I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free, I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard his call, I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day, To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way, I've found that peace at the close of the day.

If my parting has left a void, Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss, Ah yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow, I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My Life's been full, I savoured much, Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch,

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief, Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me, God wanted me now, He set me free.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family of Mary Watson would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your prayers, support and acts of kindness during the time of loss.

Special thanks to her neighbor & friend, Jamie, Charlie and wife and "Waffle House", Betty Jeffords.

The Family

SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO:

Smith Funeral Home Of Florence, LLC

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CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Mary Watson

Alpha
February 23, 1944

Omega
September 15, 2026

11:00 AM | Saturday | September 26, 2026

Compassion Church Florence
1509 East Siesta Drive
Florence, South Carolina 29505

Pastor Stan Kennedy, Eulogist

Obituary

Mary Watson was born on February 23, 1944 in Summerton S.C. to the late Lurena Watson and was raised by John B. Watson. She entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, September 15, 2026.

She attended the public schools of Clarendon County, Scotts Branch High School in Summerton, S.C.

After her marriage to Ready M. Carter, they moved to New York City, where she was a stay at home mom to their five children.

As time progressed, she furthered her education by studying at a Business Institute in NYC for secretarial studies. Upon graduation, she obtained a position as a secretary for the late and famous sports journalist / broadcaster, Howard Cosell.

Later, she sought employment with the City of New York and was hired by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development where she worked for several years. After she left New York City Housing Preservation and Development, she worked as an ambulance driver for the disabled and special needs individuals.

Mary's love for the South led her back to her roots in South Carolina. Led by the Lord, she relocated to Florence, S.C. where she studied and obtained her certification as a CMA - Certified Medical Assistant. She worked in various nursing homes and group homes as well as private duty until she retired.

Anyone who knew Mary knew she loved God, her family and people. She was a true servant of the Lord at heart. She would help any and everyone. Her love and compassion for others was evident. She welcomed family and friends into her home. Whoever needed a place to stay could count on her to open her doors. She enjoyed cooking and eating soul food.

Mary loved her "Girls Gone Wild" trips with her sisters. She also enjoyed attending family functions where she was often the life of the party.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Patricia Carter and her son, Michael Carter.

Left to cherish her precious memories is her daughter, Angela (Rhoades) Martin; her sons, Antonio Carter and Kenneth (Tawana) Carter; grandchildren, Sakeena Carter, Keenan Allen, Coty Carter, Kayla Carter, Kade Carter, Jamel Jackson, Jared (Lorean) Jackson, Joshua Jackson, Joanna Jackson, Isaiah Carter, Mary Victoria Carter and Lexicia Cheeks; seventeen great grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; siblings, Lucille Lawson, Lillian Collier, Dorothy (David) Hampton, Veronica (Edward) Steward; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Order of Service

Pastor Stan Kennedy, Presiding

MUSICAL PRELUDE ..... Jamel Jackson and Joshua Jackson (Grandsons)

PROCESSIONAL ..... Clergy and Family

MUSICAL TRIBUTE ..... Jamel Jackson and Joshua Jackson

PRAYER ..... Elder Angela Martin

SCRIPTURE

Old Testament..... *Psalm 23* ..... Evangelist Clifton Jones

New Testament..... *John 6:37-40* ..... Elder Rhoades Martin

REMARKS *(please, limit to three minutes)*

SOLO ..... Pastor Stan Kennedy

EULOGY ..... Pastor Stan Kennedy

WORDS OF COMFORT ..... Elder Angela Martin

SOLO ..... Pastor Stan Kennedy

SMITH FUNERAL HOME TRIBUTE

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