



For My Uncle John

Sunrise: March 23, 1941 — Sunset: June 16, 2026

My world grew quieter on June 16, 2026.

My uncle could be cantankerous, stubborn, and quick with an opinion, but beneath it all was a kind and generous heart that loved deeply and loyally. His stories, laughter, and presence filled my life in ways that words can never fully express.

My heart hurts, but I find comfort in knowing you are no longer suffering. If time would bend to my wishes, I would do every day over again—not because they were perfect, but because they were with you.

Though the sun has set on your earthly journey, your journey will continue in my memories and in the love you shared with me.

Forever missed. Forever loved. Forever my Uncle.

*Love,
Billie Girl*

IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR JOHN IVORY *Watkins Jr.*



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The family of John "Tall John" Watkins wishes to express our deepest gratitude for your prayers, calls, visits, and every act of kindness shown during this time of loss. Your love has strengthened us. Your prayers have carried us, and your presence has comforted us.

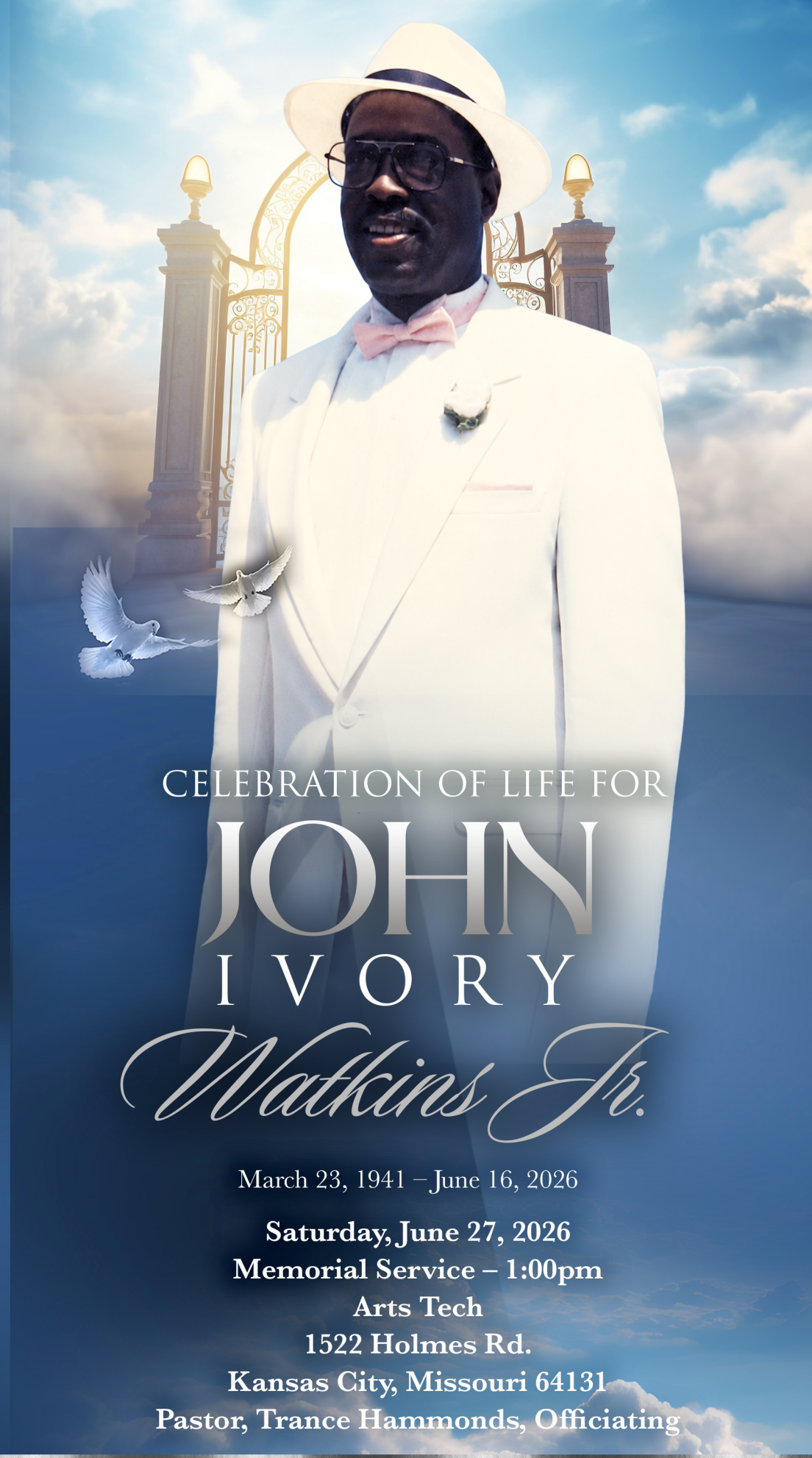
We thank you for standing with us through this difficult time and pray that God blesses each of you for your compassion, support, and friendship.

With heartfelt appreciation,

The Watkins Family

 **SERENITY**
FUNERAL HOME

1101 E. Bannister Rd. | Kansas City, MO 64131 | SFHKC.com



CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR JOHN IVORY *Watkins Jr.*

March 23, 1941 – June 16, 2026

Saturday, June 27, 2026
Memorial Service – 1:00pm
Arts Tech
1522 Holmes Rd.

Kansas City, Missouri 64131
Pastor, Trance Hammonds, Officiating

IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE

LIFE REFLECTIONS

John Ivory Watkins Jr., affectionately known as “Tall John”, transitioned peacefully on June 16, 2026, in Blue Springs, Missouri, after a yearlong illness.

He was born on March 23, 1941, in Little Rock, Arkansas, to the late John Ivory Watkins Sr. and Katie Beatrice Stewart-Watkins. John was the second of four children born to this union.

At an early age, John was baptized at Starlight Baptist Church by the late Reverend Harold Jennings. He received his education through the Kansas City Public School System, attending Wendell Phillips Elementary School, Lincoln Junior High School, and Lincoln Senior High School.

John worked several jobs throughout his lifetime and eventually retired from Musicians and Friends, where he served as a Shift Lead.

To know him was to love him. He was not a man of many words, but if he took the time to hold a conversation with you, you knew he cared. Though often quiet and reserved, his love for family was evident in his own special way.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Katie B. Stewart-Watkins and John Ivory Watkins Sr.; his stepmother, Alzola McKamie-Watkins; his siblings, Robert Lee Watkins, Willie Ida Robinson, Gladys Faye McCammack, Beverly J. Rosenthall, James E. Watkins, and Lettie Singleton; his son, Steven Watkins; and his grandson, Jaylenn Watkins.

He leaves to cherish his memory his beloved children: Carmen Hammons (Trance) of Anoka, Minnesota; Ameer Watkins (Patricia) of Richfield, Minnesota; Anissa Watkins of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Kamara Bauman (Drew) of Bloomington, Minnesota; Kawan Clark of Kansas City, Missouri; and Halim Watkins of Kansas City, Missouri.

He is also survived by 21 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends who will forever cherish his memory.

*John “Tall John” Watkins will be remembered for his strength, resilience, quiet wisdom, and the love he poured into his family. His legacy lives on in every life he touched and in the hearts of all who loved him.
“Well done, good and faithful servant.”*

ORDER of Service

Prayer - Elder Nathaniel Brown

Scripture - Family

Reflection of life (To Be Read in Silence)

Special Remarks - 2 minutes

Selection - "Ribbon In The Sky"

Eulogy - Pastor Trance Hammonds

Benediction - Elder Nathaniel Brown

Repast to Immediately Follow

IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE