



Mrs. Cathy Watford James

July 3, 1960 - June 30, 2024

It is with deep sorrow that Mr. Tony Charles James, Sr. announces the death of his beloved wife, Mrs. Cathy Watford James, 63. Mrs. James entered into rest on Sunday, June 30, 2024. The Directors of Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home & Crematory are caring for the family.

The family will receive friends at 6 o'clock on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, in The Chapel of Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in her honor to: Darlington County Humane Society, PO Box 1655, Hartsville, SC 29551 or Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, PO Box 22324, New York, NY 10087.

Mrs. James was born on July 3, 1960, in Hartsville, SC. She was the daughter of the late Herbert Lee Watford and the late Vara Almena Coates Watford. Cathy was always a giver who thought of others before herself. From a young age, she enjoyed being the “mom” of her friends group, always making sure each of her friends were taken care of first. She married Tony, the love of her life, on June 21, 1982, which began a marriage that spanned an incredible 42 years. During those 42 years, Cathy was never far away from Tony. The farthest was during his years in the United States Navy, in which he would be away at sea for months, though she moved with him throughout his naval career and, ultimately, landed back in Hartsville where they settled down to

build a career and family. Cathy was solidly devoted to Tony until the date of her untimely passing.

While Cathy was a master of many skills and trades, she was undoubtedly best known in Hartsville simply as “CJ.” She opened CJ’s Cakes & Catering in 1996, at the insistence of her late father, in a two-story home on Armory Street in Hartsville. She operated CJ’s out of this location until 2003 when she moved it to the current location at 315 S. 5th St. For 28 years, Cathy has made CJ’s a staple in Hartsville, and the surrounding areas, for her famous 6-layer chocolate/caramel cakes and so much more. Multiple generations have enjoyed her cakes, cookies, squares, and party helpers for decades and nearly all who visited were greeted by a smile from Cathy when they walked in.

While her devotion to her husband and her business were of the utmost importance to her, her proudest moments came when she was with her entire family. Cathy loved her two sons, Charlie and Zach, their wives Bethany and Jordan, and especially her four grandbabies, Irby, Walt, Tony Charles, and Ruby. There was nothing that Cathy loved more than a pool day in Hartsville, watching them swim with Papa, or a beach day in Surfside watching them play together in the waves and sand. She also loved having her entire family under one roof every Thanksgiving and Christmas. She will undoubtedly be missed by so many but none more so than her family that she valued above all else.

She is survived by her loving husband of 42 years, Tony Charles James, Sr. of Hartsville; sons, Tony Charles “Charlie” (Bethany) James, Jr. of York, SC, Zachary Walter “Zach” (Jordan) James, Sr. of Hartsville; grandchildren, Irby Ann James of York, SC, Zachary Walter “Walt” James, Jr. of Hartsville, Tony Charles James III of York, SC, Ruby Sellers James of Hartsville; sister, Sandra (Larry) Huggins of Hartsville; sister-in-law, Angela (Gary) Howell of

Oates; nephews, Sam Huggins of Hartsville, Alex (Meg) Huggins of Lexington, SC; and many special aunts, uncles, and cousins.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Nira Ann Watford of Hartsville; father- and mother-in-law, Charles and Ruby Frances James.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 2. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Brown Pennington Atkins Funeral Home
306 West Home Avenue
Hartsville, SC 29550
info@bpafuneralhome.com
<http://www.bpafuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Brown - Pennington - Atkins Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home - July 02, 2024 at 07:41 PM

AN

“ *Tony , Charlie and Zach I am so sorry to hear about your wife and mom . She was a hard working lady. She will always be remembered for her delicious cakes, and will greatly be missed by all.*

Angela Neal - July 24, 2024 at 08:07 AM

WB

“ *Charlie and Zach, I'm so sorry to hear about your momma! She was a sweet lady and will be missed! You and your family are in my thoughts and prayer! Love, Wendi Beattie*

Wendi Beattie - July 08, 2024 at 01:19 PM

BM

“ *Sincerest condolences to all.*



Billy and Jo-Ann Matthews - July 07, 2024 at 07:22 PM

MG

“ Marie Gardner sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James



Marie Gardner - July 04, 2024 at 11:56 PM

RH

“ Rick Harrold lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James



Rick Harrold - July 04, 2024 at 08:41 PM

LG

“ Lisa Grimsley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James



Lisa Grimsley - July 04, 2024 at 06:20 PM

EH

“ Sandra and Larry
Thinking of you during these difficult days
Gene and Elaine Hubbard



Elaine Hubbard - July 04, 2024 at 02:27 PM

KB

“ *Kathy Beasley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



Kathy Beasley - July 03, 2024 at 03:03 PM

CB

“ *Carol Elmore Bryant lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



carol elmore bryant - July 03, 2024 at 11:58 AM

PD

“ *Pat Dailey lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



Pat Dailey - July 03, 2024 at 11:35 AM

AR

“ *Tony, Charlie and Zach, I'm sorry! You are in our prayers!*



angie raines - July 03, 2024 at 07:47 AM

AB

“ *Amy Blackburn lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



Amy Blackburn - July 02, 2024 at 10:17 PM

JC

“ *Jeri And Jim Cox lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



Jeri and Jim Cox - July 02, 2024 at 09:41 PM

PC

“ *Pat Cassidy lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



Pat cassidy - July 02, 2024 at 09:38 PM

WH

“ *I have know my friend Cathy for over[25]years i am so sorry for your loss she is a great person and will be missed by me and so many more. I love her cakes and was all ways ready to help any one. LOVE you your friend Willie Herbert. I will see you in heaven some day soon.*



willie herbert - July 02, 2024 at 07:23 PM

CN

“ Tony , Zach and Family. Sorry to hear of your loss. Praying for you during this difficult time.



Chris and Rhonda Norton - July 02, 2024 at 07:14 PM

GV

“ Gary Vann lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James



Gary Vann - July 02, 2024 at 06:39 PM

AS

“ Al & Melinda Sansbury lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James



Al & Melinda Sansbury - July 02, 2024 at 04:18 PM

CD

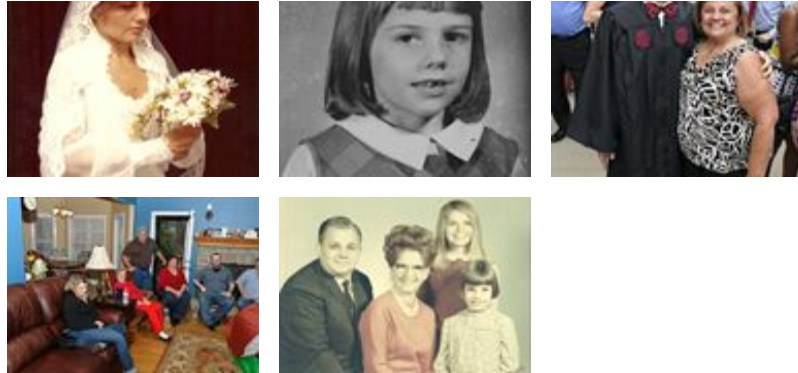
“ My heartfelt condolences over the loss of someone you loved so much. May got comfort the family now and in the days to come. Thoughts and prayers.



Cora Dial - July 02, 2024 at 04:08 PM



“ 50 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home - July 02, 2024 at 03:37 PM

SB

“ *Susan Brown lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



Susan Brown - July 02, 2024 at 02:13 PM

DW

“ *Sandra and family,
So sorry...Sending love and prayers for
comfort!*

Rick and Debbie Watson



Deborah Watson - July 02, 2024 at 02:09 PM

SG

“ *Sheila Grant lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



Sheila Grant - July 02, 2024 at 12:55 PM

SG

I was so sad to hear this news and am brokenhearted for the family. Sending prayers and love your way.

Sheila Grant - July 02, 2024 at 12:57 PM

BP

“ *Billy And Jackie Pierce lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



Billy and Jackie Pierce - July 02, 2024 at 12:47 PM

BH

“ *Sandra and Family- I am so very sorry to hear of Cathy's passing, May you find peace and comfort with your family in this loss. Thoughts and prayers for you all.*

Bobbie Huggins

Bobbie Huggins - July 02, 2024 at 09:26 AM

FW

“ I’m so saddened to see the passing of Cathy. She was a wonderful and giving person. It’s been a lot of years but I remember the early days working together at Piggy Wiggly. Tony joined the navy and her missing him and Cathy driving her jeep. I hope all the beautiful memories will bring the family some peace. My deepest sympathies to you and your family.

Frank (Bubba) White - July 02, 2024 at 09:19 AM

MZ

“ CJ will certain be missed and a tremendous void is left. Love and Prayers to her family ... whom she “created” better than her cakes.

Madge Zemp - July 02, 2024 at 08:06 AM

LW

“ So sorry for your loss. Prayers for the family.



Leroy Watts - July 02, 2024 at 07:39 AM

PJ

“ Tony, Charlie, Zack, and family, our hearts are broken for all of you. We had no idea that Kathy was sick. Cherish the memories. We love you.
Pat and Robert



Pat and Robert James - July 02, 2024 at 07:14 AM

JL

“ Prayers for Sandra and all the family!



judy Lane - July 02, 2024 at 02:07 AM

JA

“ James And Angela Astralla lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James



James and Angela Astralla - July 01, 2024 at 11:24 PM

LR

“ Lester And Lori Reynolds lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James



Lester and Lori Reynolds - July 01, 2024 at 10:45 PM

RS

“ Our deepest sympathy to the family , so very sorry for your loss.



ROBERT & ROSE STEEN - July 01, 2024 at 09:45 PM

ES

“ *Cathy was an extra special, talented lady! So full of life ! So kind ! My heart is so sad , and my prayers are with her family. She will be missed soooo much .*



Effie Smith - July 01, 2024 at 09:45 PM

SA

“ *Sheila A lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



Sheila A - July 01, 2024 at 08:37 PM

TG

“ *Thomas Mitchell Gainey lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



thomas mitchell gainey - July 01, 2024 at 08:07 PM

SF

“ *Sandra Flynn lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



Sandra Flynn - July 01, 2024 at 07:59 PM

SJ

“ *Sheila Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



Sheila Johnson - July 01, 2024 at 07:32 PM

FJ

“ *Freddie & Claudia James lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



Freddie & Claudia James - July 01, 2024 at 07:17 PM

TK

“ *Sending my condolences and prayers to Cathy's family. She will be missed by all who knew her.*



Teresa Kinsey - July 01, 2024 at 06:39 PM

SS

“ *Scarlet And Mark Shealy lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



Scarlet and Mark Shealy - July 01, 2024 at 04:53 PM

DK

“ *Deb And Tommy Keith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



Deb and Tommy Keith - July 01, 2024 at 03:39 PM

LG

“ *Lynn Grant lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



Lynn Grant - July 01, 2024 at 03:34 PM

DB

“ *Prayers for all the family and friends.*



Danny and DeeDee Byrd - July 01, 2024 at 03:11 PM

JS

“ *Jean Stratton lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



Jean Stratton - July 01, 2024 at 03:07 PM

KM

“ We are so very sorry for your loss of Cathy. Our prayers continue for all of you during this most difficult time. God bless you all.



Kathy and Rodney McFarland - July 01, 2024 at 03:01 PM

RS

“ Rebecca Skinner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James



Rebecca Skinner - July 01, 2024 at 02:21 PM

AB

“ It's still so hard to believe! Just the other week we were talking and catching up on old family times , talking about retiring , grandkids etc... Love and Prayers to all her family now and in all the days to come☐



Artis Bailey - July 01, 2024 at 02:18 PM

NJ

“ Norma James lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James



Norma James - July 01, 2024 at 02:04 PM

TW

“ We are so sorry. Love and prayers for the family.



Travis and Marilyn Walters - July 01, 2024 at 01:47 PM

MU

“ Maggie Usher lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James



Maggie Usher - July 01, 2024 at 01:36 PM

MH

“ Mr. Tony, Zach, and family you all are in my prayers. So sorry for your loss.



Melinda Hendrix - July 01, 2024 at 01:28 PM

AR

“ Tony, Charlie, Zach, Angela, Sandra and family. I was shocked to hear about Cathy. So sorry for your loss and I pray that God gives you peace and comfort today and the days to come. Love you guys and my heart aches for y'all.

April James Rivers

April Rivers - July 01, 2024 at 01:24 PM



DS

“ Donna Sansbury lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James

Donna Sansbury - July 01, 2024 at 01:22 PM



“ Lisa LeBoeuf lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James

Lisa LeBoeuf - July 01, 2024 at 01:15 PM



AT

“ I am so so sorry.....Cathy and I worked at the Piggly Wiggly when we were in high school and kept in touch through CJ's. We recently saw each other at our grandboys baseball games at Byerly Park. She was always a good friend to me. Prayers for her sweet family during this difficult time.

Abby Tyner - July 01, 2024 at 01:14 PM

SG

“ Tony, Charlie, Zack and Sandra.... I am heartbroken for you all. Sending my love and continued prayers for you all. I am so sorry for your loss.

Susan Goode - July 01, 2024 at 01:08 PM

GW

“ My deepest sympathies to all of Cathy's family. We were good childhood friends.



Gloria Wase White - July 01, 2024 at 01:05 PM

BG

Sorry for your lost.

Bryan Galloway - July 01, 2024 at 01:55 PM

DB

“ David And Beverly Byrd lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James



David and Beverly Byrd - July 01, 2024 at 12:47 PM

GO

“ *Grady L O'Neal lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



Grady L O'Neal - July 01, 2024 at 12:46 PM

JI

“ *There are no words that can ease your pain of losing such an important part of your family. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers. Love y'all.*

John and Cindy Isgett - July 01, 2024 at 12:30 PM

CE

“ *Crystal Hayden Earle lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



Crystal Hayden Earle - July 01, 2024 at 12:27 PM

BB

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. May God give you comfort and strength to get through you hard days. We love your family, and will pray for each of you.*



Brenda and Robert Bailey - July 01, 2024 at 12:27 PM

JS

“ 🙏🙏🙏🙏 Prayers & condolences to the James entire family. 🙏🙏
🙏🙏

God received another “Angel”; R.I.P.

jim stewart - July 01, 2024 at 12:20 PM

MC

“ *Matt Cassidy lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



Matt Cassidy - July 01, 2024 at 12:10 PM

DT

“ *Debbie Talbert lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cathy Watford James*



Debbie Talbert - July 01, 2024 at 12:05 PM

MH

“ *Tony, Charlie and Zach and family, I am so so sorry for your loss. Cathy was loved by so many she will be greatly missed. Prayers of comfort for you today and the days to come.*
Mona Howell



Mona Howell - July 01, 2024 at 12:02 PM

MW

“ *My sincere condolences. Thinking and praying for all of the family. May god’s love be with you.*



Mike Ward - July 01, 2024 at 11:35 AM

EJ

“ *Tony, Charlie, Zach, Angela, and Sandra, I was so saddened and shocked to hear this news yesterday. Please remember to lean on Christ throughout this difficult time. I will be praying for all of you . Cathy was a diamond, always sparkling but rough enough to handle what she faced. Love you all. Ethel Johnson*

Ethel Johnson - July 01, 2024 at 11:29 AM