



Wyndell C. Watkins Sr.

July 17, 1951 - October 10, 2020

Wyndell C. Watkins Sr. was born on July 17, 1951 in Chicago, Illinois to the union of Richard Watkins. and Corine Stinson (Ray). He was called home by his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on October 10, 2020. Wyndell, affectionately called “Dell” & later “Chief Watkins”, was raised by his grandparents Mattie and Clarence Sparks in Paris, Tennessee.

Chief Watkins graduated from Henry County High School in Paris, Tennessee where he was a proud and talented 1st chair snare drummer and the Co-Captain of the varsity basketball team. After high school he moved to Washington, D.C. and after briefly working for the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI), he started his career with the Metropolitan Police Department on November 8, 1971. During his tenure he held the following positions: Chief of Detectives, where he commanded the Criminal Investigations Division and the Homicide and Sex Offense branches. He also commanded three federal task forces: The Cold Case Squad, Redrum & The Violent Crime and Gang Task Force. He was also the Director of the Office of Professional Responsibility (Internal Affairs Division) and the Narcotics and Special Investigations Division. Chief Watkins also commanded the Special Operations Division, which was responsible for handling all major demonstrations, escorting the President of the United States and foreign dignitaries, the SWAT team, and Harbor and Helicopter branches. After 26 years of committed service, he retired from the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington D.C. on February 25, 1997, as Deputy Chief of Police. After retiring from MPDC he joined the Federal Governments U.S. General Services Administration as a Senior Executive and subsequently became the National Director of Operations for all of GSA’s 10,000 owned and leased facilities nationwide. On December 30, 2015 he retired from GSA after 17 years of service.

Chief Watkins was a graduate of Harvard University’s Senior Executive Fellows Program in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and George Washington University’s Contemporary Executive Development Program in the School of Business and Public Management in Washington, D.C. He also completed course work at American University, the University of the District of Columbia, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Dell met the love of his life and late wife, Juanita B. Watkins of Washington D.C., in

Washington, DC in 1978. They married on December 20, 1980, in Silver Spring, MD. They shared over 36 loving years together and two children, daughter, Kristian “Krissy” and son, Wyndell Jr. “DJ”. Dell was a devoted family man and was most proud of being a husband and father.

At a young age Dell placed his faith and trust in The Lord Jesus Christ and was baptized. He faithfully followed Christ his entire life. He was an active member and served at Revelation Baptist Church of Washington D.C., From the Heart Church Ministries of Suitland, MD, Great Grace Christian Fellowship of Silver Spring, MD. In March of this year Chief Watkins began faithfully attending and participating in the virtual ministries rendered by the Historic Vermont Avenue Baptist Church in the District of Columbia. He was an active participant in the Combined Adult Sunday School Class and the “Prayer & Praise Across the Miles” Virtual Ministry, where he was the featured speaker and Ministerial Lecturer on June 3rd 2020.

In his free time and retirement Chief Watkins loved spending time with his family and friends. He was also a life-long fan of sports and competition. His favorite sport to watch was football, and his favorite to play was golf. He was an avid reader of many topics. He enjoyed traveling, especially on family vacations. Dell absolutely loved to listen to music, and he especially enjoyed live music. Another lifelong passion of Chief Watkins was good food, with his favorite food being crispy fried chicken.

Dell leaves two daughters, Kristian S. Sheils (Tim) and Drena McDaniel, and one son, Wyndell C. Watkins Jr. (Zabrina), two dear grandchildren, Mariah Watkins & Timothy Sheils, one brother LynDon Watkins (Annette) of Maryland, two sisters, Angela Watkins and Franshawn Watkins of Chicago. He also leaves behind a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and close family & friends. He is preceded in death by his cherished wife Juanita B. Watkins, grandparents Mattie and Clarence Sparks, parents, Richard Watkins & Corine Stinson, beloved brother, Joseph “Jose” Watkins.

Events

OCT

28

Memorial Gathering

09:00AM - 10:30AM

Lee Funeral Home - Clinton

6633 Old Alexandria Ferry Road, Clinton, MD, US, 20735

OCT

28

Memorial Service

10:30AM

Lee Funeral Home - Clinton

6633 Old Alexandria Ferry Road, Clinton, MD, US, 20735

Comments



“ Wendall was an officer and a gentlemen. I have fond memories of him because he was raised in my hometown Paris, Tennessee
He was always so nice and his family and my family had a connection. RIH Wendell
Always in our hearts.
Iris Gardner, Paris, TN

Iris Gardner - October 29, 2020 at 03:58 PM



“ Whenever dell saw me he always had a huge smile on his face. He never hesitated to show his happiness and never held back letting me know he was proud of me.
One of the most genuine people I have ever met who was more about positivity and putting on smiles over everything else. He had a good heart and a great soul and I'm never going to forget him. He watched me grow from a small little tyke into who I am now and always believed in me. This is my best memories of him all of the beautiful smiles and laughs that he had wether they were for me or anyone else in the family.

Brandon Watkins - October 28, 2020 at 07:44 AM



“ My sincere heartfelt condolences to Krissy, DJ, and the entire Watkins family during this difficult time. Chief Watkins was always full of smiles, joy, and plenty of stories whenever he spoke of his family, especially when it came to Mariah or Tim Tim.

Chief Watkins was the consummate professional that consistently set the bar high with expectations that "each one teach one" about fairness, integrity and honesty. He didn't just talk the talk, he walked the walk and I will forever be grateful for the life lessons he passed my way, as a mentee, colleague, and friend. I will forever hear his voice in my head saying "Always check before you trust, and never trust before you check!"

Notwithstanding all of his notable accomplishments professionally, it was clear to us that he was most proud to be called "Grand-Pa". May the memories that you all have created, and the lasting love attached to his legacy, give you all comfort and peace.

With deepest sympathy,

Lisa A. Burton
MPD



Lisa Burton - October 28, 2020 at 05:17 AM



“ 9 files added to the album Memories Album



LynDon R. Watkins Sr - October 27, 2020 at 11:01 PM



“ First, I would like to convey my condolences to Kristie and DJ and other members of the Watkins family. I met Wyndell C. Watkins, Sr., many years ago at a national law enforcement conference of police executives focusing on best practices for the successful closure of homicide investigations. I was so impressed with Chief Watkins ability to clearly convey useful insights to this audience I determined if I ever had a chance to hire him I would. In 1997, I had an opportunity to hire Chief Watkins as my deputy when I headed the Federal Protective Service. Over the next six years we became professional associates, but more importantly personal friends. During this period, I met his lovely wife Anita and his daughter Kristie and son DJ. I thank God, He gave me an opportunity to know Wyndell on this journey we call life.

Clarence Edwards
Retired Assistant Commissioner
The Federal Protective Service

Clarence Edwards - October 26, 2020 at 04:01 PM



“ I was saddened to hear about the passing of Wyndell! I was privileged to have known him during my career with the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department. He was an outstanding person (good people as we called it back in the day) and police professional who was smart, principled, admired, dedicated to his faith and committed to doing the best he could in service to others. He never forget where he came from, nor too busy to help others from all walks of life succeed and achieve. We all learned from his example. I extend my deepest sympathy to his family and friends, including those of us in the extended MPDC family who will miss his presence in our lives.

Captain David P. Baker, ret.

David Baker - October 22, 2020 at 09:11 PM



“ DILLON SC: I was greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Wyndell. We were lieutenants together in MPDC Homicide for a short time in the mid 80s time frame. I was blessed to have known him and I remain thankful for his friendship during that time. I send my most sincere sympathy to his family as you grieve this loss among you. May he RIP now and always. Blessings. s/ John Harlow MPDC 1969-1989



John Harlow - October 22, 2020 at 08:53 AM



“ Sending my condolences to the family of an old high school classmate. Wendell was funny and we argue a lot about school stuff. Was happy to hear of his accomplishments as an adult. Stay strong family we will meet again

Janice Atkinson-Holmes - October 21, 2020 at 07:49 PM



“ I am deeply saddened about Wyndell's passing. He was a pretty great guy and cousin growing up in Paris, Tennessee. While I hadn't spoken to him, we often texted each other and we were planning to attend our HCHS Reunion next year. I pray for comfort for his siblings and his children. I'll really miss him and so many others will miss him as well. RIP Wyndell.

Constance - October 20, 2020 at 01:48 PM



“ I am shocked and deeply saddened to learn of the death of this great man. We grew up in the same small town (a story his children know, I hope). He was about the most impressive kid I knew in 1969 and remains so to this day. The past years we have only been in touch through emails and occasionally had dinner together when I was in DC. What I wouldn't give for one more chance to catch up and laugh about Paris, Tennessee. Wyndell was a difference maker.

John Austin - October 20, 2020 at 12:12 PM



“ My condolences to the family, on the passing of Wyndell Watkins. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Elliott W. Gibson, Sr.
Police Captain (Retired)
MPDC

Elliott Gibson - October 19, 2020 at 06:28 PM



“ I first meet Dell during the early 1980's at some departmental event. I don't recall where he was assigned but I was in homicide. He left a very positive impression with me. Shortly afterward, there was a vacancy for the other lieutenant position in homicide and I recommended Dell for the position to the homicide captain. We worked side by side until my promotion to Captain in 1983. When I returned to homicide as the commander in 1988, Dell was the commander of the Sex Offense Branch and once again we worked side by side. I returned to CID as the Chief of Detectives in January 1993 and Dell was the homicide captain under my command until his promotion to inspector during the fall of 1993. If memory serves me correctly, Dell was later promoted to Deputy Chief and became Chief of Detectives. I know this narrative is a bit long, but wanted to share the parallel nature of my relation with Dell spanning nearly 40 years. We were not only co-workers but friends. He was dedicated to his chosen profession of law enforcement and was a mentor to many. His presence will be sorely missed. My condolences to his family.

Bill Ritchie
Deputy Chief Retired
MPDC

Bill Ritchie - October 19, 2020 at 05:07 PM



“ My condolences to the family, on the passing of Wyndell Watkins. I have known Wyndell over 40 years. We met while serving as Officers with the MPDC, in the Second District. Wendell has always been a bright light, to all who came to know him. He will be missed. God Speed, till we meet again.

Elliott W. Gibson, Sr.
Police Captain (Retired)
MPDC

Elliott Gibson - October 19, 2020 at 06:24 PM



“ Judith Ann Goodman lit a candle in memory of Wyndell C. Watkins Sr.



Judith Ann Goodman - October 19, 2020 at 02:54 PM



“ To the family of Wyndell C Watkins, I wish to offer my deepest condolences and prayers. He was always a very uplifting personality at MPD. Now he is with G-D's angels.

Judith Ann Goodman - October 19, 2020 at 03:02 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to the family, friends, and associates of Wyndell. Deputy Chief (Retired) Wyndell C. Watkins Sr. and I served many years together on the DC Metropolitan Police Department. We were sergeants at 2D. He was a good friend that always had a great joke and a smile. More importantly he was a God-fearing man. He use to tell me that the Bible was the most valuable book in the world but it was useless unless you read it. Wyndell will be missed by all that he touched in life. Surely, he is in heaven rejoicing that at last he is home with the Lord. Rest in peace good friend.

Dewey R. Wiseman Sr.
Captain (Retired)
DCMPD

Dewey R. Wiseman Sr. - October 18, 2020 at 09:50 PM



“ GSA - Office of Mission Assurance purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Wyndell C. Watkins Sr..



GSA - Office of Mission Assurance - October 14, 2020 at 12:23 PM