



James R. Watson

October 31, 1912 - May 13, 2012

Dateline: Alton

James R. Watson, 99, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, May 13, 2012, at Rosewood Care in Swansea. James was born in Owensboro, KY on Oct. 31, 1912, the son of the late Lonus and Annie (Jenkins) Watson. He was married to Gwendolyn Blazier on June 21, 1934. She survives. He worked at the Shell Oil Company for 42 years, retiring in 1974. In addition to his wife, he is survived by a sister, Regina Price of Alton, Illinois, two “adopted” granddaughters, Keri Lee Nguyen and Traci Lee Phan, and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Durward and Thurman Watson. After retiring he became active in civic work, serving as President of the Board of Directors of Senior Services; working with Hospice; delivering Meals on Wheels, teaching Driver’s Review classes for the State of Illinois and working with language groups, helping with relocation, learning English, etc; was a charter member of the Calvary Baptist Church, Alton, serving as Deacon and Trustee, Men’s Bible class teacher, and Minister to the Homebound. Memorial Services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 19, 2012 at Calvary Baptist Church in Alton. Reverend Andre Dobson will officiate. No visitation. Private burial will be at Valhalla Memorial Park in Godfrey. Memorials may be made to the “Building Fund” or “Project Nehemiah Building Fund” at Calvary Baptist Church or to a charity of your choice. Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements.

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Tribute Wall



“ *James R. Watson*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *James R. Watson*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *I have often thought of Mr. Watson; especially when I would drive past the apartment that he used to live. He and his wife were such kind and gentle people. I have not seen him in years, but he left an impression. He symbolized what a Christian should be. I worked at Senior Services Plus, when he was a board member and he helped to make sure that things were fair. Rest in peace, you deserve your robe and wings.*

Patricia Webb - May 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *My deepest sympathies in the loss of your beloved Mr. Watson. May the fond memories shared bring comfort during this time of grief and pain.*
(John 5:28,29)

A. Jackson - May 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ To Gwen, Keri, Traci, & family: We were sorry to hear of Jay's passing but what a tremendous legacy he leaves behind. I don't have to tell you how much he meant to us, especially to Esther. Jay was her substitute dad after her dad died. You are in our prayers. God bless you.

Neil & Esther Claussen - May 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM