

Pall Bearers

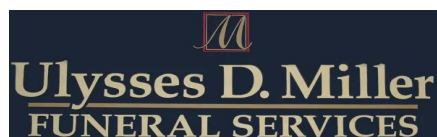
F&AM Masons

Flower Bearers

Gail Dewberry
Mona Lipscomb
Annette Bomer
Teresa Mosely
Veronica Phillips Powers
Sharon Dover

Acknowledgement

The family of Mr. Lemuel Watkins, Sr. would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for the many acts of love, kindness, and support shown to us during this difficult time.



485 Poors Ford Road | Rutherfordton, NC 28093
Phone: 828-287-3800

"We Are The Voice of Comfort In Your Hour of Grief"

A Home Going Celebration

Honoring the Life and Legacy of



MR. LEMUEL WATKINS, SR.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025 1:00 PM
NEW ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
117 RAGTOWN ROAD
FOREST CITY, NORTH CAROLINA



A Letter from Heaven

*When tomorrow starts without me,
And I'm not there to see;
The sun should rise and find your eyes
All filled with tears for me.*

*I wish so much you wouldn't cry,
The way you did today;
While thinking of the many things
We didn't get to say.*

*I know how much you love me,
As much as I love you;
And each time that you think of me,
I know you'll miss me too.
When tomorrow starts without me,
Don't think we're far apart;
For every time you think of me,
I'm right here in your heart.*

Alena Hakala Meadows





MOMENT OF SHARING

ProcessionalClergy and Family.
Reception of Friends/ Viewing..... 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

ORDER OF SERVICE

Presiding, Rev. Norman Aiken

Song..... "I Can Only Imagine"Robin McDowell
Prayer..... Rev. Robert E. Lipscomb
Old Testament..... Elder Gloria Diane Dalton
New Testament.....Rev. Stephiane Calhoun
Cousin

Song.....Family

Reading of the Obituary..... Maudia Watkins
Daughter

Reflections:

Words on behalf of the School Board.....Wilfred McDowell, Cousin
Words on behalf of the GrandchildrenClarissa, JT and Bart
Words of Comfort to the Family.....Elder Tony Giles, Spiritual Leader

Solo....."Precious Lord"Veronica Phillips Powers

Eulogy.....Rev. Travis McEntire
Nephew

Recessional....."Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In"
Elder Thomas Dalton

INTERMENT

Rutherford County Memorial Cemetery
1743 Chase High Road
Forest City, North Carolina 28043

REPAST

New Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall

Lemuel Watkins, Sr. departed this life on Saturday, October 18, 2025. He transitioned from this earth to his heavenly home shortly after having all of his children with him on his 96th birthday.

Lemuel was favorably known by many throughout our small Henrietta community where he lived and worked for over 90 years. He was affectionately called the “Mayor of Henrietta”, and friends and neighbors would often stop by the house to learn historical information about our community, to seek advice, or to discuss current events or politics. They came for the fellowship but they also would leave with bags of fresh vegetables from his garden.

Lemuel obtained a Christian upbringing that started right here at New Zion when he was just a little fella. He was ordained as a deacon at the age of 19 years old. His service to New Zion included him serving as Sunday School Superintendent and singing in the Male Chorus.

Due to his desire to be a contributing member of his community, he became a F&AM Mason at the age of 18 (circa 1947). Home and community responsibilities took priority after the Henrietta Lodge that once stood where New Zion’s Fellowship Hall is located, burned to the ground in the mid 1960s. But in 2021, Rev. Brother Jerome Wilkerson led the cause to restore Lemuel’s active status, and made sure he was properly recognized by the State of North Carolina as his acclimated status of Master Mason Watkins.

The family is grateful that daddy’s brothers from the Unionville Lodge #729 of Spindale, NC, welcomed their brother home with open arms and are present here today to carry out his proper burial ceremony (happening graveside).

Other community endeavors included his service to Proctor Elementary School and Chase High School. He served for over 15 years on the Chase High School Advisory Board. Lemuel’s bright congratulatory smile greeted hundreds of graduating Chase High School students as they crossed the stage and received their high school diploma from Principal Larry Francis.

He was a pioneer for Hospice of the Foothills, playing an intricate role from planning to groundbreaking. If you ever find yourself visiting hospice of the Foothills here in Rutherford County, look for the mural that shows a man riding a John Deere tractor. That’s Lemuel.

He worked at Duke Energy (formerly, Duke Power) at Lake Norman and played a role in building the Duke Energy Dam that still stands today. He

then moved on to work for Cone Mill Corporation for more than 40 years where he was a lead Sulzer technician.

Volunteer positions included Forest City Auxiliary Police, Chief of Rutherford County Rescue Crew, Boy Scout Troop Leader, and Santa Claus for the sick and shut-in.

Lemuel was married to the late Etheleen Watkins for 71 years before the Lord called her home in May 2020. Their union was blessed with six children. Kathrine Malinda (deceased), Lemuel Jr. (Debra), Lila (Michael), Gloria (Anthony), Maudia, and Max. Ten grands, seven great grands, and two great great grand and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

At the time of his death, Lemuel was a 27-year cancer survivor who maintained a consistently positive outlook on life. We leave you with a phrase he used in his home, at church, throughout the community, and sure enough while on vacation. Will you read it out loud with me?

“Thank you for your kindness and your Southern hospitality will never be obliterated.” - Lemuel Watkins, Sr.



Together Again