

CELEBRATE

THE LIFE OF

Husband

Father

Friend

Uncle

Beloved Son

Brother

Grandfather



James Anthony Watkins

Sunrise
12.22.1970

Friday, March 6, 2026
Faith Assembly of Christ
Viewing: 11 am | Service: 12 pm

Sunset
02.20.2026

The Life & Legacy of James A. Watkins

James Anthony Watkins, affectionately known as “Mann,” was born on December 22, 1970, in Washington, DC to Moses and Delores Watkins.

James was educated in DC Public Schools, where he graduated from HD Woodson High School and Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering High School, earning a certification in Carpentry. During his high school years, he proudly served as a member of the JROTC. His commitment to uplifting others extended beyond the classroom, as he later volunteered as a boxing coach at the Benning Park Recreation Center, mentoring and inspiring youth within his community.

He was employed at the US Bureau of Engraving and Printing and JB Johnson Nursing Home for several years before dedicating 33 years of faithful service to DC Public Schools. Known for his strong work ethic and reliability, James also took great pride in his carpentry skills, often completing side projects for family and friends. He was always willing to lend his talent and helping hands to those in need.

James possessed a charismatic spirit that naturally drew people to him. His confidence and assertiveness allowed him to navigate new situations with ease and to speak his mind with sincerity and conviction.

His greatest joy was his marriage to his devoted wife, Valencia Watkins, with whom he shared 34 years of

life and 24 years of marriage, building a beautiful family together. He was a strong and steady father to his children and a doting, proud grandfather.

James had a deep appreciation for life’s simple pleasures, including fishing, traveling, enjoying good food, listening to music and watching his favorite sports teams. He was a lifelong supporter of the Washington Commanders, taking immense pride in cheering for the Burgandy and Gold alongside his family and friends. Those who knew James understood that family meant everything to him. He served as a pillar of strength and support, creating cherished memories that will live on in the hearts of his loved ones for years to come. Above all, James treasured every moment spent with those he loved.

Reunited in glory with his father Moses Watkins, his dad Norman A. Fenwick, mother-in-law Carolyn McSwain, grandmother Mary B. Thomas and uncle Joseph Thomas, James will forever be cherished by his loving wife, Valencia Watkins, mother Delores Watkins; four siblings: Mary Johnson (Dimitrius), LaKeshia Dargin, Takida Dargin and Lillie Mae Bonilla (Julio Sr.), brother-in-law Renaldo Mayo (Kiina), five children: Chantelle Carmichael, James Carmichael (Cindy), Deantre Watkins, Tatyana Watkins and Jaleel Watkins, four beloved grandchildren: JaShawn Carmichael, Jaliyah Carmichael, Damoni Carmichael and Ameera Watkins, god-daughter Shantesse Dortch and a host of uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews and dear friends.

Order of Service

Musical Prelude.....Liesl Michelle

Scripture Reading.....

Old Testament: Joel 2:21-23

New Testament: John 14:1-3

Obituary Reading.....Mary Johnson

Musical Selection.....Liesl Michelle

Acknowledgements.....Wilita Celeste Wright

Reflections (2 minutes).....Family & Friends

Musical Selection.....Liesl Michelle

Eulogy.....Bishop Mitchell A. Way

Closing Prayer.....Bishop Mitchell A. Way

Recessional

No More Tears

I know the Lord has heard my cries

He has lifted my burden

He has dried my eyes

He took me from where I was

To where I am today

He has truly guided my life

To a better way

He has given me hope where once there

were fears and in my heart today

there are no more tears

He has done it for me

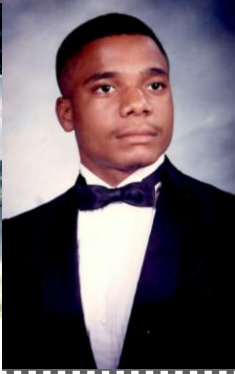
He will do it for you no matter the problem

He will see you through

Yes, His ways to us are not always clear

but if you will only trust in Him

there will be, no more tears.x



Interment

Harmony Memorial Park
Hyattsville, MD

Pallbearers

Johnnie Limes
Gregory Lowry
Renaldo Mayo

Carlton Terrell
James Thomas
Joseph Thomas

Flower Bears

Family & Friends

Acknowledgements

We wish to express our sincere gratitude for the many acts of kindness shown during our time of bereavement.

We deeply appreciate the prayers, visits, phone calls, flowers, meals and all other expressions of sympathy.

Your love and support have brought us comfort during this difficult time.

Arrangements

Fayson Firm of Professional Mortician, PA
Waldorf, MD