



APPRECIATION

On behalf of the family, we express their gratitude for your many kindnesses evidenced in thought and deed, and for your attendance at the service.



REMEMBERING
RONALD J. WATKINS
November 12, 1941 - May 26, 2026

IN LOVING MEMORY RONALD JOSEPH WATKINS

November 12, 1941 - May 26, 2026

GRAVESIDE SERVICE

Saturday, June 6, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

Lindquist Washington Heights Memorial Gardens
4500 Washington Boulevard - South Ogden, Utah 84401

Conducting Bishop Mikel Nybo

Remarks Elizabeth W. Watkins

Musical Numbers Weber Low Brass

"Lift Thine Eyes" from the oratorio *Elijah*

By Felix Mendelssohn (1846)

Arranged by Ronald J. Watkins

"Amazing Grace" words by John Newton (1773)

Melody *"New Britain"* by William Walker (1835)

Arranged by John Van Gulik

"Hymn to the Fallen" from the film score

Saving Private Ryan, by John Williams (1998)

Arranged by John Van Gulik

Dedication of Grave Richard T. Watkins

Pallbearers

Thomas D. Watkins

Alexander N. Watkins

Russell G. Watkins

Matthew D. Watkins

Jared S. Noorda

Shad Wright

Shawn Fowers

Sam Bauter

David B. Stevenson

David L. Knowles

Honorary Pallbearers

Richard T. Watkins

Kenneth C. Watkins

Lewis Fowers

Members of Weber Low Brass

Ronald Joseph Watkins died early in the morning on May 26, 2026, in Ogden, Weber, Utah, at the age of eighty-four, of causes incident to age. He was born in Ogden to Serena Irene Harrop and Joseph Charles Watkins on November 12, 1941. His father later joined the U.S. Marine Corps and was sent to the Pacific theater, so Ron spent his early years as an only child. The first of his three younger brothers was born when Ron was about eight years old.

As Ron grew, his life centered around music. According to one family legend, at a young age he discovered his father's trombone and began playing it without a mouthpiece. He later expanded to keyboard, woodwinds, and strings—especially the cello. He earned his way through Utah State University playing music gigs and working a variety of summer jobs and graduated with a bachelor's degree in music education.

Ron taught strings in the Weber County School District for six years during the 1960s until about 1970. During this time, he would buy violins, cellos, and basses to rent to his students. With the money received for instrument rentals, he would buy more instruments that would be placed in the hands of more students. The growth in the string programs was beyond amazing. The Golden Spike Youth Symphonies and Orchestra—a community organization for young musicians of that period—boasted a training string orchestra and three full symphonies for students ranging from elementary school through high school. He also taught private lessons—always tailored to the individual student's instrument and level of learning.

During Ron's subsequent career as a professional musician, he played everything but the double reeds. He performed with the Utah Symphony under the baton of Maurice Abravanel, playing both trombone and cello. He performed with the Valley Music Hall in the days when Frank Sinatra, Liberace, and other greats appeared on tour. He played with the Promised Valley Playhouse, Junction City Big Band, Utah Opera, Ballet West, Crestmark Orchestra, and other civic, community, and professional venues so numerous that we cannot list them, even if we could remember them all.

Later, Ron became a recording artist. In this enterprise, he helped to produce commercials for local businesses—does anybody remember the Taco Time jingle?—as well as albums that assisted talents such as Steve Eaton on their paths. At his homegrown but technologically cutting-edge studio in Ogden, he recorded, mixed, and produced albums for aspiring artists, family groups, and school musical organizations. All of this is but a tiny piece of his history and his contributions to the world of music within Utah and possibly well beyond. Hundreds of students' lives have been touched by this man. We hope that those who knew him will remember the way he may have influenced them or someone they know.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Michael H. (Sheryl), his grandparents, and all his uncles and aunts. Survivors include his brothers Kenneth C. (Sharon), and Richard T. (Elizabeth); nephews Thomas D. (Jaime) and Alexander N. (Hope); nieces Heather A. Markham (Bob), Jennifer J. Noorda (Jared), and Kristine C. Kilpatrick (Shad); and a host of grandnephews, grandnieces, and cousins.

Ron's final wish was to form a foundation that would continue to educate musicians and promote music in the lives of others by renting instruments and sheet music from his personal estate to students and performers. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Ron's foundation, the Weber Low Brass, in care of David B. Stevenson.

Trombonists and members of the Weber Low Brass are invited to participate in a memorial service to be held at some future date.