

IN LOVING MEMORY
OCTOBER 3, 1945 - MAY 17, 2026



James

T. Watson, Sr.

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026 | 3:30 P.M.

ANNA LUMPKIN AUDITORIUM
700 SPRUCE STREET, FORT VALLEY, GA 31030

PASTOR DESMOND RAWLS, PRESIDING
PASTOR GREGORY WILLIAMS, EULOGIST
May the work I've done speak for me!



LIFE REFLECTIONS

James T. Watson, Sr.

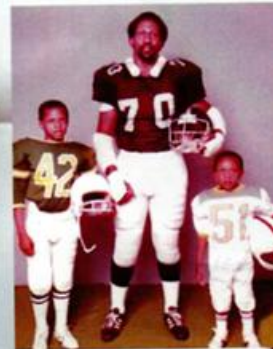
OCTOBER 3, 1945 - MAY 17, 2026



Psalms 37:23 "The Steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord and He delights in his way."

James Watson, Sr known throughout Fort Valley and Middle Georgia as "Hammer," "JT," "Super Stud," and "the Suntan Superman," transitioned peacefully into eternity on May 17, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. He entered his next journey with dignity, calmness, and the same quiet strength that defined his 80 extraordinary years.

Born on October 3, 1945, in Fort Valley, Georgia, James was the second-oldest son of Thomas Watson and Myrties Ragin Parker, both of whom preceded him in death. Though he was not raised by his father, he grew into a man who embodied the very essence of fatherhood, modeling integrity, discipline, compassion, and unwavering presence. To all who knew him, he will forever remain "one of one."



James discovered his lifelong love for football during his sophomore year at Hunt High School. His fierce play and on-field antics earned him the nickname "Hammer," as he wreaked havoc on both sides of the line of scrimmage. His dominance led to a football scholarship at Fort Valley State College, where he made history as the first true freshman to start on both offense and defense. His talent and passion laid the foundation for a family legacy that would produce future college football national champions, All-Americans, and NFL draft picks among his children and grandchildren.

James's promising athletic career was interrupted when he enlisted in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. While serving overseas, he discovered a new passion for heavyweight boxing and became a respected and successful competitor. After returning home, he was honorably discharged from full-time duty but continued to serve in the Army National Guard for an additional 30 years, demonstrating the loyalty and commitment that defined every aspect of his life.

Alongside his military service, James began a distinguished civil service career at Robins Air Force Base, working first as a warehouse employee and later as the Fitness Director at the base gym until his retirement. James rekindled his love of football by playing semi-professional football as an offensive tackle with the Macon Chiefs and the Warner Robins Flyers, where he earned multiple League Best Offensive Lineman awards, further cementing his reputation as a force on the field.

For 58 beautiful years, James was united in a devoted and enduring marriage to his beloved wife, Mattie Bell Watson. Together, they built a home rooted in love, service, and community. Their home became a refuge not only for their own family but also for countless others who found guidance, comfort, and support under their roof.

James was the proud father of five children, who blessed him with 15 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. Despite the size of his family, his influence extended far beyond bloodlines. He was a father figure to thousands across the Middle Georgia community.

His service to Fort Valley was deep and far-reaching. He was an active member of several organizations, including the Fort Valley CB Club, Project Youth, and the Fort Valley Boxing Club, among others. James poured into countless young people through Mattie's childcare centers at St. Peter and on Crestwood Drive. Wherever a child needed direction, encouragement, or a firm but loving hand, "Hammer" was there to guide.

Above all, James loved the Lord and faithfully served Christ throughout his life. A lifelong member of Macedonia CME Church, he began attending as a child and remained deeply committed to his church family and his faith for many decades. His dedication to the ministry was evident through his years of service as Chairman of the Steward Board, where he worked diligently and humbly to support the mission and growth of the church. He believed in leading by example, serving others with compassion, wisdom, and integrity. His steadfast faith, quiet strength, and unwavering love for God left a lasting impact on all who knew him and will continue to inspire generations to come.

James's legacy is one of strength, mentorship, humor, resilience, and unwavering commitment to community. He was not a man of many words—but if he said it, he meant it.

He leaves to mourn his memory a large loving family delineated below.

CHILDREN

Chanda Michelle Neal, Tazim Wajid Wajed (formerly James Timothy Watson, Jr)(Lisa), Tasha Maria Alderman (Columbus), Cedric Jerome Watson, Sr (Kimberly) and, Damien Ali McGhee (Dawn)

GRANDCHILDREN

Charnika Lockhart, Telly Savalas Neal, Jr, Tre' James Timothy Watson, Alexis Watson, Armani Alderman, Christian Watson, Columbus Armand Alderman, Cedric Watson, Jr., Caleb Watson, Caymen Watson, Timothy Alderman, Ciara Watson, Cyan Watson, Aubrey Watson, and Bella Watson.

GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

Amya Lockhart, Jamarian Lockhart, Ladaria Leggett, Jr., Nikira Lockhart, Maurice Neal, Ma' Shawn Neal, Gabriel Daniely, Kali Neal, Ma'Koa Neal, Aria Alderman, Si'ara Watson, Silas Watson, Camir Watson, Tre' James Timothy Watson, Jr., Cy'Loni Watson, Cash Cruz Watson, Rumani Jackson, Cyran Wilson, Amoura Alderman, Easton Christian Watson, Romyre Jackson

GREAT-GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

Jaysie Lockhart and Naomi Lockhart

GODCHILDREN

Nancy Watkins, Tracy Riley, Brandie McGhee, Solinda Kincy and Leandre Kincy

He also shared a special bond with longtime family friend Betty Lowe; his niece, Kenya Lee; great niece, Trishanth Glover; and great-nephew, Dorian Glover, all of whom held a cherished place in his heart, along with a host of siblings, other relatives, and dear friends who will forever treasure his memory.



Order of Service

PROCESSIONAL
FAMILY AND CLERGY

MUSICAL SELECTION
SHANNON JONES

SCRIPTURE READING
OLD TESTAMENT- BISHOP TIMOTHY DEAS
NEW TESTAMENT- REV BILLY HEARD

PRAYER
REV LORENZO HARRIS

REFLECTIONS/TRIBUTES
TWO MINUTES PLEASE

MUSICAL SELECTION
SHANNON JONES

OBITUARY
(READ SILENTLY)

EULOGY
REV GREGORY WILLIAMS

MUSICAL SELECTION
CALEB JEFFERSON

WORDS OF COMFORT
REV DESMOND RAWLS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
EDWARDS SMALL MORTUARY

RECESSIONAL

POSTLUDE



Psalms 37:23
"The Steps of a good man are
ordered by the Lord and he
delighteth in his way."

REMEMBERING OUR HERO

ONE OF MY
FAVORITE MEMORIES
WITH MY DAD.
-TASHA



MY FAVORITE MEMORY WITH MY DAD IS WHEN HE JOINED ME IN MY ENTIRE SUMMER TRAINING PROGRAMS TO PREPARE FOR BOTH COLLEGE FOOTBALL AND WHEN I WAS DRAFTED INTO THE NFL. HE'D PUSH ME WITH EVERY DRILL, EVERY SPRINT, AND EVERY REP... NO MATTER WHAT WE DID, NOR HOW EXHAUSTED WE GOT HE WAS BY MY SIDE AND WOULD ALWAYS SAY "WE GOTTA FINISH TIME!"
-TIM



"MY DADDY AIN'T NO PO' MAN"
-CEDRIC

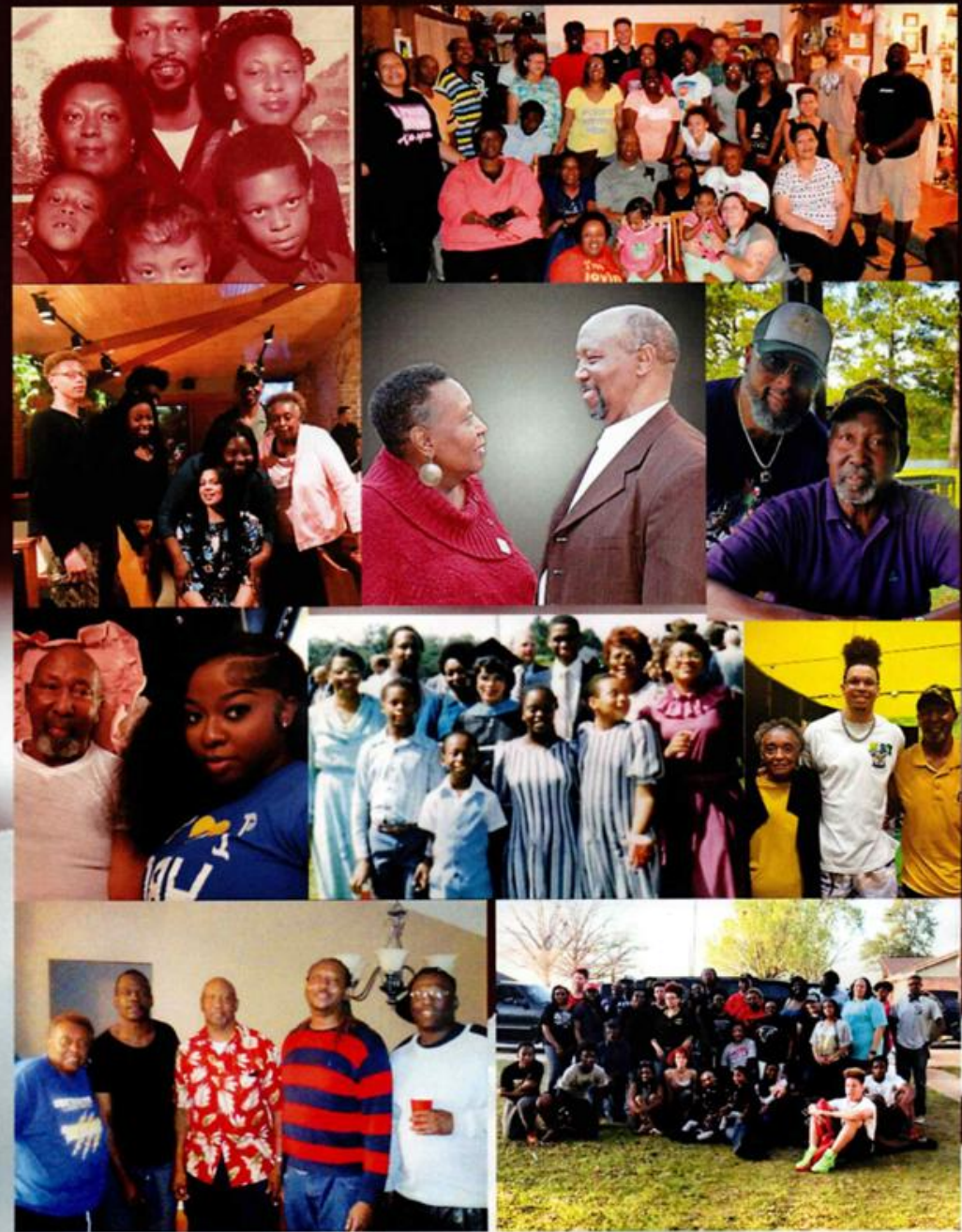


I LOVE YOU MORE THAN ANYTHING
IN THE WORLD &
I'LL FOREVER BE A DADDY'S GIRL!
-CHARDA

DADDY, THANK YOU FOR RAISING AND LOVING ME UNCONDITIONALLY. MY CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN LOVE YOU DEARLY. THANK YOU FOR SHOWING ME WHAT A REAL MAN IS THROUGH YOUR STRENGTH, WISDOM, AND THE WAY YOU CARED FOR YOUR FAMILY. EVERY SPECIAL MOMENT IN MY LIFE, YOU WERE THERE. I WILL MISS OUR ROAD TRIPS, OUR TALKS, AND SIMPLY BEING IN YOUR PRESENCE. YOU FOUGHT HARD UNTIL THE VERY END, AND YOUR LOVE AND LEGACY WILL STAY WITH US FOREVER.
-NIKA

I'LL NEVER FORGET...

"TIME ALWAYS
GETS AWAY TOO
EASY"
-DAMIEN





Pallbearers



COLUMBUS A ALDERMAN
 LADARIA LEGETT, JR
 TELLY NEAL, JR
 CEDRIC WATSON, JR
 CAYMAN WATSON (HONORARY)

TIMOTHY ALDERMAN
 JAMARIAN LOCKHART
 CHRISTIAN WATSON
 TRE JAMES TIMOTHY WATSON
 CALEB WATSON (HONORARY)



Acknowledgements

The family of Mr. James Watson wishes to express our deepest gratitude for the love and support shown during this difficult time. Your kind words, prayers, and presence have been a great comfort to us. We ask that you keep us lifted in prayer as we navigate life without our patriarch, mentor and hero. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful family and friends.

— ❁ — **THE WATSON FAMILY** — ❁ —

Interment

Willow Lake Memorial Gardens
 1854 Willow Lake Road
 Fort Valley, GA 31030

Repass

CW Pettigrew Center, FVSU
 1005 State University Drive
 Fort Valley, GA 31030

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO:

EDWARDS SMALL MORTUARY
 1011 MARTIN LUTHER KING DR.
 FORT VALLEY, GA 31030
"Unforgettable Service for Unforgettable People"