



Sanders Watson, Jr.

August 13, 1932 - January 27, 2025

Sanders Watson, Jr., transitioned to be with the Lord on Monday, January 27, 2025 at the age of 92, after a short illness. Sanders was born the second of nine children in the Watson family. He was born August 13, 1932, in Warren County, North Carolina, to the late Sanders Watson, Sr. and Tinnie Williams Watson.

He was educated in the Franklin County School System, graduating from Perry High School. Sanders was a member of Sarepta Baptist Church and was a faithful member prior to leaving North Carolina.

After leaving North Carolina he settled in Portsmouth, Virginia where met and married the late Esther Moore Watson and was married for sixty-six years before her passing. He was employed with the Virginia Department of Transportation, retiring after 35 years of public service. After retirement he went to work for Didlake, Incorporated for eight years.

Sanders was affectionately known as “Doc” and “The Sharp Dresser” by friends and family in Carolina. In Virginia he was known as “PeeWee”, “Watson”, “Hat Man”, and “Old Man” by those who knew him best. He truly lived his life on his terms no matter what. He loved life and his family, especially his grandchildren.

Sanders joined St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, where he was a faithful member for over 30 years. He loved his church family and was a member of the Tribe of Naphtali and served on the Male Usher Ministry for over 20 years. He very seldom missed a day of serving the people of God and served until his health started to fail. His nickname "Hat Man", was given to him by his former pastor, Bishop Curtis Edmonds, Sr., and has stuck with him all of these years inside and outside of the church.

He was an avid Commanders fan and always enjoyed game day banter with his family who are Commanders and Cowboy fans. That was the highlight for him when he could brag on his Commanders. He enjoyed watching those old shows on television which included The Andy Griffith Show to the Westerns. Every day he was seen catching up on one of these oldies but goodies on television.

Along with his parents and wife, Sanders was predeceased by three brothers: Phil Williams, Albert Lee Watson, and Richard Watson; two sisters: Maggie Doswell and Bertha Williams and one grandchild: Angela Watson.

Sanders is survived by six sons: Melvin Watson (Gloria) of Upper Marlboro, MD, Reginald Watson (Leeann) of Holiday, FL, Andre Watson (Rosa) of Suffolk, VA, Allen Watson (Mary) of Chesapeake, VA, Ricky Watson of Newport News, VA, and Ronald Watson (Sheila) of Chesterfield, VA ; three daughters: Diana Davis (Alvin) of Portsmouth, VA, Bonnie Wells (Jason) of Dumfries, VA, Lisa Watkins (Michael) of Woodbridge, VA; seventeen grandchildren: Nateace, Melvin, Jr., Joshalynn, Reginald Jr., Kelvin, Melissa, Marquita, Tonja, Alicia, Martina, Rishawn, Ryan, Martasia, Akia, Jason, Jr., Bianca, and Michael, Jr.; fifteen great grandchildren; two sisters: Elizabeth Ansari, and Irene Fourqurean (Leroy); one brother Thomas Watson (Vivian); brother in law: Isaac Williams and sisters in law: Geraldine Watson and Annie Cherry.

Also left to cherish his memory are a host of nieces, nephews, and others he met along the way whom he considered a friend. Those he met at church were more like his family than they could ever know.

Cemetery Details

Roosevelt Memorial Park

1101 Campostella Road
Chesapeake, Va

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **9**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services
1248 N. George Washington Hwy.
Chesapeake, VA 23323
(757) 487-3700
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com
<https://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com>

Service

FEB **10**. 12:00 PM (ET)

St Mark Missionary Baptist Church
2714 Frederick Blvd
Portsmouth, VA 23704-6818
(757) 399-7182

Tribute Wall



“ *J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Sanders Watson, Jr.*



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - March 21, 2025 at 04:08 PM

IB

“ *Irene and Stanley Butts lit a candle in memory of Sanders Watson, Jr.*



Irene and Stanley Butts - February 10, 2025 at 03:59 PM

CW

“ *To Diana and family, i wish to convey my deepest condolences for the passing of your loved one. I knew Brother Watson as a warm and friendly fellow gate keeper in the church. He will be dearly missed. May God bless you all with his love and comfort.*

Carolyn R. Williams - February 10, 2025 at 10:27 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Sanders Watson, Jr..*



February 10, 2025 at 07:54 AM



“ *The William A Hunton YMCA purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Sanders Watson, Jr..*



The William A Hunton YMCA - February 10, 2025 at 04:27 AM



“ *Alicia Lewis lit a candle in memory of Sanders Watson, Jr.*



Alicia Lewis - February 09, 2025 at 04:06 PM



“ *To Uncle Sanders, may you RIP. You lived an adventurous life! This photo was taken with Richard (late brother), brother Tom, and sister Irene.*



Imani Williams - February 09, 2025 at 03:08 PM

PV

“ Patricia Valentine lit a candle in memory of Sanders Watson, Jr.



Patricia Valentine - February 08, 2025 at 07:56 PM

AN

“ Andre lit a candle in memory of Sanders Watson, Jr.



Andre - February 08, 2025 at 12:43 PM

TA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Tasia - February 07, 2025 at 05:28 PM

TI

“ tina lit a candle in memory of Sanders Watson, Jr.



tina - February 07, 2025 at 07:42 AM



“ 32 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - February 06, 2025 at 11:16 PM

LB

“ *Love the CPBBC Praise Team & Band planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sanders Watson, Jr..*

Love the CPBBC Praise Team & Band - February 06, 2025 at 05:34 PM

LB

“ *Love the CPBBC Praise Team & Band purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Sanders Watson, Jr..*



Love the CPBBC Praise Team & Band - February 06, 2025 at 05:34 PM

BC

“ I'm sending heartfelt prayers and condolences to the family. Mr. Watson was a very nice man. I enjoyed listening to him sharing information about Ushering. Also, he was a fashionable dresser, with the hats to match. Rest In Peace Mr. Watson you will be missed.



Barbara E. Cross - February 06, 2025 at 01:32 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sanders Watson, Jr..

February 06, 2025 at 09:15 AM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sanders Watson, Jr..



February 06, 2025 at 09:15 AM

TA

“ Tasia lit a candle in memory of Sanders Watson, Jr.



Tasia - February 06, 2025 at 06:00 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Sanders Watson, Jr..*



February 05, 2025 at 10:04 PM



“ *May God continue to give the family comfort during this time of loss. He is now in that mansion that God prepared many years ago. Hold on to the memories..*



Leigh M. Burton, Sr. - February 05, 2025 at 03:15 PM



“ *Lisa lit a candle in memory of Sanders Watson, Jr.*



Lisa - February 05, 2025 at 03:01 PM



“ *Granda, I'm gone miss you so much old man.*

Tasia - February 05, 2025 at 01:55 PM

WR

“ *W Anthony Ratcliffe lit a candle in memory of Sanders Watson, Jr.*



W Anthony Ratcliffe - February 05, 2025 at 10:22 AM

EH

“ *Diana the Whitehead family send their condolences to you and the rest of your family. If there is anything we can do for you and the family please let us know. Will keep you all lifted in prayer.*



Ethelyn Whitehead Holley - February 05, 2025 at 08:38 AM

EH

“ *My condolences to the Watson family on the loss of your love one. Lean on the Lord for your strength during this time of your bereavement. May God bless each of you.*



Ethelyn Whitehead Holley - February 05, 2025 at 08:35 AM

CB

“ *To the Watson, So Sorry for your loss “My Deepest Condolences and Sympathy” Mr Watson will truly be missed.*



Carrie Baker - February 05, 2025 at 02:46 AM

PV

“ *Patricia Valentine lit a candle in memory of Sanders Watson, Jr.*



Patricia Valentine - February 04, 2025 at 04:28 PM



“ *Jackie Wilson lit a candle in memory of Sanders Watson, Jr.*



Jackie Wilson - February 04, 2025 at 02:54 PM

MW

“ *Granddaddy Watson, thank you for your love and for loving, my Son!*

Ms. T. Williams - February 04, 2025 at 02:49 PM