



# Wilma Jean Watkins

JUL 12, 1945 - JUN 18, 2022



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# Wilma Jean Watkins

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## A Celebration of Life Well Lived for Wilma Jean Watkins

Wilma Jean (Washington) Watkins was born on July 12, 1945, in Portland, Oregon, to the union of Tommie Washington and Irene (Ware) Washington. She was raised in a loving home with her five siblings: Ora, Lucille, Lula, Willie, Roy and her nephew Ellis Ray and nieces Rita, Arnita and Sharon.

She attended Boise Elementary School and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1963. After graduating from high school, she enrolled in a special program at Providence Hospital to become a Nurses Aid. But her pursuit in a nursing career was sidelined when she met and married Harold Steven Watkins, who was stationed at the Air Force Base in Portland, OR. To this union one child was born, Cynthia Irene (Watkins) Rodolph.

Ms. Jean wasn't a stranger to hard work or reluctant to chart a new career path. In the early 1970's she worked in production for Omark Industries, Inc., a Chain Saw Company in Oregon. In the mid 1970's she worked for Crown Zellerbach Paper Mill in Camas, Washington in management as a Clock Room Attendant. At Crown Z, she earned the title, "Pit Bull" because Momma didn't take no mess! After retiring from Crown Z, she became a Switch Board Operator for the Board of Medical Examiners. I'm certain her love for Bingo equipped her to master that switch board. Then, she decided to try a career in road construction and became a Traffic Control Flagger. As previously stated, she wasn't a stranger to hard work or reluctant to try something new.

Of all the many jobs Ms. Jean held throughout her career, being Granny to her one and only grandchild, Christopher Michael Rodolph superseded them all. In 2002, when she learned she would soon become a grandmother, she couldn't pack and move fast enough. Wherever Christopher was, that's where his Granny longed to be because he was her pride & joy, and they shared a very special bond.



## Obituary

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Ms. Jean joined Bethel AME Church and sang in the Inspirational Choir for several years. She later joined Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church where she served faithfully in several ministries until she moved to Atlanta, Georgia in 2002. There she joined Old Mountain Top Baptist Church and sang a joyful noise in the Thomas Dorsey Birthplace Choir until she relocated to Texas in 2007 and became a member of Koinonia Christian Church.

Ms. Jean was a devoted mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. She enjoyed attending church, traveling, shopping, and playing Bingo (when she could), watching “The Young and the Restless,” listening to gospel music, eating fried catfish, and spending time with family and friends. She has maintained close relationships with her remaining childhood friends and formed strong bonds with new ones met along the way. Her generosity had no bounds. She was always swift to help anyone in need...without question.

On Saturday, June 18, 2022, Mom was called home to be with her Lord and Savior.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her siblings, Willie Thomas Washington (Faye) and Roy Lee Washington; her daughter, Cynthia Irene Rodolph (Michael); grandson, Christopher Michael Rodolph. And a host of nieces...great & great-great, nephews...great & great-great, cousins and extended family and friends too numerous to mention. She will truly be missed.

Jean was preceded in death by her parents: Tommie and Irene Washington, sisters: Ora Lee Beemon, Lucille Washington, Lula Russell, sister-in-law: Peggy Washington, and nieces: Arnita Leary and Rita Leary.

The Celebration of Life Service can viewed on the church livestream link:

<https://www.koinonia.cc/watkins-family/>



# Events

**Wilma Jean Watkins**

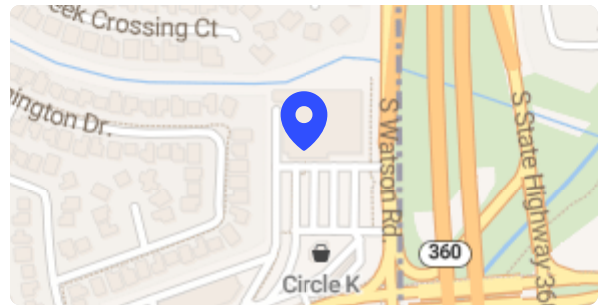
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## Final Viewing - Texas

**Friday**, July 1, 2022

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CT

**Koinonia Christian Church**  
2455 SE Green Oaks Blvd, Arlington TX 76018

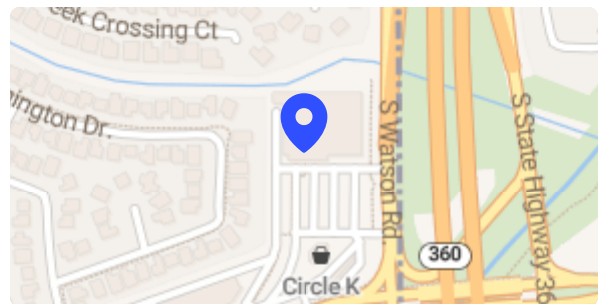


## Celebration of Life - Texas

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11:00 AM CT

**Koinonia Christian Church**  
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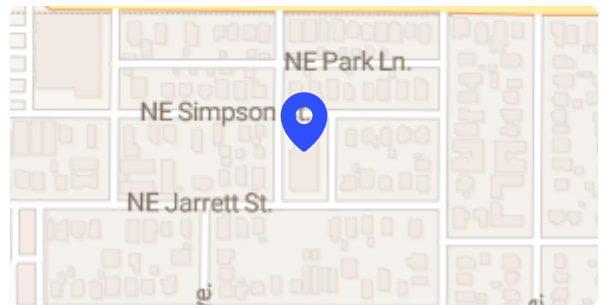


## Final Viewing - Oregon

**Wednesday**, July 6, 2022

9:30 AM - 10:00 AM PT

**Bethel AME Church**  
5828 NE 8th Street, Portland OR 97211

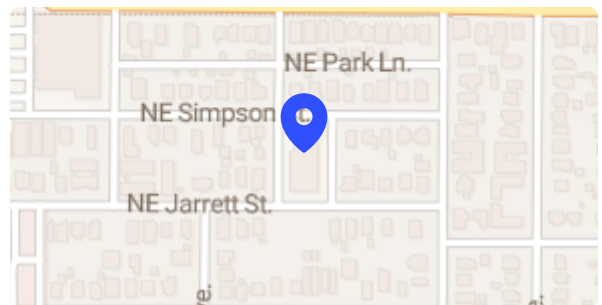


## Celebration of Life - Oregon

**Wednesday**, July 6, 2022

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## Events

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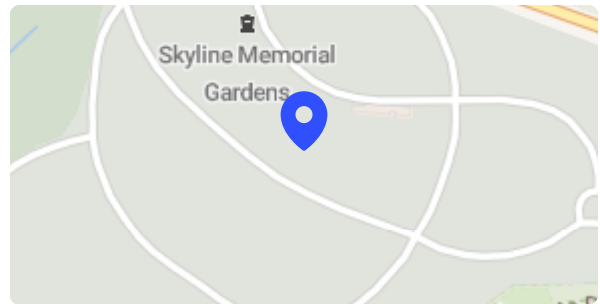
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### Cemetery Details



**Skyline Memorial Gardens**

4101 NW Skyline Blvd, Portland OR 97229





# Tribute Wall

**Wilma Jean Watkins**

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**Annette Turner** lit a candle in honor of Wilma.

To My Family, I'm so thankful for the memories of growing up with you all and my time with Cousin Jeanie. I was able to visit with her and Cynthia in Texas, and she visited with us in California. We went to restaurants, shopping, and did a lot of laughing and reminiscing. It was a great time, those memories will remain in my heart. Sending you Hugs, Peace & Blessings! ❤️ 🙏



July 6 at 7:12 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Watkins family.



June 30 at 9:29 AM



**Patricia C Jones** sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Watkins family.



June 28 at 3:09 PM



**Sharon Hudson** posted:

Words cannot express how much I will miss my Aunt Jeanie. All of my life she has been a strong pillar for me and my siblings. She has always supported me and my family by frequently planning trips to Florida to help make our holidays and milestone events enjoyable. I took great delight in pampering her and making her feel special in the "Queen's" bedroom". We would often hunt for the latest and best fish restaurants by driving to the different coast in Florida. She "loved" her fish and it better be cooked right! I will truly miss those early morning calls that we frequently exchanged to encourage each other. I find peace in knowing that she is with our Lord and Saviour. My sincere condolences to my cousin Cyn and her family. ❤️

June 25 at 12:02 PM



**Sheila Chappelle** posted:

Cynthia may the Lord hold and comfort you during this time. There is no other like a mother and reading through she seemed to be such an extraordinary person. Her memories will live on. Prayers for you and your family. Love Sheila Chappelle

June 25 at 5:05 AM



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**Cheryl Williams** posted:

Cynthia, you are in my prayers. You were such a dedicated and loving daughter and took such great care of your mom. God is there to comfort and strengthen you! 🙏

June 24 at 5:49 PM



**Jason Polk** posted:

My fondest memory of Annie Jeanie was when we went to the Lloyd Center in her purple GMC truck during an ice blizzard in Portland. That purple Jimmy truck was tough and every time i saw her we would go somewhere in that purple truck. That truck to me symbolizes the strength she carried for not only for her family but also her relationship with Christ. You will be missed but not forgotten.

June 24 at 12:41 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Gracious Lavender Basket to the Watkins family.



June 23 at 10:28 AM



**Patsy Maclin** posted:

Cynthia, may time ease the pain that no words can. Jean, is a beautiful person, inside and out. Always on point, a giving spirit comes natural for her. God fearing women, I love my friend and will truly miss her. God bless you, and the family. My friend Patsy Maclin

June 23 at 5:10 AM



**Sheryl Carter** posted:

Cynthia, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult season of life. May the beautiful memories of your mom comfort and keep you all in perfect peace. Sheryl Carter OWCP

June 23 at 3:29 AM



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**Greta A Miller** posted:

Cynthia, I'm so sorry to hear about your mother's passing. You and your family are in my prayers. Love, Greta

June 22 at 3:30 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Watkins family.



June 22 at 2:27 PM



**Heather Jefferson** posted:

Momma Jean will definitely be missed, she's gave the most comforting hugs, always had a beautiful smile on her face and dressed to the tee every time I saw her. Sending my love and comforting prayers to your family and friends. Much Love ❤️ Heather

June 22 at 12:45 PM



**Rashonda Washington** posted:

I remember being in high school. They had this style of leather jackets. All the kids had them.. And I wanted a jacket. But not exactly like the other kids. Well my aunt Jeannie. Called me over to the house one day. She had gotten me a leather jacket Not just any jacket either. It was better than all the kids. But I think that was her mission. Aunt Jeannie! You will truly be missed. Love you Rashonda

June 22 at 9:22 AM



**Ms. Joan** June 29 at 11:51 AM

Remembering your wonderful mother and wishing you and your family comfort and peace. Much love, Ms. Joan



**Gwendolyn Rodolph Starks** June 23 at 7:30 AM

Our hearts are filled with sorrow. May Mama Jean rest in God's loving arms. I know Mama Jean is styling and profiling with her "Purple Halo and Purple Wings!" May God grant you and the family peace and comfort at this time. We love you!



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Wilma by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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