



## Dwayne Watkins

April 17, 1968 - October 3, 2022

Dwayne Taylor 'Speedy' Watkins, 54 years young, fought a 6 month long courageous battle after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage on April 13, 2022. His suffering came to an end on October 3, 2022 and he is now, finally, at peace.

Dwayne was born in New Haven, CT at Yale-New Haven Hospital to parents Matthew Watkins and Linda Lopes Watkins. He celebrated his last birthday at Yale Hospital on April 17, 2022, just four days after he was stricken. Dwayne attended New Haven Public Schools and graduated from James Hillhouse High School and later attended Gateway Community College.

Dwayne, whom overcame many challenges in his life, had many interests and several careers. As a Certified Nursing Assistant, Dwayne provided patient care for individuals in New Haven, Meriden and Cobalt, Connecticut. Most recently, he began to care for his mother. Dwayne loved clothes and had an outgoing personality that served him well working in sales and hospitality at IKEA, Boscov's and Walmart. Dwayne loved to cook and improved his culinary skills while prepping or cooking in kitchens at Yale-New Haven Hospital, Cracker Barrel, Applebee's, the Food Court at IKEA or at Pattaconk Bar and Grille. Although he could cook and prepare many dishes, Dwayne's favorite food was his girlfriend Wanda's fried chicken.

Dwayne got the nickname 'Speedy' because of his love of music and dance, which was a Lopes trait. Dwayne learned to become a DJ, and could be found providing the musical entertainment for family and friends events. Many didn't know that Dwayne also played the violin with his Grandmother Eardie's encouragement and threats if he didn't practice. Dwayne loved bowling every Tuesday night with his brother Matt and his family. He loved fishing, a sport he also shared with Matt, and he loved playing video games. The travel bug bit Dwayne and took him on several trips to Puerto Rico. His most recent jaunts were with Wanda to New York, Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon and a special trip to Los Angeles and Rodeo Drive.

In addition to his parents Matthew Watkins, Sr. and Linda Bolden, Dwayne leaves to cherish his memories: Girlfriend whom never left his side, Wanda Brown and family, his children including Dwayne Taylor 'DJ' Watkins, Jr., brothers Matthew G. Watkins, Jr. (Ernestine) on whose shoulders Dwayne stood, and William C. Anderson; grand children including, Christian Taylor Watkins and Taylor Lorraine Watkins, maternal Aunt Mommy Pamela R. Lopes (Charles H. Byrd III), paternal aunts and uncles Carrie Dempsey, Diane Dempsey, Tricia Dempsey, Carol Nicholson and Nate Dempsey. Dwayne also leaves Special Niece Laronda Watkins (James Brown), LaShara Holness, Kendra Watkins and nephew Matthew G. Watkins III (Sasha), nieces Loretta Cooper, Lanaysia Cooper, nephews William Anderson, Jr. and Eric Johnson. Dwayne also leaves several grand nieces and nephews, as well as many other family members and friends. Dwayne was predeceased by his paternal grandparents Andrew Watkins and Louise Watkins Dempsey, maternal grandparents Henry R. Lopes and Eardie A.

Lopes, and Aunt Regina M. Lopes.

The family wishes to acknowledge with heartfelt appreciation the kindness, love, prayers and sympathy and donations during the loss of our loved one, Dwayne Taylor Watkins.

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### Calling Hours

OCT **25**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Revival Church  
450 West Todd Street  
Hamden, CT 06518

### Funeral Service

OCT **25**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Revival Church  
450 West Todd Street  
Hamden, CT 06518

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dwayne Watkins*

October 09, 2023 at 06:14 AM



“ *S.I.P my friend and classmate. My condolences to your family!*



**Sandra Crockett** - October 24, 2022 at 10:02 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy and condolences to the family. My BFF over 35 yrs and he will definitely will be missed. Keep the faith in Jesus & stay strong. George*

**George Gaskins** - October 22, 2022 at 08:35 PM



“ *My Condolences to Linda, His Mother and Family*

**Linda Keith** - October 21, 2022 at 07:23 AM



“ *Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Dwayne Watkins.*



October 20, 2022 at 03:10 PM

FD

“ *My dear friend, you will be greatly missed. I am thankful for the time we spent together at our 30th class reunion, you had a good time, and really enjoyed yourself. Rest easy my friend.*



**Faye Daniels** - October 19, 2022 at 09:47 PM

ED

“ *My Classmate Wat (is what I called you) I'm gonna miss our conversations through fb messenger about our good ole days in school S.I.P my friend*



**Evadale Daniels-Smith** - October 19, 2022 at 11:46 AM

MM

“ *Michelle martin lit a candle in memory of Dwayne Watkins*



**Michelle martin** - October 18, 2022 at 07:58 PM

BH

“ To Cousin Matt and family,

*I extend my sincere heartfelt condolences prayers and thoughts to you all for the passing of your brother Wayne. I walked in your shoes back in 2014 when I loss my brother Dexter. One thing about the Lord, he will always be there to comfort you and your family. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.*

*God bless you and your family,  
Love Cousin Bern Hill-McCall*



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**Bernadette Hill-McCall** - October 18, 2022 at 12:02 AM

JO

*I extended my condolences to the family. I worked with Dwayne at Yale and he was a hard worker and always made you laugh and crack all kinds of jokes. He was well liked and always talked highly about his family.  
Rip Dwayne you will be missed.*

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**Joan** - October 18, 2022 at 10:25 PM