



Elizabeth Hartley "Liz" Watkins

January 24, 1933 - November 18, 2019

Elizabeth Hartley Watkins, 86, much beloved, passed away at home in Griffin, GA, Monday, November 18, 2019. Liz was born in Milledgeville, GA on January 24, 1933, the oldest daughter of Burrel Washington Hartley and Lena Brake Hartley Sharpe. She moved to Sylvania, GA with her parents and sister where she completed high school. She graduated from Georgia Teachers College (GTC), Statesboro, GA, in 1953. Her studies at GTC began a lifetime of service and contributions of excellence in the field of education. Elizabeth married Lemuel Watkins in 1953 and moved to Alma, GA, where she taught at the local school and where their first children, Emily Rose and Jeffrey Lemuel were born. In 1958, the Watkins family moved to Griffin, GA, where, soon afterwards they welcomed their third child, Richard Nathaniel. Deeply committed to family and community, Liz lived a life of service, happiest when she was doing for others.

Mrs. Watkins was involved in many civic groups including the Griffin Utility Club, the Pine Tree Garden Club, and the Pulaski Chapter of the DAR. She was an active member of Griffin First United Methodist Church for 60 years. She served as Sunday School leader, Disciple Bible Study facilitator, Help-Desk, a member of the Seekers Sunday School class, and Stephen Ministry. Liz's love of scripture-reading grew as she was described as a scholarly and spiritual leader to many church members. Her caring and loving compassion for others, as a picture of grace and wisdom, touched the lives of those who

cherished her wise and warm words. As an educator, Liz was widely known as a light to her students, bringing knowledge, wisdom and compassion to share with all her students. She taught at Griffin High School as an English teacher and Hospital Homebound teacher. Upon completing her Educational Specialist degree (Ed.S), she became a Special Education coordinator until her retirement in 1992. During her 37 years, she exemplified the quality of an outstanding, dedicated educator who possessed personal integrity and a thoughtful communication style. She was nominated and inducted into the Griffin-Spalding Educator Hall of Fame in 2014.

While she was known and loved in Griffin for her years of service to the community and church, Liz will be remembered most fondly for her deep love and devotion to her family. She is preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, Lemuel Augustus Watkins of Griffin; her parents, older sibling Talley Dozier of Montezuma, Ga., and grandson, Kyle Jeffrey Watkins. She is survived by her loving and devoted children, Emily Rose (Watkins) and Buddy Morris of Birmingham, AL; Jeffrey Lemuel and Ruth Watkins of Johns Creek, GA, and Richard Nathaniel and Catharine Watkins of Macon, GA; and their grandchildren, Matthew Watkins Morris, Miles Hartley Morris (Terra) , Mason Britton Morris (Marguerite), Curry Andrew Watkins, Caroline Elizabeth Watkins, Richard Nathaniel Watkins, Jr. (Courtney), Maiben Landon Watkins and great-granddaughter, Marguerite Hamilton Morris. She will be deeply missed by her sister, Emily Hartley Morse of Cerritos, California; many nieces and nephews who adored their Aunt Liz; and close and cherished family friend Anne Marie Lombardo.

Elizabeth Watkins lived a life filled with love, surrounded by friends and family who were blessed by her unconditional love. While she enjoyed reading and gardening, more than anything else she loved her family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Amick Fund at Griffin First United Methodist Church, 1401 Maple Drive, Griffin, GA 30224. A

Celebration of Life service will be Thursday, November 21 at 12:00 pm at First United Methodist Church with The Rev. Dr. D.B.Shellnut, Jr., officiating, assisted by The Rev. Dr. Mike Cavan. Family will receive friends at 11:00 in the Welcome Center at the church.

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Cemetery

Memorial Dr.
Griffin, GA 30223

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **21**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Griffin First United Methodist Church
1401 Maple Dr.
Griffin, GA 30224

Service

NOV **21**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Griffin First United Methodist Church
1401 Maple Dr.
Griffin, GA 30224

Tribute Wall



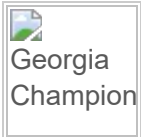
“ Elizabeth Hartley "Liz" Watkins

October 07, 2023 at 09:35 AM



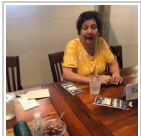
“ She was my 10th grade English teacher from 1970-71 at Griffin High. Always enjoyed her class.

Martin de Vore - September 04, 2023 at 04:12 PM



“ Liz was my Special Education Supervisor when I worked at Griffin High and Unit 1. She keep me on my toes. She was a strong, disciplined woman and expected the same from her teachers. There never be another teacher like Liz.

Georgia Champion - March 11, 2020 at 08:06 PM



“ Judy Sutton lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth Hartley "Liz" Watkins



Judy Sutton - November 23, 2019 at 05:44 PM

KG

“ Mrs. Watkins was my English teacher in 1968-69. That year I was also her student assistant for 2 classes , since I only needed a half day to graduate. For my graduation she gave me a lovely silver sequined evening purse, which I still have. Mrs. Watkins was a great teacher, mentor and friend. All who knew her were blessed. She will be missed.
Condolences to all her family and friends.
Kathy Hitchcock Gordon

Kathy Hitchcock Gordon - November 21, 2019 at 06:41 PM



“ She was a teacher of the gifted... and a GIFTED TEACHER. Her intelligence and her dignity made her a blessing to all her students.

Eddie Whitlock - November 21, 2019 at 03:36 PM

SR

“ Rose, I am sorry to hear of your mother's passing. I have many great memories from the times at your home. I still remember her special way of making oatmeal. I always think of her when I eat it! I am thinking of you at this time. She was a classy and kind lady.

Shelley Vaughan Register - November 21, 2019 at 03:33 PM

PL

“ Emily Rose and family. I'm so very sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. She was such a sweet, "classy" lady and was loved by so many. May God wrap his loving arms around your whole family during this sad time.
Pam Bailey Lewin

Pam Bailey Lewin - November 21, 2019 at 09:40 AM

GT

“ So honored to have been taught by Mrs Watkins and then later to have the privilege of her friendship. She was the true definition of Southern Grace and Charm.

Gloria Singleary Treadway - November 21, 2019 at 09:22 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Hartley "Liz" Watkins.



November 21, 2019 at 09:01 AM

LF

“ I'm so sorry to hear of her passing! She taught me English in school. She was a wonderful and caring teacher! She was such a beautiful lady!!! She will be missed!!

Linda King Fell - November 20, 2019 at 09:40 PM

LF

“ Linda King Fell lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth Hartley "Liz" Watkins



Linda King Fell - November 20, 2019 at 09:37 PM

IT

“ *IBERIABANK TM Services Team purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Elizabeth Hartley "Liz" Watkins.*



IBERIABANK TM Services Team - November 20, 2019 at 05:23 PM

AC

“ *So very sad to hear this news. Many thoughts and prayers for you now and in the days to come.*



Angela Warren Chambers - November 20, 2019 at 02:12 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Hartley "Liz" Watkins.*



November 20, 2019 at 12:55 PM

HJ

“ *Howard Johnson lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth Hartley "Liz" Watkins*



Howard Johnson - November 20, 2019 at 12:23 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Hartley "Liz" Watkins.



November 20, 2019 at 10:13 AM



“ Shelby and Carrington Montague purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Elizabeth Hartley "Liz" Watkins.



Shelby and Carrington Montague - November 20, 2019 at 08:54 AM



“ Beautiful lady! So devoted to her church, her students, and her community! Much love to the family!!!



Norma Jones Greenwood - November 19, 2019 at 09:36 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Hartley "Liz" Watkins.



November 19, 2019 at 08:08 PM

JC

“ Mrs. Watkins was such a sweet lady and a good teacher. May God watch over her family during this difficult time.



Jenny Cowan-Smith - November 19, 2019 at 07:28 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Hartley "Liz" Watkins.



November 19, 2019 at 07:11 PM

SG

“ Mrs. Watkins was such an inspirational teacher. She encouraged me in high school, and I taught English and later served as School Counselor for 45 years! She was such a loving and caring teacher who sponsored GHS's FTA (Future Teachers of America) club when I served as President. I always thought of her as one of God's angels! She has returned home! ❤️

Sherry Ison Gary - November 19, 2019 at 05:19 PM

RS

“ Mrs. Watkins was a beautiful woman and good teacher. My thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Ruby Shavers - November 19, 2019 at 03:46 PM