



George Philip "Phil" Watkiss

November 24, 1945 - May 15, 2021

Mr. George Philip "Phil" Watkiss, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend, passed from this life into God's eternal arms on Saturday, May 15, 2021 at Southwest Christian Care surrounded by his loving family. Mr. Watkiss was born on November 24, 1945 in Jacksonville, FL to the late Dr. George E. Watkiss and Mary Bishop Watkiss. He served our country faithfully in the United States Army and is a distinguished and decorated veteran of the Vietnam War. After his return from Vietnam, Mr. Watkiss attended Jacksonville University where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Marketing then went on to the University of North Florida where he studied Transportation and Logistics and ultimately arriving in an Executive Program at Stanford University.

Mr. Watkiss started his extensive career in airline transportation with National Airlines in sales. It wasn't too long before a career move took him to Texas where he became the Director of Sales and Marketing for Southwest Airlines. Another door opened for him in Atlanta with SITA, a company based out of Geneva, Switzerland, where he served as the Senior Global Account Manager for 24 years. His time with SITA led him to travel the world, his favorite office being in London.

After his retirement he enjoyed more extensive travel. He and his wife, Gina enjoyed many trips on the Queen Mary "across the pond" for more site-seeing in England. Mr. Watkiss' love for aviation extended to his family and into his retirement where he enjoyed flying radio-controlled airplanes with his sons and grandchildren. In retirement, he became a member of the Dixie Wing, Commemorative Air Force where it was quoted that "Phil was the driving force of the restoration and maintenance of the Dixie Wing T-34 aircraft." He spent many days with the Dixie Wing working on various aircraft.

He is survived by his loving wife, Gina Watkiss; his children, Eric (Lynne) Watkiss, Kevin (Aimee) Watkiss, and Geoff (Amy) Watkiss; grandchildren, Alex Watkiss, Jarrett Watkiss, Kaitlyn Denney, and Julia Watkiss; and a brother, Dale (Cathy) Watkiss.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 22, 2021 at 11:00 AM at St. Paul's

Episcopal Church (576 Roscoe Road, Newnan) with The Rev. Hazel Glover officiating. Interment will follow the service at Forest Lawn Memorial Park with military honors being rendered by the United States Army. Friends may visit the family on Friday evening from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM at McKoon Funeral Home (38 Jackson Street, Newnan).

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in memory of Mr. Watkiss may be made to Southwest Christian Care online at <http://www.swchristiancare.org> or by mail at 7225 Lester Road Union City, GA 30291.

Condolences may be made to the family online at <http://www.mckoon.com>.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory | 770-253-4580

Events

MAY **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

21

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory
38 Jackson Street, Newnan, GA, US, 30263

MAY **Memorial Service** 11:00AM

22

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
576 Roscoe Road, Newnan, GA, US, 30263

Comments



“ I am deeply saddened to learn of the loss of Gina's beloved Phil. My children join me in sending heartfelt condolences to her and the family.

Meredith W Wilson - May 22 at 07:47 AM



“ I remember well the wedding at St. Paul's Episcopal in Newnan where it was truly an honor to give Gina away to Phil. And the many good times we had together at Thanksgiving dinners afterwards when my mother-in-law was still living. Especially the good vodka tonics. Phil made a very good drink. A very very good drink!

Mary Alice and I send our condolences on his passing to his entire family. No doubt the hurt at this time is great. But there is always comfort in the knowledge that in the not too distant future the good memories will prevail. They always prevail.

Dennis Brown - May 22 at 06:23 AM



“ Dear Gina & Family.....I met Philip Watkiss in the early 1950s in grammar school. However, it wasn't until a playground scuffle in the Third Grade that ended up in laughter that we became fast friends. He was just as nice a kid as he was an adult. Throughout our childhood, he was solid & reliable and had a gift for connecting with others. I am not surprised at all to hear from his career colleagues many years later about how much they respected him and enjoyed working with him.

We shared many parallels throughout our lives. We were both born in 1945 with me only 3 months older. We were both on the HS Swim Team. Both served in Vietnam....Phil in the Army and me in the Marines. We both used the GI Bill to go to college.....Phil to JU, UNF & Stanford and me to U of FLA. Gina, you and Phil had three boys while Sue and I had three girls.

During many conversations throughout the years, mostly phone calls, Phil and I always enjoyed sharing our common history that began back on that playground 66 years ago.

I could say much more but will conclude with this. It takes men like Phillip Watkiss to keep us on course with wind in our sails.

He was one of finest men I have ever known.

Pete Dowling
Atlantic Beach, Florida

Pete Dowling - May 22 at 01:12 AM



“ Watkiss family, I am so sorry for your loss. Phil was a very kind, incredible man with a smile that would light up a room. I had the privilege to work with Phil at SITA when I was assigned as pre-sales engineering support for Worldspan/Travelport. Not only did the SITA family love him, but the customer did as well. Continue to keep your amazing memories close to your heart. You are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.



Mashama Torres - May 20 at 05:12 PM



“ Eileen and Chuck Boehm purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of George Philip "Phil" Watkiss.



Eileen and Chuck Boehm - May 20 at 04:00 PM



“ My condolences to you Gina. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Dale Senko

Dale Senko - May 20 at 01:51 PM



“ Dearest and wise Phil who loved and cared for Gina. Thank you for sharing all that you did with the faculty and students of The Heritage School. Mostly - thank you for seeing our Gina for all the light that she is. May you rest in eternal peace. Gina - my heart aches for you.

Lory

Loline Leyva - May 20 at 12:17 PM



“ 28 years of supporting and respecting each other . Unfortunately , we lost a kind and wise person . He was always willing to help others both within his careers and family . Continued love and support . Lee and Richard

R. Pietrewicz - May 20 at 09:52 AM



“ Phil Watkiss was a kind and caring man, and a true southern gentleman. I had the honor to work with Phil as a colleague when I first started working at SITA. He was a mentor and he helped me navigate the culture. Later, he worked for me managing Worldspan/Travelport. He had a way with customers because he listened, had empathy, and the energy to get something done. Customers loved him. He was a true professional. One of his favorite sayings was "You have to break a few eggs to make an omelet." My heart goes out to his family and I pray the Lord will comfort them. God bless you, Phil. We will miss you greatly!

Larry Thomas - May 20 at 08:21 AM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of George Philip "Phil" Watkiss.



May 19 at 10:42 PM



“ Mike and Julie Cordray purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of George Philip "Phil" Watkiss.



Mike and Julie Cordray - May 19 at 03:16 PM



“ Chris, Vernice, Maxwell and Anderson Jones purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of George Philip "Phil" Watkiss.



Chris, Vernice, Maxwell and Anderson Jones - May 19 at 01:17 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of George Philip "Phil" Watkiss.



May 19 at 12:11 PM



“ Phil was a very special person. I remember when he and Gina met. It was love at first sight. They shared a loving life for 28 years. Phil will be deeply missed by all who were fortunate enough to know him. My thoughts and prayers are with Gina and his special family. He is still looking over them.

Bill Parker

William Eugene Parker - May 19 at 08:30 AM



“ I worked with Phil for many years on the Worldspan account at SITA. Phil was always warm, open and generous with his time. I learnt a lot from Phil and thoroughly enjoyed the times we were able to meet up as team in Atlanta and in London.

Will Wood - May 19 at 06:45 AM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of George Philip "Phil" Watkiss.



May 18 at 10:01 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of George Philip "Phil" Watkiss.



May 18 at 04:30 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of George Philip "Phil" Watkiss.



May 18 at 01:31 PM



“ Sad to hear of Phil's passing. I worked with him for several years at SITA as part of the Worldspan account team. He often treated me at his favourite coke and burger place in ATL. He was one of the few that understood my warped British sense of humour! He shall be missed. Rest in peace my friend.

James warmington-Smith - May 18 at 07:06 AM



“ Rest in peace Phil, it was a pleasure to have known and worked with you.

Kevin Faulkner - May 17 at 05:58 PM



“ Phil was a lovely man and a pleasure to work with. My condolences to his family.
Steve & Julie Greenslade

Steve Greenslade - May 17 at 05:10 PM



“ So very shocked and saddened to see this. Phil and I were co-workers, friends and associates for many years at SITA/EQUANT. One of the nicest persons you'd ever want to meet. We attempted to stay in touch after retirement and met a couple of times, but unfortunately not often enough.
Sincere prayers, and condolences to Gina, and Phil's family
God Speed Phil, I know you will leave a hole in your friends and family's heart.

Larry & Diane Blanks - May 17 at 02:57 PM



“ Employees & families of HELLA Automotive Sales Inc purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of George Philip "Phil" Watkiss.



Employees & families of HELLA Automotive Sales Inc - May 17 at 01:44 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of George Philip "Phil" Watkiss.



May 17 at 12:56 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of George Philip "Phil" Watkiss.



May 17 at 11:32 AM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Phil for several years on the Worldspan/Travelport account. He was a wonderful person , a good mentor and colleague. Truly sad to hear this news and wishing Phil's family and friends the very best during this difficult time.

Aaron - May 17 at 10:36 AM



“ Phil was one of the first who greeted me at SITA in Atlanta when I moved over from the UK. We lived nearby and we had some great road trips to see SWA. Always wise and funny. He will be sadly missed. R.I.P. Phil.

Paul B - May 17 at 08:57 AM



“ Phil was a great man with a great heart, I thoroughly enjoyed working with Phil while at SITA and the friendship that was developed. Fond memories of Phil while at SITA developing and executing strategies, which would sometimes get lively due to our mutual strong passions, and afterwards having a beer together like old friends. Rest in peace my friend.....

Steve Hodges - May 17 at 08:55 AM



“ I was very grateful to have known Phil...such a tremendous amount of energy and enthusiasm for our mutual historical aviation efforts...we will also miss him so.

Some pics from our time at the Delta Vet Day held at Hartsfield have been posted here...

Kevin Korterud - May 16 at 07:36 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Kevin Korterud - May 16 at 07:34 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of George Philip "Phil" Watkiss.



May 16 at 07:23 PM



“ Rest in peace Phil. Your friendship and positive influence on me is something I will do my best to carry on in my life with others. - Frank M.

Franklin Marchman - May 16 at 07:09 PM