



Johnnie Lee Watters

May 22, 1938 - January 14, 2021

Graveside services for Mr. Watters have been re-scheduled for 3 P.M. on Friday, March 19, 2021 at the Nowata Memorial Park Cemetery.

Johnnie Lee Watters, 82 of Bartlesville (originally of Nowata), died on Thursday, January 14, 2021. Johnnie was born on May 22, 1938 in Nowata, Oklahoma to Cecil Edgar and Wilma Ruth (Mattix) Watters (both of whom preceded him in death).

He grew up and received his education in Nowata and graduated from Nowata High School in 1956. He received an Associate in Arts Degree from Northeastern A&M Junior College in 1958. Following graduation, he worked at Lee Hendrix Engineering in Tulsa, performing mapping and civil drafting. In 1962, he was married to Mary “Diann” Hamilton (deceased) also of Nowata, Oklahoma. He served in the United States Army from 1962 – 1963 as a Cartographer and Cartography Section leader. Following his Honorable Discharge in 1963 he served in the Army Reserve until 1967. He was employed with Phillips Petroleum Company in Corporate Engineering as a Construction Engineering Analyst. He retired from Phillips in 1996 with over 35 years of service. He volunteered countless hours in his community as a basketball and baseball coach and he refereed baseball, basketball and softball (even throwing his own daughter out of the game because she was complaining about how he called balls and strikes). He also loved being a sports broadcaster for the local radio station. He was elected to the Nowata School Board and after his retirement from Phillips Petroleum Company he volunteered as a teacher’s aid at the Nowata Public School system.

Survivors include one daughter, Teri Lee Turner and her husband, John Andrew Turner of Friendswood, Texas and one sister Joyce Elaine Roberts of Nowata. Two grandchildren and one great grandchild, Christopher Michael Turner of San Marcos, Texas and Scott Austin Turner and his significant other, Jaime Rodriguez along with their daughter, Juniper Lee Turner of New Braunfels, Texas. Two nephews, Todd Watters and Rush Roberts along with their families. He also had one brother, Jimmie, “Jim” Allen Watters, who preceded him in death. In addition, he had numerous friends and neighbors who he cared about deeply.

Johnnie lived life with vigor and he was passionate about sports. He played slow pitch softball (first base) throughout his adult life and had many trophies that his team earned.

He loved to watch the University of Oklahoma football and basketball (when they were winning) and he was able to attend many collegiate games during his lifetime. He would always say the highlight of all these games was sitting on the 50-yard line watching OU beat Texas. He loved to watch professional baseball and if he wasn't wearing his OU baseball cap, he was wearing his St. Louis Cardinals one. He was an avid walker, stating he had virtually walked enough miles to circle the globe a couple of times. His favorite places to visit were national parks; hiking and taking pictures. He kept up with his high school classmates and reunions were always a time of great joy. He enjoyed life, loved his family and friends and will be missed dearly.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Johnnie Watters to Nowata Public Schools, 707 W Osage Avenue, Nowata, OK 74048.

Cemetery

Nowata Memorial Park Cemetery

1100 S. Pecan

Nowata, OK, 74048

Events

MAR 19 **Graveside Service** 03:00PM

Nowata Memorial Park Cemetery

1100 S. Pecan, Nowata, OK, US, 74048

Comments



“ I have so much love and respect for Mr. Watters. I really got to know him through his volunteering at the elementary school. He helped us two full days a week, and rarely missed a day. He was always so patient and kind with the kids, and made a real difference in their lives. Mr. Watters was just a joy to be around. He taught us all so much. Rest in peace my friend, and thanks for all you did. Margie Blackwell Learned

Margie Learned - February 19 at 12:26 PM



“ Terri Lee, I have very fond memories of spending the night at your house and your Daddy was always so cordial! He made sure we had anything we needed or wanted! He certainly LOVED YOU and was so very proud of you! I am honored to have known him! I'm so very sorry for your loss and we are praying for you, friend! LOVE & MISS YOU and your family Janell Jones & Mills too

Janell Jones - February 16 at 04:32 PM



“ Johnnie was a great guy, always friendly and seemed glad to visit with us over the years at reunions in Nowata. Loved his laugh. May God bless his family. Jim loved to reminisce about their trip to the rattlesnake hunt in Okeene way back when. Thinking of and a special hug sent to our friend, Joyce.

Jim and Betty Carroll
Longview, TX.

James Carroll - February 14 at 04:41 PM



“ John Watters was a great guy and one of the most intelligent persons I have known. He was a senior when I was a freshman and TU and KVOO radio had a program called "Going to College Quiz". Where they would come to local high schools and have a quiz and the school would provide some of their brightest students as panel members. When they came to Nowata John was a panel member and the whole school was turned out to watch the show which was recorded and played back on Saturday morning on KVOO. And John and another student named C.C. Macy tied for first place and a scholarship to TU. Too bad they don't do things like that anymore. We were in the band together and we had a great band that year. A lot of great seniors were in that band like John, James Cline and Judy Auten. It was a great year to be in the band.

I hadn't talked to John in some time but I knew he was having back problems. Going to miss him and the St. Louis Cardinals lost a great fan.

Rest in peace you rascal!

Bob Armstrong - February 14 at 04:37 PM



“ So sad to see a long time friend pass. I talked with John just about a month before his death. There certainly was pain in his voice. He described how he had terrible pain in his back from back surgery that maybe did not go as planned and that a recent fall may have caused damage to that area of his back. He also was wanting to get a test for some health issues that his doctor thought he had but Covid19 and nearby access to testing facilities was causing delays for him. He told me he thought maybe it was time to sell his home and move to an assisted living facility. So sad for me to hear the pain in his voice.

But there were more pleasant times and memories:

On hot summer afternoons during our school years, Bill Lowry, John and myself playing a 3 person baseball game. Bill had dibs on being Mickey Mantle, John had dibs on being Stan Musial, and I had to find some great hitter to emulate, so Hank Sauer of the Cubs was a prodigious home run hitter, so I became Hank Sauer.

John and I collaborating in Music Theory class in high school to produce these classic lyrics: "Be kind to our web-footed friends, for a duck may be someone's mother....".

J. C. Elsten, John and I driving J. C.'s family car to Miami in late 1956 or early 1957 to watch Nowata in a regional basketball playoff game. We somehow found some beer and possibly Mogen David wine which made J. C. sick. He threw up in the car on the way home. John then drove the car and we ran out of gas just after pulling halfway into the J. C.'s parents garage. It was a cold night to be walking home and J. C. lived out near the hospital.

Bill, John and I driving around the streets of Nowata on Saturday nights waiting for the Tulsa World to be delivered to the bus station so we could read all the statistics of the OU football game the previous afternoon.

Bill, John, and I traveling to Norman to watch the Sooners play the University of Pittsburgh in the late 50s or early 60s, then standing outside the south wall of the end zone after the game to wait for the Sooners to come out of their dressing room. We looked up and there was Mike Ditka on the last row of the end zone with a scowl on his face.

In later years when I was doing consulting work in Utah in a refinery where John had done some work for Phillips, I ran into a Leslie Phipps who was the daughter of a good friend of John's at Phillips in Bartlesville.

So many more good memories of good times with John that are too numerous to mention. He will be missed by me and others. He was a very intelligent person and very dedicated to anything he tackled. He went full bore. I will miss our too infrequent conversations over the years and certainly miss him.

Jim Cline



“ I am so sorry to read of Mr. Watters' passing!

Mr. Watters volunteered in my 5th grade Math class at Nowata Elementary for many, many years. He was such an asset to the school and my classroom. We worked so well together and made a great team. I always looked forward to the days he would be there. My favorite memory will always be the day a student asked if he was my dad. We laughed about it and it became an ongoing joke... the child was convinced he must be my dad because my name at the time was Rainwater... his name Watters... so my mom's last name was Rain. Mr. Watters helped so many kids over the years, and I always considered myself the lucky one, because he was my volunteer. I'm thankful I had the opportunity to know him. He was an amazing man, mentor, and friend and I loved him dearly.

Christi Horner - February 11 at 04:24 PM