



## Mrs. Laverne Purvis Watkins

January 21, 1944 - April 16, 2026

Mrs. Laverne Purvis Watkins, 82, of Sumner died peacefully at her residence surrounded by loved ones on Thursday, April 16, 2026.

The funeral service will be held at 4:00 PM on Thursday April 23, 2026 at Banks Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Brad Shealy will officiate.

Mrs. Watkins was born on January 21, 1944 in Tifton to the late, James William and Nancy Jane McMillan Purvis. She had lived in Worth County since 1972. Mrs. Watkins worked as the Finance Director for the Worth County Board of Commissioners for many years before retiring. She adored her family and taught all of them to have good values in life. Mrs. Watkins was a hard worker but also had a wonderful sense of humor. She was considered a friend by many who knew her. Mrs. Watkins was a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include her children, Deanna Merritt and Dean Watkins (Patti); grandchildren, Daniel Merritt (Shannon), Molly Watkins Gray (Josh), James D. "Jake" Watkins and Joseph Sumner; great grandchildren, Dalton Merritt, Hayden Merritt and Sophie Gray; siblings, Wayne Purvis (Teresa), Donnie Purvis and Pam Spurlock; and a host of nieces, nephews and other extended family members.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Watkins was preceded in death by her husband, James "Jim" Watkins; and 3 brothers and 4 sisters.

The family will receive friends on Thursday from 3:00 PM until service hour at Banks Funeral Home.

Banks Funeral Home in Sylvester is in charge of arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **23**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Banks Funeral Home  
PO Box 550  
210 N. Main Street  
Sylvester, GA 31791  
(229) 776-2055  
banksfh@yahoo.com  
<http://banks.funeralplan2.com/>

## Funeral Service

APR **23**. 4:00 PM (ET)

Banks Funeral Home  
PO Box 550  
210 N. Main Street  
Sylvester, GA 31791  
(229) 776-2055  
banksfh@yahoo.com  
<http://banks.funeralplan2.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Banks Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Laverne Purvis Watkins*



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**Banks Funeral Home** - April 22 at 04:42 PM



“ *June Coker lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laverne Purvis Watkins*



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**June Coker** - April 21 at 05:52 PM



“ *Sandra Watson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laverne Purvis Watkins*



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**Sandra Watson** - April 20 at 09:00 PM

CL

“ My deepest sympathy for her family and friends 🙏 I knew Miss Laverne years ago when she worked at the Napa warehouse.



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**Connie j Lundy** - April 20 at 08:18 PM

EC

“ I thoroughly enjoyed knowing Laverne when we both attended Trinity Presbyterian Church. She was always smiling, friendly and funny. She was also a smart, hard worker. Laverne will be missed by many. My prayers are for her loved ones during this sad, difficult time. May the Lord give you comfort. Elizabeth



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**Elizabeth Cowles** - April 19 at 12:22 PM

CT

“ Met Laverne through her wonderful son and daughter-in-law Patti and Dean. Camped in her beautiful yard more than once. She was a character and we shared a love of Pecans!

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**Chris Thomsen** - April 19 at 11:40 AM

LW

“ So sorry to hear about Laverne. She was such a sweet person. Prayers for her family 🙏  
Bobby & Karen Watson



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**Linda B. Watson** - April 19 at 11:11 AM

MS

“ *Martha Cross Saunders lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laverne Purvis Watkins*



Martha Cross Saunders - April 18 at 04:52 PM

ET

“ *Ernest Tomberlin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laverne Purvis Watkins*



Ernest Tomberlin - April 18 at 04:07 PM

SJ

“ *Sandra A Jones lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laverne Purvis Watkins*



Sandra A Jones - April 18 at 11:32 AM

LM

“ *With deepest sympathy* 🙏



Lakeysia McGill - April 18 at 09:58 AM

BH

“ Deanna, I am so sorry for your loss. Ms. Laverne was the best, she and I often time meet up when we work long hours at the courthouse. I send my sincere deepest condolences to you and your family. Love and hug to you, she will truly be missed

Brenda Hicks - April 18 at 08:15 AM

JM

“ Jerry & Bess Meeks lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laverne Purvis Watkins



Jerry & Bess Meeks - April 17 at 09:51 PM

TW

“ I first met Laverne when I was 13, and my brother Jim brought his beautiful wife home. She was sweet, funny, smart and had more ambition and energy than could ever hope to match. She is loved and she will be missed.



Tom Watkins - April 17 at 09:35 PM

MM

“ Marilyn Mims lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laverne Purvis Watkins



Marilynn Mims - April 17 at 09:06 PM

EC

“ Deanna I am so sorry. Your mother was so sweet and funny. She reminded me so much of my own mother. My prayers are with you and your family. God bless you



Evelyn Fletcher Castleberry - April 17 at 07:50 PM

SR

“ Suzanne McKellar Ray lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laverne Purvis Watkins



suzanne McKellar ray - April 17 at 05:30 PM

PP

“ Patrick Purvis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laverne Purvis Watkins



Patrick Purvis - April 17 at 05:08 PM

CT

“ Culmer Tanner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laverne Purvis Watkins



Culmer Tanner - April 17 at 03:40 PM

MW

“ Mike Willis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laverne Purvis Watkins



Mike willis - April 17 at 03:35 PM

SR

“ Laverne was a very sweet lady. She will be missed by many.



Sharon Rhoads - April 17 at 01:46 PM

NJ

“ Nicole Jones lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laverne Purvis Watkins



Nicole Jones - April 17 at 11:35 AM

KM

“ Karen McDonald lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Laverne Purvis Watkins



Karen McDonald - April 17 at 11:22 AM