



## Mary Earle P Watson Obituary

January 21, 1931 - November 23, 2004

Mary Earle Powell Watson, 73, of Albany, died peacefully Tuesday following a long struggle with heart and kidney diseases. She was surrounded by loved ones at the time of her passing. The funeral service will be 10 AM Saturday at First Baptist Church of Albany and entombment will follow at Crown Hill Mausoleum. Rev. Don Driskell will officiate. The family will receive friends and family at Kimbrell-Stern on Friday evening from 5 to 7 PM. A native of Louisiana, MO, Mrs. Watson, lovingly known by her grandchildren as "Nana," was a long-time resident of Albany. She moved here with her parents as a child, and at the age of 10 became a member of First Baptist Church. Mrs. Watson attended Albany High School before attending Georgia Southern College, where she was actively involved in many student activities, including serving as the secretary of the Baptist Student Union. She worked as a secretary for Albany Farm Equipment, where she met her future husband of 52 years, fulfilling her fervent desire to become a wife and mother. After her marriage in 1952 to John H. Watson, Sr., she was an employee of First State Bank for several years and remained active in the "Former First Staters." She began working for the Dougherty County School System as a secretary at Palmyra School, and became the first Special Education Bus Driver in Albany when she was hired "temporarily" by her husband, Dougherty County's first Transportation Director. and her temporary employment ended after 25 years of service. She was past president of the wives' chapter of the Police Officers' Association, better known today as the Fraternal Order of Police. Mrs. Watson

and her husband were members of the "Rafter Rockers" square dancing group for several years, and also loved camping together with their family. For the past several years, Mrs. Watson was a member of the Theta Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, an international cultural and social sorority, for which she served as sweetheart, president, and social chairman, as well as being selected as Valentine Queen. Her diligence and boundless energy won her several awards with that organization, including Best Program of the Year and perfect attendance awards. At the time of her death, she had been a member of First Baptist Church for over 64 years. There she had served as a Sunday School teacher, a charter member of the Winsome Sunday School class, and helped continue that group as the Winsome Fellowship Group. Mrs. Watson had more recently become a member of the JOY (Just Older Youth) Fellowship. Mrs. Watson was a loving wife, mother of 4, and grandmother to 12. Her vivacious personality, positive attitude, and cheerful demeanor made her a friend to all who knew her. Most friends recalled her ever-present smile. She was preceded in death by her parents, Lottie Toole and Hollis Earl (H.E.) Powell. Survivors include her husband of 53 years, John H. "Poppy" Watson, Sr., of Albany, one son: John H. "Hank" Jr. and wife Kelly of Norfolk, VA; three daughters: LaRue Watson Martin and partner Victor W. Smith of New Haven, CT; LuAnn Watson Morrison and husband Stan of Leesburg, GA; and Leisel "Lisa" Watson Taylor of Poulan; twelve grandchildren: Blair Tripp, Brent Watson, Stephen Morrison, Jonathan Bland, Katelyn Watson, Sean Morrison, Chloe Schuller, Tate Schuller, Samantha Taylor, Levi Watson, Grace Kelly Watson, Logann Morrison, and one grandson (name TBD) on the way. Those desiring to may make memorials to Albany Community Hospice, P.O. Box 1828, Albany, GA 31702, or to the Present Location Committee of First Baptist Church of Albany, 400 Pine Avenue, Albany, GA 31701. You may sign the on-line guest book and share memories with the family of Mrs. Watson by visiting Kimbrell-Stern's website at [www.kimbrellstern.com](http://www.kimbrellstern.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Earle P Watson Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *Mary Earle P Watson Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Dear John:  
Helen and I were so sorry to learn of Mary's death. May God be with you and put His strong arms around you in this time of loss. I remember with fondness all the good times with you at FBC and on the tennis court.*

**Helen and Paul McCorvey** - November 30, 2004 at 12:00 AM



“ *John, Luanne, and Family, I was so very sorry to hear about Miss Mary Earle's passing. She was a warm, caring lady, always smiling and with a kind word for everybody. I was so sad to hear that she had been so ill. My prayers are with you all.*

**Darlene Adams** - November 30, 2004 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Family of Mary Earle,  
Please accept my sincere sympathy on the loss of your dear wife and mother. She was a precious person.  
God bless you,  
Frances Chambers Dillon*

**Frances Chambers Dillon** - November 29, 2004 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ *Mary Earle was a shining light at all sorority functions. She will be greatly missed.*

*Our prayers are with you.*

*Cheryl Jones*

*Delta Kappa*

---

**Cheryl Jones** - November 29, 2004 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ *LUANN, JUST THINKING OF YOU. YOUR IN MY PRAYERS.*

---

**ROGER HAGGERTY** - November 29, 2004 at 12:00 AM

GD

“ *John, you and Mary were one of the first in Dougherty County to welcome me and accept an "outsider" in when I arrived at Westover as Assistant Principal back in 1984. Mary was indeed a LADY. She will be missed. I ask God's Blessings on you and your family in the days that follow. You will be very much in my thoughts and prayers.*

---

**Gary G. Dorough** - November 29, 2004 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ *Dear Family, Please know that I am thinking of you. I know that she is in a much better place but I can't believe she has left us. I found out something today that I wanted to share with her and just for a second I wanted to call her. I loved her as a sister and I am happy to know that she felt the same about me. I love you all.*

*Betty*

---

**Betty Goff** - November 29, 2004 at 12:00 AM

EO

“ We send our most sincere condolences to John and Mary Earle’s family. Loss of long and cherished friendships brings a special sense of sadness yet at the same time calls back many fond memories of so many years past. From our earliest elementary school years together through her latest days when we saw her less frequently, we think first of her big smile and vivacious attitudes that she shared with everyone. She was, indeed, a lovely lady who will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of Mary Earle’s family and closest friends.

*Eddie and Ives Ort*

---

**Eddie and Ives Ort** - November 29, 2004 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ We did not learn that Mrs. Watson had died until today. To Mr. Watson, Hank, LuAnn, and Stan, please know that you are in our prayers. I knew Mrs. Watson over the years, and I can only imagine how you will miss her. It is reassuring thought to know that she is in heaven!

---

**Chuck & Cris Darsey** - November 29, 2004 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ Johnny, Nancy & I join all Mary Earle's friends & classmates in mourning her passing. We're in North Carolina with our son & family which means we will not be at the funeral. However, our thoughts and prayers will be with you and your family at this time.

*Bill & Nancy Huggins*

---

**Bill Huggins** - November 27, 2004 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ Hank, I want you to know that everytime I come to Albany, I always think of you and your wonderful parents. I remember you and I growing up together, the memories and your mother's wonderful smile. I will be praying for your family during these difficult days, and know that God loves you has everything in control.

---

**Al Chapman** - November 27, 2004 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ John and family, How our heart is grieved with you in the loss of my lifelong friend. Mary Earle has been so special to me through these years. She has always been so outgoing and such an encourager to everyone. I shall miss her. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your precious family. We love you.  
Carleen

---

**Carleen & Dub Flowers** - November 27, 2004 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Mr. Watson, LuAnn and family, Our prayers are with you and your family during this time of sorrow but we know that our friend is in Gloryland celebrating her homecoming with our Lord Jesus Christ. It didn't matter where we saw Mrs. Watson, so always came over to say hi. The last time we saw her was when we were home during Christmas last year and we were at Barnhill's eating and she made a point of seeing us and saying hi. I know the days, weeks and months ahead will be tough but our Lord will have His arms around you with comfort, peace and strength during this time.

Love ya,

Chuck, Teresa, Will & Johnathan Stanfield

---

**Chuck, Teresa, Will & Johnathan Stanfield** - November 27, 2004 at 12:00 AM

WW

“ Dear Watson Family,  
We were very blessed to know Mary Earle, although for only a few short years. As she spoke about you, or we had the privilege of seeing her with you, we could always sense the special love she had for each one of you. Her love for Jesus shined in her smile. We are rejoicing with you, knowing that she is now seeing Him face to face. May the comfort and peace that only He can give, bless and sustain you during this time. We send you our love and heartfelt prayers,  
Wes and Joan Wilson (Kelly's parents)

---

**Wes and Joan Wilson** - November 27, 2004 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ You all are in our thoughts and prayers. Mary Earle was a special lady to us all. May God flood you with His love during this time.

---

**Cindy and Neil Brown** - November 27, 2004 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Dear John and Family,  
May God be with you during your loss.  
You will have a special place in my heart always. I will never the good times we had as you led us in Bible Study at First Baptist Church. I remember going to your house for fellowship and we would have so much fun.  
Thanks for all the memories that I have and would never forget. You played a very important role in my life.  
Love always,  
Janice  
in my heart always. I will never forget the good times we had as you and Mary Earle was our leaders in First Baptist Church

---

**Janice Barnes Hagberg** - November 27, 2004 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ I know the pain of your loss is tremendous. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Dawn

---

**Dawn Hobby Tripp** - November 26, 2004 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ It was a great honor to know Mrs. Watson through her daughter, Lisa and grandchildren, Jonathan and Samantha. I will always cherish her kind words and gestures. She will be greatly missed.

---

**Stephanie Alligood** - November 26, 2004 at 12:00 AM

NA

“ Ms. Lisa, Jon, Samantha, Poppy, and the entire Watson Family, We were so saddened to hear of the passing of Ms. Mary. Please know you are all in our thoughts and prayers. We love you very much.

---

**Nick and Briana Alligood** - November 26, 2004 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Johnny, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

---

**martha McDowell** - November 26, 2004 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ I was in school with Mary Earle at Albany High. I was a Senior when she was a Junior! I shared many fun times in her home playing games with Mary Earle and her parents Barbara and Grace Trailer, Mary Earle and I spent many Sunday afternoons with Billy Gee. My wife and I are thinking about you at the most difficult time.

---

**John Paul Jones** - November 26, 2004 at 12:00 AM

NR

“ Dear John, We are so sorry to learn of the death of Mary Earle. She was such a wonderful person and I know she will be greatly missed by you, your family and many friends. She suffered greatly over the past few years and the great consolation you have is knowing she is in heaven and at rest. We are praying for you and your family. May God's grace and love heal your grief and give you strength for tomorrow. In His Spirit, Nan and Jim

---

**Nan and Jim Ramsey** - November 26, 2004 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ We will all miss Ms. Mary Earle very much. I am so sorry for your loss. She was a wonderful person and loved you all with all of her heart. You are in our thoughts and prayers. With love, Jeanne, Mike, Emily, and Jacob Brooks

---

**Jeanne Brooks** - November 25, 2004 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ Hank,  
My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

---

**Sam (Sammy) Knighton** - November 25, 2004 at 12:00 AM

FF

“ Mary Earle, you were very special to us. You became a sister through Beta Sigma Phi in all ways. Your constant smile and cheerful attitude even at your lowest times taught me how to cope with trying situations. Thank you for being a part of my life and Fred's. Your sister, Linda.

---

**Fred & Linda Freaney** - November 25, 2004 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *LuAnn, Stan & Family I am so sorry to hear about the loss of LuAnn's mother. LuAnn you and your family is in my prayers.*

---

**Dave Branch** - November 25, 2004 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ *Mary Earle, You have slipped through our fingers, but not without leaving a sweet residue. Your memory will live long in Theta Master Chapter. God bless your family. Your sister in Beta Sigma Phi. Marcie Geeslin*

---

**MARCIE GEESLIN** - November 25, 2004 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ *Nana was a very loving and caring grandmother. I'm going to miss her very much but i know that she is in a better place now! She cared for other people. She always took the time to buy us the nicest gifts and never forgot our birthdays or special occasions! I have good meories of her for instance when she use to ask me all the time to rub her back. She loved to have her back rubbed. I will always love her and miss her very much!!!*

---

**Katelyn B. Watson** - November 25, 2004 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *God bless Nana's family during this time of sorrow. I have many fond memories of her during her life. She was a very strong, loving and caring person and an inspiration to many friends, family members and others.*

---

**Jill K. Henrichs** - November 25, 2004 at 12:00 AM