy Watts. I have fond memories of being a part the family for a brief time. Holiday dinners were always great. One never felt like an outsider. Daddy Watts was like papa bear, always on guard and always showing love. A rare breed and a Man to admire and aspire to be like. His memory will live on and will be greatly missed.*

Gregory Johnson - June 29, 2022 at 06:22 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Vernie Watts Jr.*



June 29, 2022 at 09:19 AM