



John Anthony Watkin

September 18, 1950 - November 25, 2023

John Anthony Watkin, of Potterville, a man that never met a stranger and always had a joke, passed away on Saturday, November 25, 2023. John 73, was born on September 18, 1950, in Owatonna, Minnesota, the son of Clifford and Bernice (Otto) Watkin. He graduated high school in North Dakota and achieved his Bachelor's Degree in Economics from North Dakota State University. John worked for the Boy Scouts of America. He served on the City of Grand Ledge Planning Commission. John worked for the Michigan Department of Transportation for over 34 years in the Bureau of Transportation Planning and retired in 2018, lastly serving as the section manager of Statewide Planning.

John met his sweetheart, Jean, while serving in the U.S. Navy in Hawaii and on December 18, 1976, they married. They were married for over 46 years creating many lasting memories. John loved all levels of football but especially the Minnesota Vikings. He loved playing the piano, art of any kind, woodworking, experiencing new adventures, and most importantly trips with Jean to visit their family.

John was a gentle giant who will be remembered for his kindness, huge sense of humor, and his love for people. If he ever called you "dude" or teased you, you knew you were in his circle of friends. He was not just a supervisor at MDOT, he was a big mentor to his employees and took great pride in watching

them succeed. His biggest enjoyment in life was spending time with his family.

John is survived by his wife, Jean; sons, Russ (Aly) Watkin, of Utah, and Nick (Lauren) Watkin, of Arizona; 6 grandchildren, Mazana, Tristan, Luke, Grant, Logan, and Marcavio; brothers, David (Annette) Watkin, and Charles (Julie) Watkin; and numerous extended family members. He was predeceased by his parents.

Friends are encouraged to support John's family by attending services or sharing memories on his Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com. Visitation will take place on Friday, December 1, 2023, from 2-4:00 p.m. and 6-8:00 p.m. at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. A funeral mass will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Charlotte, with Rev. Fr. Dwight Ezop officiating. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Eaton County Humane Society. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 1. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Visitation

DEC 1. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Funeral Mass

DEC 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church
807 St. Mary Boulevard
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



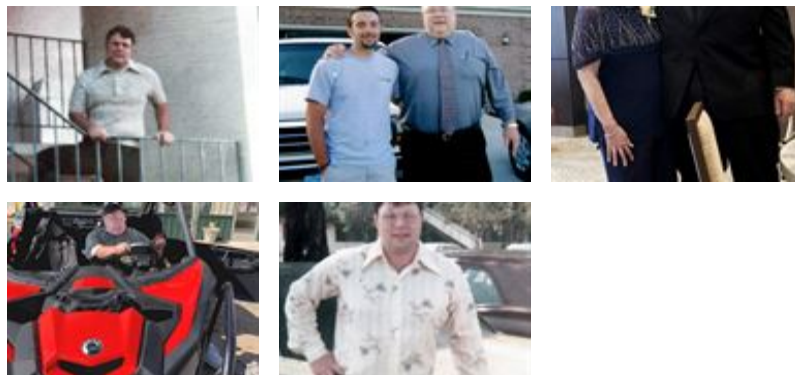
“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of John Anthony Watkin



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - December 01, 2023 at 02:48 PM



“ 53 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - December 01, 2023 at 01:54 PM



“ George Yang (GVMC) purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of John Anthony Watkin.



George Yang (GVMC) - December 01, 2023 at 01:51 PM

KL

“ I interacted with John as a staff member at SEMCOG. He always approached our work with a friendly, problem solving approach. As we accomplished our work we also had fun working on issues together. His efforts on behalf of MDOT contributed to both the State and the Southeast Michigan region. Rest in Peace John!
Kathleen Lomako

Kathleen Lomako - December 01, 2023 at 01:40 PM

BP

“ Bill & Faith Penner planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Anthony Watkin.

Bill & Faith Penner - December 01, 2023 at 12:40 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of John Anthony Watkin.



December 01, 2023 at 12:40 PM

BS

“ Brad S. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Anthony Watkin.

Brad S. - December 01, 2023 at 11:46 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Anthony Watkin.*



December 01, 2023 at 10:59 AM



“ *John was a major influence in so many peoples lives. He served as a mentor for me and many others. He was always so jovial and personable. Whether it was talking about traveling with his wife or his son Nicks wrestling, he always felt more like family than a coworker. I will never forget his warm smile and great snippets of advice. Rest in peace my friend.*

Josh Bocks - November 30, 2023 at 04:22 PM



“ *To John's family...
May God wrap his arms around you during this time. John touched the lives of everyone that crossed his path, including my own.*

John hired me as a supervisor on his team in October 2017. He was an incredible person to work with, earning the respect of those around him. He made time for people, listened, and strived to help people achieve their very best.

At work, he held people to a high standard but did it in a way that was patient and kind.... asking questions, then of course.... drawing a timeline or graphic of a process. I smile every time I think of him and am grateful for our time together.

You have my deepest sympathies. He will be greatly missed.

Anita Boughner - November 30, 2023 at 02:32 PM

CP

“ My name is Carmine Palombo and I had the pleasure of working with John for many years while I was at SEMCOG. John was a great ambassador for MDOT. Always with a smile and asking, “You alright? Need anything” John was just good people! Rest in peace dude!

carmine palombo - November 30, 2023 at 12:03 PM

 Kim
Ault

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kim Ault - November 30, 2023 at 10:40 AM

DM

“ John truly cared about others, whether he was giving guidance, instilling confidence, teaching skills, setting up timelines, helping folks move, trim trees, or setting fence posts he always went the extra mile to help. He had a profound effect on my career at MDOT and my life in general. When I interviewed with him back in 2001 when asked to list my weaknesses I responded that I liked fast food too much, he responded that is not a weakness, we can go to lunch together. I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to have know him as my boss and my friend. My deepest sympathy to Jean, Nick, Russ and the rest of the family.

Don Mayle - November 29, 2023 at 09:36 PM

DJ

“ My heart is saddened to know that the world will no longer experience the big hug, deep laugh, and genuine smile of my friend and co-worker, John Watkin. He made an impact at MDOT, whether holding it down in Statewide Planning or playing Santa for the children at Christmas. Sometimes we would share a tear as we lovingly talked about our military boys. My condolences to his love Jeannie and the entire Watkin family. May his memory be a blessing, as he blessed so many others.



Denise Jackson Jones

Denise Jackson Jones - November 29, 2023 at 09:07 PM

DJ

“ Our deepest sympathies on the loss of John. He was a wonderful , sweet man and a terrific neighbor. He had a bombastic laugh and you couldn't help but smile every time we spoke with him. He was gracious , kind and a beautiful soul. May his memory be eternal. With sympathy, Daphne & Paul Johnson of AZ.

daphne johnson - November 29, 2023 at 08:07 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Anthony Watkin.



November 28, 2023 at 09:53 PM

DH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Donald Howe - November 28, 2023 at 09:13 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of John Anthony Watkin.



November 28, 2023 at 04:25 PM

JB

“ John was a great mentor to me in my early days with MDOT. He helped me prepare for interviews, gave me inspiring pep talks, and always greeted me with a smile. He always had some wise piece of advise to give and was always bragging about his family. My deepest condolences and prayers to your family. RIP John.

Jenny Bullen

Jenny Bullen - November 28, 2023 at 01:54 PM

DM

“ Jeannie,

Our friendship meant alot to us. If I wondered where Suzanne was, the first place I looked was in your kitchen. Whether it was in the neighborhood, at lunch catching up (3 hours felt like 3 minutes), or a road trip, his quick wit, especially play on word games, always lead to belly laughter.

Don and Suzanne Murray

Donald Murray - November 28, 2023 at 10:54 AM

CZ

“ So sorry for your loss of John. I worked with John at MDOT and his presence was immense. He was one of the first to welcome me to the team even though I wasn't part of his Division. We struck up a friendship quickly and I will treasure all the talks we had...he had great advice! To top it off, he was the best Santa ever! I will miss him.

Carrie Ms. Zuidema - November 28, 2023 at 10:37 AM

PB

“ I worked with John for many years at MDOT and he was very dedicated to his job. My deepest condolences to Jeannie and the entire Watkin Family. Praying for you during this difficult time.

Pamela Boyd-Walker

Pamela Boyd-Walker - November 28, 2023 at 10:28 AM



RK

“ John and I shared many laughs and stories while working together at MDOT. He truly helped me with his ability to prioritize and organize daily work activities. During retirement we continued to share text messages about the Vikings, UM football, and home projects.

I have many good memories.

Rest in peace my friend.

Condolences to the Watkin family.

Ron Katch - November 28, 2023 at 10:25 AM



“ *Fairest of All* was purchased for the family of John Anthony Watkin.



November 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM

JM

“ *John was a wonderful person, neighbor, and friend. Truly one of the kindest and funniest people our family has ever had the pleasure of knowing. He'll be dearly missed.*

Joe Murray - November 28, 2023 at 10:06 AM

DF

“ *John hired me at MDOT back in 2016. His humor took any pressure I had out of the interview. He remained a mentor and friend for years. Prayers for his family. Thank you John for being a great person.*

David Fairchild - November 28, 2023 at 08:08 AM

TG

“ John was the first person who befriended me when I started in 1990. He put his arm around my shoulder (he liked to say "give me hug", lol) and taught me many things about working at MDOT that they simply didn't teach to new people back then. He was a wonderful soul whom I looked forward to seeing every day. I lost touch with him after his retirement but I am certain he continued to be the generous, funny, kind man I remember. He is missed!

Tim Guenther - November 28, 2023 at 07:19 AM

DH

“ David Hartman lit a candle in memory of John Anthony Watkin



David Hartman - November 28, 2023 at 07:07 AM

DM

John was truly a great friend and confidant. Whenever John and I met, he would give me a very strong handshake or hug. He was always ready and willing to help anyone I will remember the wonderful relationships he had with everyone in the department , federal and local agencies. He will always remember his accomplishments and the good times we had.

Dalrois Marion McBurrows - November 30, 2023 at 08:53 PM