



Russell E. Watson

December 7, 1920 - March 21, 2013

Russell Ervin Watson, 92, of Bloomington, IN passed away on Thursday, March 21, 2013 in Houston, TX. He was born on December 7, 1920 to Otis Courtney and Shirley Chloe Watson in Bedford, IN. He was a graduate of Needmore High School and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Indiana University and his Master's degree from Indiana State University.

Russell was a WW II Veteran with the United States Navy, a Pearl Harbor survivors, Monroe County Fair Board emeritus member and a retired educator with the Monroe County Community School Corporation. Russell served his family, friends and community throughout his life, and Mt. Pleasant Christian Church was his faith home. Important in his life was time for fishing and time to tell a good story. Russell blessed others by never meeting a stranger.

Russell is survived by daughter, Rebecca Watson

Hillenburg and husband Roy; grandson, Russell Hillenburg and wife Mary Beth; great grandchildren, Austin Russell Hillenburg and Grace Rebecca Hillenburg; sister, Maralou Watson Walton; brother-in-law Jay Walton; many nieces and nephews; plus a host of other loving family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Mildred (McPike) Watson.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 P.M. Friday, March 29, 2013 at Mt Pleasant Christian Church near Bedford. Burial will follow at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. Friends may call at Allen Funeral Home, 4155 S Old St Rd 37 in Bloomington on Thursday from 5:00-8:00 p.m. and at the church on Friday one hour preceding the services.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his honor to Monroe County Fair, Bloomington, IN; Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Association, Bedford, IN; Friendswood United Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr., Friendswood, TX 77546 or a charity of your choice. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.allenfuneralhome.org.

Tribute Wall

JG

“ Russ Watson was my principal at Central Jr. High. He had a couple of chances to paddle me when I was sent to his office but always chose to first discuss my violation with me. He would actually listen to you and discuss options. He didn't just hold his position above you but really cared what you were thinking and never missed an opportunity to teach you something about life.

My mother was a school cook at Central and he knew her. I remember asking him if he was going to tell my mother I had gotten into trouble and he said it depended on me. I assured him I understood my transgression and accepted my punishment. He never told my mother though he knew her well. He was an honorable man.

It wasn't until later in life I learned of his time at Pearl Harbor and that he was saved from probable death by a broken arm that had him in the infirmary instead of on his ship when it was attacked and sunk. God had a plan for Russ that did not include dying on Pearl Harbor day.

I can attest that he influenced many young people. Too many to count. And made them a better person for having known him. He was truly a great teacher, administrator and encourager to young people for multiple generations.

My deepest condolences to his family. It is indeed a great loss. But a blessing knowing he is with his Lord and Savior Jesus.

Sincerely,

Jeff Grossnickle

Jeff Grossnickle - December 28, 2018 at 08:47 PM

PH

“ Becky,

Your father, Russ Watson, was a friend to all. He was my mentor for the principal's position at Edgewood. For many years we talked almost weekly, which helped me grow in the job. We traveled to conferences and discussed and used what we saw. Russ had a keen insight to the issues.

My wife, Eva, said he was a great Principal to work under.

Your father loved his family and was so proud that you gave him little Russ to be a grandpa to. I bet he was great at that too!

All can look up to Russ Watson--I know of no one better.

*With deep sympathy,
Phil Rambo, A Friend*

Phillip Rambo - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

JT

“ *Becky, Maralou & family.*

I came to know Uncle Russell, as I called him, during times I was included in meals and events at Maralou and Jay's home. Carly admired him and often spoke of what an accomplished man he was and how kind. That was certainly true. I last saw him in October when he attended Carly's wedding which made Carly and all of us so pleased that you, Becky, and your Father were there.

Such a wonderful brother/sister relationship I saw between Maralou and your Father which I have never witnessed before. Such wonderful memories everyone will have of him and he will certainly be missed.

I extend my heartfelt sympathy to the entire family. I just feel privileged to have known him.

Very Sincerely,

Jan Tuttle (Grandma Tuttle)

Janus Tuttle - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

BI

“ *I was saddened to hear of the passing of my favorite teacher and friend.*

Mr. Watson was my math teacher and Boys Dean at Bloomington Jr. High.

He was an amazing influence in my life and such a wonderful, amazing teacher. May he rest in peace and may his family find comfort knowing that he is home. God Bless.

Bill Sample - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

RO

“ *Maralou and family,*

So sorry for your loss. I am glad I got to see Russel at Carly's wedding.

Robin Walton - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

DO

“ *Becky sorry for your loss your dad was a good man Donald Waldrip*

donald waldrip - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

JF

“ *Russ Watson was one of the truly great people who have ever served the people of Monroe County, the State of Indiana and the United States of America. Having known Russ for over 50 years he will be missed by every one who had the good fortune of knowing him. May he rest in peace.*

Jerry F. Bales - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

JA

“ *Dear Rebecca and Family,
"Petunia's" Family is lifting you all in prayer. May you feel the Peace of Christ today and in all the days ahead as He comforts, strengthens and fills you with His Love.
In Christ's Mighty and Gracious Name We Pray,
Petunia's Family - George & Janis Finch Family*

Janis Finch - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

SH

“ Dear Rebecca, saddened by the loss of your darling father. I am the daughter-in-law of the late Bill and Anita Hamilton on Winslow road. I still live on Winslow. I attended several schools in Bloomington and that is when I first heard of Russell, back then it was Mr. Watson! We will miss Russell helping to get the fair grounds ready in the fall and waving hi as we drive by his home. I would venture to say he is up in Heaven teaching someone how to fish! Love to you and your family, Susie Hamilton and Family

susie Hamilton - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

JY

“ Mr. Watson, Russell, was my principal in Junior High. The first week of services at Northside Christian Church I got to see him again and met his lovely wife, Mildred. As charter members (along with my parents) I got to know Mr. Watson in a different context and my opinion of him never changed, I just grew to love him more and more. He seemed to always have a smile on his face, and a kind word to say. I know he will be missed by you all. Thank you for sharing him with us. He was a special man.

Janice (Ropp) Yount - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

MI

“ Mr. Watson was my pricipal during three years at Central Junior High immediately following the fire. He and his fine staff made us forget that we were having classes in portable trailers and sometimes walking from 2nd to 1st street in 5 minutes. We were just getting an education. Mr. Watson suffered no improper behavior from students, yet treated everyone with respect. Several years later I had the privilege of working for him at Batchelor Mmiddle School for a short while, during which time my respect for him continued to grow. The education profession and all of us privileged to know Mr. Watson have lost a fine man.

Michael Reagan - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

NE

“ Rebecca, I am so sorry to hear about your dad's passing. Please know that all of us, here at Windsong, are thinking of you and your family at this difficult time. I know that all the wonderful memories you have of him will bring you comfort in the days to come.

Nelda Guerra - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

KA

“ Becky, You have been on my mind continuously since talking to you on Saturday. My heart goes out to you and your family. I can tell you it is very hard to accept since losing my Dad in November. I am sure he was there to welcome your dad home. Your dad was special to everyone. Love you, Karen

Karen Willis - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

NA

“ With loving memories of our 1938 graduate and Outstanding Alumni Award winner. Our prayers go out to Beckie, Maralou and families.

Needmore Alumni Association - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

BA

“ Rebecca, I was so sorry to hear of your father's passing. I will never forget the conversation we had years ago regarding your father and my grandparents. I know you will miss him dearly. Just wanted you to know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

love,
--Barsa Harclerode

Barsa Harclerode - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

JT

“ *Becky, Marlou and family,*

Please accept my heartfelt sympathy for Uncle Russell's passing. I have had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with him while attending meals and events at Maralou and Jay's home. I have always been included in the family due to my grandchildren being Carly and Cody and Carly has always spoken of highly of Uncle Russell, and that is the reason I have always called him that. I hope it was not being disrespectful. He was a very nice, friendly man and I feel honored to have become acquainted with him. I last saw him when you, Becky, and he attended Carly's wedding in October. She was so pleased you both could so so.

I have never witnessed such a close brother/sister relationship as he and Marlou had. Very touching. He will certainly be missed all who knew him including myself.

Sincerely,

*Jan Tuttle (Grandma Tuttle)
Fort Wayne, IN*

Jan Tuttle - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

BE

“ *Mr. Watson was a fixture in my life for several years. Not only was he the principal of my junior high school, but he was a Canada fishing buddy of my father's! Ever cheerful, fun to be around. I remember having a special convocation in the old auditorium as a send off for him and his wife on the 30th anniversary of Pearl Harbor - they were going to a reunion.*

After my father, Gus Burchfield, passed away, Mr. Watson would occasionally call my mother to see if she needed any household repairs, and just to check in. Since I was living in California, it was a very comforting thing to know someone was asking her who could do the job himself!

While it is at times difficult to experience the passing of a loved one, you may take great pride and comfort in knowing how many lives he touched, both in the schoolhouse and through his friends and neighbors.

Becky Burchfield - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM

RA

“ *Rebecca and Roy,
Greetings to you in the Name of Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life! Russell is at peace with Jesus awaiting the Day of his Resurrection. What peace that brings to the rest of us.*

Pastor Ralph and Lynn Ann

Ralph Hobratschk - October 26, 2015 at 04:12 PM