



## Dale Louis Watkins

October 12, 1942 - October 26, 2022

Dale Watkins long battle with COPD ended on October 26, 2022 surrounded by family and friends at his home at The Chateau Girardeau.

Dale was born in Jonesboro, Arkansas October 12, 1942 to the late Louis Watkins and Rachel Adams Watkins. He developed a lifelong love of the outdoors and horses, on his grandfather's Arkansas farm.

He married Sue Bittle in 1962 and in 1973 moved his family to Cape Girardeau. His friendly and competitive nature led him to a career in sales. Retiring from Hardin Sysco after years of working the food service industry, he went on to retire a second time from McBride Mack in truck sales.

He was never without a horse. His early years were spent rodeoing, roping and trail riding Western style. He later developed a passion for polo. Along with his son, Steven, he trained his favorite quarter horse, Buck, to become a polo pony. He joined Little Egypt Polo Club. He, Sue and Buck spent many happy years traveling and playing polo throughout the area. When COPD left Dale unable to ride, he took his competitive nature to the card table, spending many hours at bridge and poker.

A man of faith, he was currently a member of First Baptist Church.

He will be remembered as a loving and generous husband, father, and Pa-Daddy, in his signature Wranglers, cowboy shirt, boots and hat. He will be deeply missed.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Sue; his daughter, Laurie (Joe) Schneider; his son, Steven Watkins; grandsons, Sam (Meagan) Schneider and Jack Watkins; and great-grandsons, Sawyer and Canaan Schneider.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Friends may call 10:00 am to 11:00 am on Monday, October 31, 2022 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau.

Funeral service will be at 11:00 am Monday, October 31, 2022 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau with the Rev. Jeff Long officiating.

Burial will be at Jonesboro Memorial Park in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to Mississippi Valley Therapeutic Horsemanship (MVTH) or a charity of your choice.

# Cemetery Details

## Jonesboro Memorial Park - Jonesboro, AR

3910 Harrisburg Rd  
Jonesboro, AR 72404

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **31**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel  
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

## Funeral Service

OCT **31**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel  
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

# Tribute Wall

LD

“ I worked with Dale for several years selling groceries, he helped to train me and I learned some great things. We also shared a love of horses and riding. One of my favorite memories of Dale, he was always ready to go, when he would stop the red Ford pick up, he would slap it in park and be in the door to the restaurant we were calling on before the truck stopped rocking. I wish the best for Dale's family and my sincere condolences. Larry Denman

Larry Denman - November 01, 2022 at 01:07 PM

SW

“ Sincerely Wilbur purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Dale Louis Watkins.



Sincerely Wilbur - October 31, 2022 at 07:14 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dale Louis Watkins.



October 29, 2022 at 07:36 PM

GB

“ Dale grew up next door to us in Jonesboro. The obituary did not mention brothers Jerry or Norris. Wondering if that means they passed on previously. Dale was a "get-it-done" type of kid.

gene boucher - October 29, 2022 at 09:18 AM

LS

*Gene, I failed to mention Dad's brothers in the obituary. His older brother Jerry is living in the same retirement community that my dad and mom live in Cape Girardeau, he is a widower. His younger brother Norris is still living in Jonesboro with his wife Donna. I'm so glad you asked about them, it was an oversight on my part.*  
*Laurie Watkins Schneider*

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**Laurie Schneider** - October 29, 2022 at 11:53 AM

RW

“*Dale and I with two other fellows trailered four horses to the Smokey Mts. many years ago. We rode the horses to the Appalachian trail. It was a beautiful spring day. We spent the night in a bear cage on the trail. However, the next day we woke up to four inches of snow on the ground and the temp had dropped 20 degrees, their were four very cranky horses. Dale being the consummate horseman was able to help us get the horses down off the Mt. A great memory with a great friend!* Robert Ward

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**Robert Ward** - October 28, 2022 at 12:20 PM

BW

“*We have known Dale and Sue for many years and always valued their friendship! One of my many memories is when our youngest daughter wanted a Palomino horse! Dale was down in AR and picked up a young Palomino horse RAGAN named Madison! Madison quickly adopted the name “Mad Madison”! It seemed Dale was the only one that could handle her! Madison eventually went to Virginia where Steve was working and eventually a little girl fell in love with Madison, one of the happiest days of my life. Dale was the friend that would do anything for you! We will miss you Dale! See you on the other side*❤️ Barb Ward

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**Barb Ward** - October 28, 2022 at 12:13 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Dale Louis Watkins.



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October 28, 2022 at 09:38 AM