



Elton "Earl" Watson

December 8, 1924 - February 16, 2016

Elton "Earl" Watson, 91, passed away surrounded by his family on February 16, 2016, at Winston Medical Center in Louisville, Mississippi. Visitation will be Saturday, February 20, 2016, from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Nowell-Massey Funeral Home in Louisville. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 20, 2016, in the Nowell-Massey Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Leslie "Bo" Mills officiating. Interment will follow in Memorial Park Cemetery.

Mr. Watson was born on December 8, 1924, in Malvern, Arkansas, to Benjamin Elton Watson and Zelma Lee Jones Watson. He was a 1942 graduate of Greenwood High School in Greenwood, Mississippi. After graduation, he joined the United States Army to serve his country in World War II. As a sound ranger observer in the Army, he was involved in battles and campaigns in New Guinea and Luzon in the Pacific theater of operations. He was awarded numerous medals for his military service, including the Purple Heart. Upon being honorably discharged from the Army in 1946, he joined his father in the hickory mill business at B.E. Watson and Sons. He devoted his career to the family business, growing the company known as Louisville Hickory, Inc. alongside his two sons and manufacturing products as diverse as furniture components, Red Ryder gun stocks, and wooden skis worn during the 1956 winter Olympics. Mr. Watson was a member of the First Baptist Church of Louisville.

Mr. Watson was preceded in death by his wife of 66 years, Peggy Rose Peterson Watson; his son, Elton Earl Watson, Jr.; his parents; his sister, Gladys Watson McCorkle; and his brother, Jack William Watson. Left to mourn his passing are his son, David Watson of Louisville; his daughter, Janet Collins and husband, Ron, of Madison, Mississippi; daughter-in-law, Lisa Blalock Watson of Louisville; his five grandchildren: Phillip Watson of Oak Harbor, Washington; Laura Watson Kujawa and husband, Kevin, of Chicago, Illinois; Katie Watson Butts and husband, Will, of Alexandria, Virginia; Maggie Watson Reed and husband, Austin, of Louisville; and Maddie Rose Collins of Madison, Mississippi; and his sister-in-law, Katherine Turner Watson of Mobile, Alabama.

Serving as pallbearers are David Herrington, Kevin Kujawa, Pete Mills, Austin Reed, Pete Stribling, and Mike Tyson.

Services are under the direction of Nowell-Massey Funeral Home, 724 North Columbus Avenue, Louisville, MS. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family by signing the guest register at <http://www.nowellmasseyfuneralhome.com>.

Cemetery

Memorial Cemetery

East John C. Stennis Drive
Louisville, MS, 39339

Events

FEB **Visitation** 12:00PM - 02:00PM

20

Nowell-Massey Funeral Home
724 N. Columbus Avenue, Louisville, MS, US, 39339

FEB **Service** 02:00PM

20

Nowell-Massey Funeral Home Chapel
724 N Columbus Ave, Louisville, MS, US, 39339

Comments



“ Love to all of you as you celebrate the life well lived of Elton's father.
Hugs to Lisa, Katie and Maggie.
-Barbara Belknap, Minneapolis, MN

Barbara Belknap - February 20, 2016 at 12:28 PM



“ My heartfelt condolences to all of Mr. Watson's family. I had the privilege of growing up with his children, Elton, David and Janet. What a wonderful family and I cherish those memories from my past. Shortly after high school, I believe it was the summer of 71, I worked the second shift at Spartus Clock Company along side. Mr. Watson. All the coworkers called him Earl. He was the senior man on our crew. We were responsible for staging the assembly line area for the next day's production. We had a great crew, but Earl was the glue that held our team together. His wit and wisdom made him a joy to be around. That wasn't the only job he had. During the day he worked at his hickory mill on the north side of town making tool handles among other items. I can remember having to work a double shift one night. We began at four in the afternoon and clocked out at eight the next morning. By the end of the shift everyone was dragging, dead tired. Earl was tired, too. I remember saying, "Boy, I can't wait to get home and crawl into bed." Earl smiled and nodded in agreement. That afternoon when we returned to work I asked him how he slept. He told me he had grabbed a nap at the breakfast table and gone down to the hickory mill. He had an order that he had to get finished. I was astonished. I was, also, impressed. After that day I saw him in a much different light. I saw his hard work ethic, his commitment to get things done the way they should be done, all while having a good attitude. When summer was over I clocked out from Spartus for the last time. Earl and the crew remained behind while I was off to another semester of college. But I never forgot about them. He had a smile, a laugh and twinkle in his eyes no one could ever forget. Earl... Mr. Watson will be greatly missed. I am so glad our paths crossed. He is one of my good memories from my hometown.

Rick Algood - February 18, 2016 at 10:50 AM



“ Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Elton "Earl" Watson.



February 18, 2016 at 08:25 AM



“ David and Janet,

I will never forget the love our Heavenly Father demonstrated to Mama and Timmy through Peggy and Earl. Just remember, "His strength is greater when our strength is gone. He'll carry us when we can't carry on".

Your cousin,

Tommy

Tommy Foster, Jr. - February 17, 2016 at 12:02 PM