



Mr. Connia Henry Watson, Jr.

January 1, 1936 - August 25, 2020

Connia Henry Watson, Jr. (84) of Durham, NC was born in Charlotte, NC on January 1, 1936 and was called to his eternal home on August 25, 2020. He became ill in the fall of last year, but continued to remain active in his church and community.

Connia spent his primary and secondary school years in Salisbury, NC. He graduated from Price High School where he was an excellent academic student and performed very well athletically – becoming one of the “Four Horseman” running backs on their state champion football team. He was an inductee in the high school’s athletic Hall of Fame.

Post high school, Connia became a 1957 graduate of North Carolina College at Durham (now North Carolina Central University) with a degree in Chemistry. After college, he began his career working in Washington, DC and then New York City, before returning to North Carolina and starting his life’s work with The North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company. Connia demonstrated a strong acumen for this business early and he quickly earned increasing positions of responsibility and was awarded “Manager of the Year” in 1967. While progressing in his career, he prepared for and achieved the Chartered Life Underwriter designation (CLU). Connia ultimately became the company’s Vice-President, Agency Director and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1990.

Connia Watson, Jr. has been a long-time, active member and supporter of the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Durham. At Covenant, he sang in three choirs, served as Chairman of the Budget/Finance Committee and he very proudly served as one of the mentors for youth in a neighboring community to the church. In addition, his service to the church extended to the broader Presbytery body where he served as Commissioner to the Presbyterian General Assembly.

Serving the Durham community was of great importance to Connia. He served on the Durham Board of Adjustments and chaired the board for six years, he served on the boards of the Urban Ministry Center, and the Greater Durham Black Chamber of Commerce, and for many years, he operated as President of North Carolina Mutual Retiree Club. He was also a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Connia was a devoted husband, father, brother, grandfather, great-grandfather, and uncle. He was preceded in death by his parents Connia H. Watson, Sr. and Mabel S. Watson, and his son-in-law, Myles K. Hudson. Connia is survived by his wife, the former Zelphia Gray; his children, Cheryl W. Hudson, Gregory A. Watson and Gena Watson (daughter-in-law); sibling, Odell Watson and Annette O. Watson (sister-in-law); grandchildren, Dr. Courtney Hudson Hinton and Derrien Hinton (grandson-in-law), Kevin G. Hudson and Carter Cundiff, Gregory A. Watson, Jr. (Alan), Andrew C. Watson (Drew), Elan M. Watson; great-grandchildren, Aiden Hinton and Preston Hinton. A host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends whom he loved dearly.

In lieu of flowers, please consider honoring Connia's memory by contributing to Covenant Presbyterian Church Men's Council Mentoring Program.

A graveside service of celebration has been scheduled for Wednesday,

September 2, 2020, at 12:00 noon at Beechwood Cemetery, 3300 Fayetteville Street, Durham, NC, 27707, with viewing from 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

In every effort to protect our families and their guests, face coverings are required.

Previous Events

Omega Ceremony

SEP 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

Beechwood Cemetery
3300 Fayetteville St
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 560-4154

Viewing

SEP 2. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Beechwood Cemetery
3300 Fayetteville St
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 560-4154

Graveside

SEP 2. 12:00 PM (ET)

Beechwood Cemetery
3300 Fayetteville St
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 560-4154

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Connia Henry Watson, Jr.*

October 05, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Connia Henry Watson, Jr..*



September 02, 2020 at 10:28 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Connia Henry Watson, Jr..*



September 01, 2020 at 04:08 PM



“ *To Zelphia and family, please find peace in knowing that our dear Connia is rejoicing, singing in the heavenly choir at anytime with no rehearsals and with no health challenges. It was a rewarding experience for the past 15 years at Covenant Presbyterian Church in knowing him. He was a person of integrity; along with his kind spirit and humor in the choirs. RIP Shirley T. Cole*

Shirley Cole - September 01, 2020 at 01:02 PM

KJ

“ Karen, Carlton, Kenneth and the Jones/ Womble families send our sincere condolences to the family of the late Connie H. Watson, Jr. We are so sorry to here about his passing. Our mother the late Mary Womble Jones worked with him for many years at the NC Mutual. After she passed, he spoke so well of her at her celebration of life service. May God continue bless all of you!

Kenneth W. Jones - August 31, 2020 at 12:23 PM

LG

“ To the Watson ,family words can't express the way I feel about. You love my late husband John E. Granger and you showed love to me. I will miss your phone calls "Henry Jr." as John would say, he would always say you and Odell were his big cousins but I trust the word of God when he assured us "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord " II Corinthians 5:8. To this great family you will forever be in my heart.

Sincerely,
Loretta & Jonathan Granger

Loretta Granger - August 31, 2020 at 10:43 AM

QL

“ Queen Lawrence lit a candle in memory of Mr. Connia Henry Watson, Jr.



Queen Lawrence - August 30, 2020 at 07:28 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Connia Henry Watson, Jr..*



August 30, 2020 at 05:29 PM



“ *With love, Jerome and Sue McLaurin purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Mr. Connia Henry Watson, Jr..*



With love, Jerome and Sue McLaurin - August 30, 2020 at 01:35 PM



“ *Connia was a longtime family friend who will be missed. William is in Georgia. I will let him know. His condolences are offered to the family*

Marsha G Kee - August 30, 2020 at 08:55 AM

JT

“ One of the most personable individuals I have ever met! While not with great frequency, each encounter I had with him was both memorable and special. I was always impressed by his willingness to acknowledge and recognize others he encountered.

His presence seemed to "light up a room". He will be missed!

May God smile on his Heavenly travel and cloak his family with love and grace.

- James Tabron

James Tabron - August 30, 2020 at 07:26 AM

JO

*Our deepest sympathy is extended to the Watson family. J C PRICE
SPORTS HALL OF FAME SALISBURY NC*

JC PRICE SPORTS HALL OF - August 30, 2020 at 08:54 PM

DF

“ Rest In Peace Bro. Watson! Your work here has been done with excellence. Your Fraternity Omega Psi Phi has benefited so much from your gentle approach and it is thoroughly appreciated and admired!

We are are praying for the Watson Family especially now. May God bless and keep the whole family.

Respectfully

The Fitts Family

Maxine, David and David, Jr.

David L. Fitts - August 29, 2020 at 08:27 PM

JR

*Condolences, prayers and expressions of love to the family of Omega brother Connia Watson.
May God provide comfort and strength to the family at this difficult time.
James & Phyllis Ratliff*

James Ellis Ratliff - August 29, 2020 at 11:14 PM

CB

“ *Sending my Condolences to the Family and Friends.... Carolyn Brooks-Brodie and Family..*



Carolyn Brooks-Brodie - August 29, 2020 at 07:16 PM