



James Dan Watford, Sr.

June 1, 1921 - March 5, 2010

Funeral services for James Dan Watford, Sr., 88, will be held at 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at Wesley United Methodist Church. The Rev. Terry Martin will officiate with burial in Magnolia Cemetery directed by Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home. The family will receive friends Monday from 5-7 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to Wesley United Methodist Church, 145 E. College Ave., Hartsville, SC 29550 or the Vera King Watford Scholarship Fund of Coker College, 300 E. College Ave., Hartsville, SC 29550.

Mr. Watford died Friday, March 5, 2010. Born in Darlington County, SC, he was a son of the late Lucas Furman and Vera Inez King Watford. He was predeceased by his brothers, Furman, Ralph, and Thomas; sisters, Sarah Francis W. Hoffmeyer, Miriam W. Harvin, and Doris W. Lister. He was also predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Christine Stanton Watford, and his granddaughter, Shannon Leigh Garforth.

Mr. Watford was a life long, loyal and active member of the United Methodist Church. He worshiped and served in many positions in his home church of Hartsville Wesley United Methodist Church, where his late parents also worshiped. For many years, he shared teaching responsibilities for the Jake Taylor Men's Sunday School Class.

From 1939-1985, Mr. Watford was employed with Sonoco Products Company, having served at plants in Rockingham, NC, Los Angeles, CA, City of Industry, CA, and Hartsville. His employment at Sonoco steadily progressed through

increasingly responsible positions from “floor boy” in the Spiral Department, to production, to supervisor, accounting and sales, management, and a return to Hartsville in 1966 in sales and marketing management. Prior to his “official” employment with Sonoco, Mr. Watford worked as a “candy boy” during high school at the company store, walking through the mill and offices selling candy, crackers, and soft drinks. He believed he knew the name of every Sonoco employee in Hartsville at the time. Mr. Watford retired from Sonoco in 1985 as VP National Accounts-Corporate Marketing Staff, based in Hartsville. He served in the US Army from 1943-1945 as a radio instructor in the Signal Corps. As a long time resident of Hartsville, he served the community in many varied capacities. He served as president of Kiwanis in both his California and Hartsville clubs and was named Kiwanian of the Year in 1971 by the Hartsville Club, of which he was a charter member; supported local Boy Scout troops and once served as district chairman of the Black Creek District and also served as a member of the executive board of the Pee Dee Area Council; served as both a vice chairman and chairman of the Board of Trustees of Byerly Hospital; past director and president of the Hartsville Country Club; past president of the Hartsville Chamber of Commerce; supporter of Kalmia Gardens, Renofest, the Billy Hardee Home for Boys and many other local and national organizations; established with his sisters the Vera King Watford Endowed Scholarship Fund at Coker College, in honor and memory of their late mother; and also served on the Coker College Board of Visitors.

Mr. Watford is survived by his sister, Connie W. Ellis of Mullins, SC; son and daughter-in-law, Dan, Jr. and Linda Watford of Hartsville, SC; daughters and son-in-law, Libby W. and Bill Gabel of Hartsville, SC, Jeanne W. Garforth of Clinton, MS; 8 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren, and many loving nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the staff at Morrell Nursing Center for their compassionate, professional care and would like to express our sincere gratitude to Christine Simon for her loving assistance for the past several years.

Tribute Wall



“ *Danny, Libby, & Jeanne and families:*

Your Dad used to dress in the most handsome outfit, hat and tie and walk that dear little Boston Terrier when we first moved to Club Colony. I'd slow the car down and he'd tip his hand, and smile that handsome smile and all was right in the world. A long time after he moved, I'd still look for him out of habit. I have to admit, sometimes I still do. Dan Sr. was a gentleman in every sense of the word, and there is not a soul in Hartsville that doesn't have a wonderful story to tell of how kind and intelligent he was. Blessings to you all as you miss him, and may you all be comforted by knowing that he is in Heaven with his beloved. I bet that little dog is there with them, too. Much love to you all.##imported-begin##Jana E. Longfellow##imported-end##

March 11, 2010 at 11:22 PM



“ *Libby, Bill and Laura,*
I'm so sorry I couldn't see you in person during visitation and the funeral. I was out of town, but you all have been on my heart and in my prayers.
Mr. Watford / Granddaddy always wore a smile and was the sharpest dresser! I will miss him.
Love you all! Catherine##imported-begin##Catherine Stanley##imported-end##

March 10, 2010 at 10:42 AM



“ Dan, Linda, and family, I just read about Dan Sr.'s passing. I am so sorry for your loss. I will never forget his smiling face. My prayers are with all of you!

Janet Wilhite and Bryce Lail###imported-begin##Janet Wilhite###imported-end##

March 09, 2010 at 08:45 PM



“ To the children and grandchildren of Dan and Christine Watford,

My late husband Harrison and I, had the honor and pleasure to call Dan and Christine our friends for more than 50 years. At one time we were all in California together, before we eventually ended up in Hartsville once again. We shared many happy times together, some of them quite memorable. We had a lot of fun and laughs. When Christine became ill and went into her first nursing home in Florence, Dan spent every minute with her. Then he moved her to back to Hartsville, so he could spend even more time with her. He went twice a day and never misseed a day. He brushed her teeth and helped to get her ready for bed every night. After she died, as he wept, he told me that he missed her so much and the routine for caring for her. At one time he and Harrison were both patients at Morrell at the same time. I went to see Dan of course. I hugged his neck and said "Hi Dan, do you know who this is?" He said " Well I know that voice, but I can't recall your name." It truly broke my heart, and I could not go back again, I'm so sorry to say. He was a kind, loving, honorable and gracious man. I hope he and Harrison will get together soon!

Mrs. John Harrison Martin Jr.###imported-begin##Mrs. John Harrison Martin Jr.###imported-end##

March 09, 2010 at 05:29 PM



“ *Mr. Dan, I would like to extend my sympathy to you and your family. I did not know your father but I wanted you to know that you are in my thoughts and prayers and will continue to be. If I can be of any help, please call me. God bless you all and may He be with you through this very hard time.##imported-begin##Wanda Wingo##imported-end##*

March 09, 2010 at 01:19 PM



“ *Thanks For sharing Mr. James Watford with me. I am a CNA at Morrell Nursing Center. He was a very nice man to be around. And If I can Help in any way call me at 843-378-9216. My prayers & thoughts are with the Family and love ones too.##imported-begin##Shelia M. Carver##imported-end##*

March 09, 2010 at 08:07 AM



“ *Bill and Libby and family,*

We trust the Lord will be with you at this time. We know that your father is now with his wife in a pleasant reunion.

We know that he was a very dedicated family man.

Love and prayers,

Jerry and Robin##imported-begin##Jerry and Robin Snyder##imported-end##

March 08, 2010 at 11:03 PM



“ To the family of Dan Watford,
My name is Lori Martin Morris, daughter of Harrison and Linda Martin. I as well as my entire family would like to express our deepest love and condolences. There was never a time in my last 25-30 years that I did not meet up with or see your father, that he did not greet me with a big smile and a hug. He was truly a most remarkable individual. We all had a special nickname for him, he was always known as "Dan The Man". I know this is a most difficult time in your lives, because of having just lost my father some ten months ago. I will always remember Libby, for she would always be there to talk to myself and my best friend Katherine Kinsey Rogers. May you know that we are thinking of you and praying for you at this difficult time. If there is anything we can do, do not hesitate to call upon us.

Most Sincerely,
The John H. Martin Jr, Family##imported-begin##The Family of John Harrison Martin Jr.##imported-end##

March 08, 2010 at 06:50 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family##imported-begin##Jim & Hilda Martin##imported-end##

March 08, 2010 at 04:52 PM



“ Dear Libby, Jeanne, and Danny,

May God bless you and comfort you in His own loving way. We send our heartfelt sympathy.

Love and prayers,

Roseanne and Craig##imported-begin##Craig and Roseanne Cook##imported-end##

March 08, 2010 at 03:10 PM



“ Uncle Dan will be missed. There was so much in his life to celebrate, and therefore much to miss. To be in the presence of such a kind and generous spirit is to know that yes God does exist, and here is one of his special children. I give thanks that I was priveleged to know him, and to learn from him. Know that Uncle Dan now rests in the peace of Christ, and he is loved for eternity.##imported-begin##Jim Watford##imported-end##

March 08, 2010 at 09:37 AM



“ Jeanne, I think of you often and the fun times we had in high school. Know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Debbie Brown Wynne##imported-begin##Debbie Brown Wynne##imported-end##

March 08, 2010 at 07:58 AM



“ Dear Dan, Linda, and family,
We were saddened to hear of Mr. Watford's passing. He was such a joy to be around and I often heard my mother speak kindly of him when they were planning their Hartsville High School Reunions which still took place until a few years ago.
Our church family at Wesley, as well as our community, will miss him. He has served his God well, and now he is reaping the rewards in his new home in Heaven.
God bless you and keep you in his loving grace at this time of loss.
Paula and Harry Murph###imported-begin###Paula and Harry Murph###imported-end##

March 07, 2010 at 08:38 PM



“ Uncle Dan, You certainly lived a full and wonderful life with so much outstanding service to your company, your community, and to your family.

It was an honor and a privilege to have been your nephew and to share your life over these many years.

You will be greatly missed.

Your Nephew, Dick###imported-begin###Richard (Dick) Harvin###imported-end##

March 06, 2010 at 08:31 PM



“ Uncle Dan was a great person & Family member, admired for his faith & community service. There are too few like him in this Life.

Our prayers & thoughts are with Dan & all of his Family.

We were all fortunate to have known him.

Don##imported-begin##Don Hoffmeyer & Family##imported-end##

March 06, 2010 at 06:43 PM



“ We were so saddened to hear of Mr. Dan's passing but know now his suffering is over and he is at peace. We always sat behind Mr.Dan in church and I always enjoyed seeing what he was wearing. He was a gentle spirit who had a great sense of style. I teased him one time and told him I liked his fashion sense and was going to call him "Dapper Dan". He smiled sweetly. I think he liked that! He will be missed. You all are in our thoughts and prayers. Carolyn##imported-begin##Rick and Carolyn Atkinson##imported-end##

March 06, 2010 at 06:40 PM



“*Watford Family, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Libby, you and I were in school a long time ago, I am sure you don't remember. My mother said she knew your parents well. I remember you moved to California and I was sad. I want you to know I will be praying for you and your family that GOD will meet your every need. I pray also that you will be able to remember the cherished times you had together as a family and that it will somehow make your grief more endurable. I ask God to give you consolation which comes from beyond our understanding.*

Sincerely,

Linda###imported-begin##Linda Stewart Knorr##imported-end##

March 06, 2010 at 05:11 PM



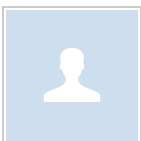
“*Libby,*

My prayers and thoughts are with you all.

I know how special your Dad was and he will truly be missed. You helped me so much 2 yrs. ago when I went thru this with Mama, please let me know if I can help you.

God Bless You, Debbie###imported-begin##Debbie Fink##imported-end##

March 06, 2010 at 09:33 AM



“*Libby, Jeanne, & Danny may the Lord bring your family peace during this time. Your father was a well respected, honest, and good man. He was a role model for me in many ways. Often times when I am faced with a business decision I ask myself, "How would Mr. Watford handle this." When the answer comes back it is not the easy way out but the one that takes the most character. Your father will be greatly missed.##imported-begin##Greg Alexander##imported-end##*

March 06, 2010 at 08:43 AM



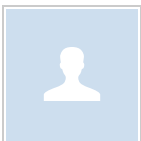
“ *Mr. Watford was such a nice person! I remember him (and Mrs. Watford, too) fondly. I've always thought highly of them both. My thoughts and prayer go out to all the family during this difficult time as you grieve the loss of Mr. Watford. May God comfort you.*
Sincerely,
Rebecca Skinner-Fulmer##imported-begin##Rebecca Skinner-Fulmer##imported-end##

March 06, 2010 at 05:51 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family.##imported-begin##Susan Reynolds##imported-end##*

March 05, 2010 at 08:51 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family.##imported-begin##susan##imported-end##*

March 05, 2010 at 08:46 PM



“ *Libby, Jeanne, and Danny, You can be assured that Uncle Dan is in heaven with his beloved Christine now and his suffering has ended. What a wonderful man he was.....much beloved by my Mother, his oldest sister. See you next week.*
Marty##imported-begin##Marty Hoffmeyer Hurst##imported-end##

March 05, 2010 at 06:40 PM