



Tony Denson Watkins

August 18, 1962 - September 11, 2022

Tony Denson Watkins, of Graceville, passed away suddenly at this home on September 11, 2022. Tony was born in Opelika, Alabama on August 18, 1962.

Tony was a giving, caring and selfless soul. For many years Tony taught agriculture in Slocomb, Alabama and later continued his career in Marianna, Florida. Tony was an inspiration to his students through his dedication and true love for his work and his students. As was expressed by one friend Tony was a shining example of a life very well lived in the service of others. Anyone that knew Tony loved him. His sense of humor, hard work and willingness to give to others was well known by all. When he was not travelling with his student on an FFA trip he loved to golf and watch anything Auburn, NASCAR and his Corgi dogs. Tony was an example to us all of what a person should be. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Graceville.

Tony is preceded in death by his parents James Dewey and Maynelle Chafin Watkins, sisters Deloris Waller and Rita Watkins and in-laws- James and Janice Calloway.

He is survived by his wife of 29 years Michelle Calloway Watkins, brother Dana (Carole) Watkins, sister Sheri (Tony) Armstrong, nephews Kevin (Laurel) Armstrong and Kyle (Nicole) Armstrong, brothers-in-law Keith (Diane) Calloway and Kevin Calloway.

A Celebration of His Life will be held 10 a.m., Friday, September 16, 2022, at the Graceville Civic Center 5224 Brown Street Graceville, FL 32440, with Dr. Naethan Hendrix, Dr. David Coggins, Bro. Alvin Johnson, and Bro. Chris Franklin officiating. Interment will follow in Pinecrest Memorial Gardens in Marianna, Florida with James & Lipford Funeral Home in Graceville directing.

Visitation will be at the Graceville Civic Center, Thursday, September 15, 2022, from 5:00 PM until 7 PM.

In lieu of flowers family request memorials be made in Tony's memory to the Chipola FFA Federation Account c/o Jackson County Teachers Credit Union mailing address P.O. Box 954 Marianna, FL 32447 or the location 4466 Clinton Street Marianna, Florida 32446.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **15.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Graceville Civic Center
5224 Brown Street
Graceville, FL 32440

Celebration of Life

SEP **16.** 10:00 AM (CT)

Graceville Civic Center
5224 Brown Street
Graceville, FL 32440

Tribute Wall

LB

“ *The lives touched by Tony are numerous. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Tony played a large part in the life of our son. Tony started working Mark in calf shows when he was only in the fifth grade and continued through out his high school days. Mark was a quiet shy child, but because of the influence Tony had on him, he became a leader. He not only touched Mark's life, but ours as well.*

James & Linda Bedsole

Linda Bedsole - September 14, 2022 at 02:44 PM

PS

“ *So sorry to hear of his passing. He taught our children at Slocomb. A great inspiring man. Thoughts and prayers to all. May God bless and comfort. Paul & Pat Scott*

Pat & Paul Scott - September 14, 2022 at 08:59 AM

DA

“ *Sending my prayers and thoughts to the family! Mr. Watkins was one of the best teachers I had at Slocomb High School. He was always so kind, compassionate, and loving. Often finding himself going down "rabbit holes" when teaching. We never complained. Got us out of work, lol. He will truly be missed, but know he will continue to live on through the people's lives he touched and changed. He was truly a ray of sunshine in a dark storm. Rest Easy.*



Dalyas - September 12, 2022 at 08:49 PM

DJ

My heart goes out to his wife, and siblings. The Watkins are outstanding people in the Beauregard community. I know Tony reflected that warmth in which he was raised in his community and to his students. Prayers for all who knew him.

Debra Rice Jackson - September 13, 2022 at 01:25 PM

MW

I grew up with Tony in Beauregard community. For my brother and myself, Tony and his sister Sheri were our most favorite people to go over and see during the summer season or Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. I remember playing in the barn, fishing at the pond, and playing tag or football in the front yard. Those were good times, and they're what I remember when I think of him. He and his whole family were always kind and generous. "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Michael Woods - September 15, 2022 at 07:13 PM