

Celebration of Life

Lessie Geraldine "Jerri" Watson

September 14, 1939 – June 1, 2026



Friday, June 26, 2026

Viewing – 10:00 a.m. Service – 11:00 a.m.

The Journey of Faith Church -

A United Methodist Congregation

2900 Smallwood Drive West, Waldorf, Maryland

Rev. Dr. David Scott, Pastor



In Loving Memory of Jerri Watson

Our beloved Lessie Alston Watson, affectionately known as "Sissie" to her family and "Jerri" to her many friends, was born on September 14, 1939, in Siler City, North Carolina, to Willie C. Alston and Lessie Siler Alston. After several years of illness, she peacefully entered eternal rest on June 1, 2026.

Jerri was educated in the local school system and graduated from Chatham High School in 1957. Following high school, she attended North Carolina A&T in Greensboro, North Carolina, where she completed the Tailoring Program in 1960.

Jerri met the love of her life, John Henry Watson, on a blind date. Eight months later, they were married on June 16, 1962. They became the proud parents of their firstborn son, Darryl Shaun Watson, on November 4, 1964, and were blessed again with the birth of their daughter, Cheryl Leslie Watson, on September 24, 1968. Together, Jerri and John shared 55 years of loving matrimony.

Jerri was known for her many artistic talents and gifts. A trained tailor, she designed and created her own clothing and crafted garments for others, including wedding attire, special occasion outfits, and everyday wear. She was also an avid baker, famous among family and friends for her pound cakes and specialty cakes. Jerri had a passion for plants and gardening and possessed a remarkable ability to create something beautiful from whatever was available. Her homemade wines and treats were enjoyed by many.

Her greatest passion was serving children and underserved communities. Jerri began mentoring youth early in life as a cheerleading coach with the Glenarden Boys and Girls Club. She also worked with the children's ministry at church, volunteered at Ardmore Elementary School, and served as a substitute teacher. After relocating from Landover to Waldorf, Maryland, she continued her commitment to young people through youth bowling programs and 4-H. Eventually, she turned her love for children into a career, first serving as a school bus aide for disabled and emotionally challenged children before earning her Commercial Driver's License and becoming a beloved school bus driver for more than 20 years.

Jerri was also a devoted member of the Marjorie T. Lancaster Chapter No. 84, Order of the Eastern Star, where she served faithfully for many years.

A lifelong sports enthusiast, Jerri excelled as a point guard in high school, played softball, and was a cheerleader in college. She enjoyed watching football, tennis, and basketball and rarely missed an opportunity to attend her grandsons' sporting events.

Jerri loved traveling with John and her siblings, exploring destinations across the globe. During their retirement years, she and John became proud "snowbirds," spending winters at their home in Florida. Travel was always at the top of Jerri's list of favorite activities. Whether with family or friends, she and John were known to pack up and embark on an adventure at a moment's notice.

Jerri accepted Christ at an early age and remained steadfast in her faith throughout her life. She was proud to be a founding member of the Journey of Faith Church, where she faithfully served on numerous ministries and committees, including the Usher Ministry, Food Pantry Ministry, Seasoned Saints Ministry, Prison Ministry, Marriage Ministry, and Children's Ministry, among many others. One of her proudest honors

came when the Seasoned Saints Ministry recognized her as "A Faithful Servant, An Inspirational Role Model, and an Outstanding Church Leader."

Jerri was preceded in death by her beloved husband, John Henry Watson; her parents, Willie C. Alston and Lessie Siler Alston; her brothers, Hubert Lee Brown, Alvis Alston, and Henry Alston; sisters-in-law, Lillie Alston, Lillye Harbison, Iola Simmons, and Creola Baker; brothers-in-law, Charles Watson, Summer Watson Jr., Billy Watson, and Joseph Ryan; and her goddaughter, Diane Lane.

She leaves to cherish her memory her loving children, Darryl Shaun Watson (Inez) and Cheryl Watson Murray (Al); her grandchildren, Albert C. Murray III ("Tre"), Camari Watson Murray, and Sean Miller; and her great-grandchildren, Carter and Riley Miller. She is also survived by her siblings, Cylestine Laury (Harry), Stephen Alston (Ann), and sister-in-law Sandra Alston.

Her extended family includes sisters- and brothers-in-law Shirley Matteson Ryan, Fred Watson (Shirley), Mabel Hecht (Richard), Linda Watson, Angela Watson, and Pauline Watson, as well as many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, countless cousins who were like additional siblings, dear friends, and classmates who shared in the joy of her life and will forever cherish her memory.

Her legacy of faith, service, creativity, compassion, and love will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.



Homegoing Celebration

Order of Service

Musical Prelude.....Bro. Keith A. Rowel, Musician

Gathering

The Word of Grace.....Rev. Dr. David Scott

Greeting and Welcome.....Pastor Keith White
Smith Chapel United Methodist Church

Music Ministry.....The Seasoned Saints Choir

Prayer.....Pastor Ken White
Mount Hope United Methodist Church

Proclamation and Response

Old Testament Reading.....Psalm 23.....Sis. Tia Cunningham

New Testament Reading.....John 14: 1-6.....Sis. Wanda Wyatt

Music Ministry.....The Seasoned Saints Choir

Acknowledgements.....Sis. Annie Young

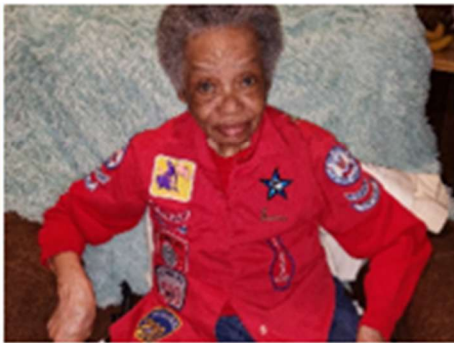
Obituary.....Read Silently

Reflection.....Chatham High School Class of 1957 Representative

Music Ministry.....The Seasoned Saints Choir

Eulogy.....Pastor Tony Love
St. Paul United Methodist Church

Recessional.....The Seasoned Saints Choir







Pallbearers

Tre Murray
Camari Murray

Michael Laury
Zachary Laury

Justin Alston
Adano Murray Jr.

Expressions of Appreciation

The Family of Jerri Watson would like to extend a sincere and heartfelt thanks to all of you for your expressions of love, visits, phone calls, text messages, prayers, cards, and many acts of kindness shared during the time of our bereavement.

Repast

All are invited to join the family in the Sanctuary following service.

Interment

Wednesday, July 15, 2026
1:45 p.m.
Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery
Cheltenham, Maryland

Service entrusted to:

Adams Funeral Home, P.A.
20605 Aquasco Road
Aquasco, MD 20608



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