



Ben Ray Watson, Jr.

December 30, 1972 - October 21, 2024

Ben Ray Watson, Jr. "Ben" of Troutman, North Carolina, formerly of Mooresville and Charlotte went to live the eternal dream on October 21, 2024.

Ben was recently inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame highlighting his three decades of coaching. While earning over 600 career wins, two team state championships, and sponsoring Fellowship of Christian Athletes he was a mentor to hundreds of young men. The parents of his wrestlers became more than spectators of a sport he led. These parents became dear friends of his entire family.

Ben believed it was paramount to make lasting memories: enjoying Lake Norman with his family, taking cruises with his wife, golfing with friends, celebrating holidays with extended family, and playing in the sand during lots of beach vacations with his grandchildren.

Ben was preceded in death by his father, Ben "Ray" Watson, Sr.; sister, Marcey Carole Watson Cuthbertson; and daughter, Sarah Brandon Alexander.

He will be missed by his wife, Cindy Watson; mother, Emily Watson; daughter Anna Catherine Reeves and husband Logan Reeves; daughter Starr Watson; son Ray Watson; granddaughter Adeline Wilcox; grandsons Campbell Wilcox, Thompson Wilcox, and Emmett Reeves; and a host of beloved aunts, uncles,

cousins, nephews, nieces and more.

The family is receiving friends Saturday, October 26 at 1:00 p.m. at the Mooresville High School Gymnasium, 659 E. Center Ave, Mooresville, North Carolina. A celebration of Ben's life will begin at 3:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to FCA of North Carolina, 4600 Marriott Dr.#120, Raleigh, NC 27612

The family would like to extend their appreciation to all the nurses, physicians and staff of Levine Cancer Center and MD Anderson. To our friends, your unwavering compassion, support and kindness will never be forgotten.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Watson family. Condolences may be made to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.

Previous Events

Receiving Friends

OCT **26**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Mooresville High School Gymnasium
659 E. Center Ave
Mooresville, NC 28115

Memorial Service

OCT **26**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM.

Mooresville High School Gymnasium

Tribute Wall



“ Miss Cindy, I am so sorry for your loss. Mr. Ben was such a kind, warm soul..it was obvious even as a child. I had so many fun times at your house with Sarah - sleeping over, swimming, and even watching the infamous Janet Jackson/Justin Timberlake Super Bowl halftime show together. But the strongest memory is just how much happiness and light came into your lives with Mr. Ben. What a blessing he was to everyone who knew him ❤️ Sincerely, Amber Arlen

Frau Farbissina - October 27, 2024 at 08:56 AM

BS

“ Dear Cindy, I am so sorry about your incredible loss. The many tributes, especially on FB, speak volumes about Ben's love and support for his friends, and especially his students. Mooresville is richer for his presence. Love and condolences to your beautiful family.

Barbara Stickle - October 26, 2024 at 01:47 PM

CS

“ Ben was a gentle giant of a man. A friend and colleague that cared about students and staff alike. I will miss him coming by the classroom, and just the simple kindness he showed to us all... even in passing in the hallway. Thank you for setting the example of what a man can achieve with faith and heart-felt kindness. With all my love to his family.

C. Stonestreet - October 25, 2024 at 06:55 PM

MD

“ Sending prayers and condolences to the Watson Family. I met Ben over thirty years ago at Coulwood Middle School. His infectious smile would capture anyone’s attention. He was loved by all his students and friends.



Mary R. Talley Dingle - October 25, 2024 at 03:30 PM

CF

“ Chief Campurciani and MPD family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ben Ray Watson, Jr..

Chief Campurciani and MPD family - October 25, 2024 at 10:52 AM

CF

“ Chief Campurciani and MPD family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ben Ray Watson, Jr..



Chief Campurciani and MPD family - October 25, 2024 at 10:52 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ben Ray Watson, Jr..

October 25, 2024 at 08:11 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ben Ray Watson, Jr..



October 25, 2024 at 08:11 AM



“ What a kind and generous man. Deepest sympathy to the family. The community shared your loss.

Bill Thunberg - October 24, 2024 at 06:01 PM



“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



and honoring the memory of Christian Watson he was a member to hundreds of young men. The parents of his students became more than operators of a sport for him. These parents became real friends of his life long.

Ben himself I was fortunate to make lasting memories enjoying late afternoon with his family, having conversations with his wife, getting into his car, celebrating his success with his family, and playing in the pool during his time of leisure with his grandchildren.

Ben was preceded in death by his father, Ben Ray Watson, Sr., sister, Patricia Corde Watson-Cookman, and daughter, Sarah Brandon Watson.

We will be missed by his wife, Cindy Watson, mother, Emily Watson, daughter, three grandsons, Ben and Harrison, sister, Rebecca, daughter, Sara, Watson, and the Watson grandchildren, Andrew Watson, grandson, Campbell Watson, Thompson Watson, and Daniel Watson, and a host of beloved family, friends, neighbors, and friends.

The family is receiving friends Saturday, October 26 at 1:00 p.m. at the Mooresville High School Gymnasium, 800 S. Center Ave, Mooresville, North Carolina. A celebration of Ben's life will begin at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to PCA of North Carolina.



Watson began his coaching career at Cloverland Middle School in Mecklenburg County, where he also served as an assistant coach for the wrestling teams at Independence High School (1983-86) and West Mecklenburg (1986-89). He also coached at East Mecklenburg, Harding and Harding from 1989 to 2007. Before joining at Mooresville High School (2007 - present).

Throughout his coaching career, Watson has led his wrestling teams at East Mecklenburg and Mooresville to great success, including ten consecutive championships (2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014). His teams have also won the regional championships (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015) and regional state state tournament titles (2010, 2011). Additionally, Watson's teams reached the regional state state titles in 2002, 2012, and 2015, and were regional tournament winners up to 2011 and 2012.

Watson has coached 16 national state champions, 71 state placers, and three high school All-Americans. His over 300 dual team wins, his five team regional and state tournament awards, including Mecklenburg County Coach of the Year, Mecklenburg County



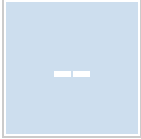
Michael Roberts - October 24, 2024 at 03:48 PM



“ Sympathy and prayers for all Ben's family and friends.



Carolyn Parris - October 24, 2024 at 03:43 PM



“ -- purchased the *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* for the family of Ben Ray Watson, Jr..



-- - October 24, 2024 at 12:43 PM



“ Virginia Tech Wrestling planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ben Ray Watson, Jr..

Virginia Tech Wrestling - October 24, 2024 at 10:00 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ben Ray Watson, Jr..



October 24, 2024 at 10:00 AM



“ Judy Watson Henry lit a candle in memory of Ben Ray Watson, Jr.



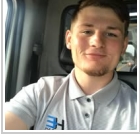
Judy Watson Henry - October 24, 2024 at 09:06 AM

KC

“ *Karla Catan lit a candle in memory of Ben Ray Watson, Jr.*



Karla Catan - October 23, 2024 at 09:34 PM



“ There is no one memory I can share that can sum up the time I was fortunate enough to know you. Growing up without a father got a whole lot easier since I met you. I could always count on you and ask for advice. It hurts so bad to know I can never call you again. It makes me angry that you are gone. Why you? You will always be my hero. I was trying to come see you last weekend to meet my Daughter. I knew you had a good reason for not answering. There was never a doubt in my mind. Thanks for teaching me how to be a man, thank you for teaching me how to be a father, and most importantly thank you for teaching me how to believe in myself. Losing your dad twice is not for the weak. You were always one of the first people I called when I had good news. Every year on father’s day I would always send you a stupid long message. I can’t believe you are gone. I know you would want me to make the best out of a bad situation. So that’s what I’m going to do. I’m thankful for the time I had with you. It took me years to even grasp what you did for me. I love you coach. P.s don’t teach anyone the “shit shot” up there.

I would like to take a moment to thank coach’s family for allowing him to serve his community the way he did. He changed so many lives. I’ve always told him if I can ever come close to leaving an impact on as many lives as he did that would be my measure of success. I love you guys



Mitch Jacobs - October 23, 2024 at 07:54 PM

ID

“ I did not get to Ben much. He Will forever remain in my heart as such a nice, polite and caring person. I Will miss him dearly..I won't say goodbye because I will see him again in a netter place. God bless his sweet family and friends

Inez Dills - October 23, 2024 at 07:39 PM

TF

“ The Eaton family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ben Ray Watson, Jr..

The Eaton family - October 23, 2024 at 07:24 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ben Ray Watson, Jr..



October 23, 2024 at 07:24 PM

FC

“ from Jackson County North Carolina planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ben Ray Watson, Jr..

from Jackson County North Carolina - October 23, 2024 at 07:22 PM

JH

“ I remember one time Ray had some sort of gun there was a mirror in our living room And Ray pointed and said right between the eye's gun went off. My Dad grabbed the gun through it over the bank never knew what happened to the gun .one thing certain Ray never went got it.



Judy Watson Henry - October 23, 2024 at 03:45 PM

CI

For those of you who are confused, Ray was Ben's father. He was a mess. Ben lost his father when he was 18.

cindy - October 24, 2024 at 07:49 AM

HE

Ben worked with Grace Kids for 7 years! What an honor to laugh, encourage and pray for these 3rd to 5th graders with him and the rest of the dream team there! I saw him as a dad to Ray and Starr, a husband to Cindy, but after reading the last post and hearing the remarks at the funeral today, God certainly used him as a coach and teacher. Thank you Jesus, for sending sweet Ben Watson into our lives! He indeed impacted more lives in his short life than most in an 80 year life to quote Pastor Scott Raney!

Help us grieve well, with hope and with your ever present Holy Spirit to comfort us!!

Heidi Eller

Heidi Eller - October 26, 2024 at 07:21 PM