



## Celestine D. Watkins

September 25, 1951 - October 20, 2018

In his infinite wisdom God called CELESTINE (TINA) DELORES CARTER WATKINS home to be with Him on Saturday October 20, 2018.

A time to be born...

Celestine was born in Jarratt, Virginia on September 25, 1951 to William Lee Carter and the late Lucinda (Lewis) Carter Reid. She was raised in Cherry Hill and Edmondson Village communities in Baltimore City where in both locations the “village” was important and instrumental in the rearing of a young individual. Many summers during her youth were spent in Emporia & Jarratt Virginia on her maternal and paternal grandparents’ farm. There she learned to appreciate farm grown food which is now the organic/farm to table lifestyle.

A time to be educated and a time to work....

Celestine was educated in Baltimore City Public Schools and graduated with honors on June 13, 1969 from Edmondson High School. She continued her education at Morgan State College and later transferred to the University of Maryland, College Park earning a B.A. degree in French in 1973. Her dedication inspired her to further her education with a M.S. degree in Reading from Johns Hopkins University in 1977 and additional graduate courses at Loyola College in Baltimore, MD in 1980. She was an educator in the

Baltimore City Public Schools for 45 years teaching foreign language at Calverton Middle School and Home and Hospital Programs School #303. Her students affectionately and fearfully in some cases, addressed her as “Madame Watkins”.

A time for family...

Celestine married her high school sweetheart James Clarence Watkins, Jr. on December 27, 1970. They were blessed with two beautiful daughters Monica Rae and Jacel Zakiya Watkins. The love of family and tradition was embedded in her from a child which she carried into adulthood. She instilled in her daughters that education was important and necessary to thrive in the world and to be productive citizens. Naturally, she continued that tradition with all three of her grandchildren. With her daughters and grandchildren, it was important for them to excel in whatever they undertook. She encouraged many extracurricular activities such as tennis, piano, dance, swimming, and foreign language. The lessons extended into horseback riding, cheerleading, basketball, and more with her grandchildren. Her beloved grandchildren Morgan Rae Newton, Kendall Celena Watkins and Diallo Isaiah Ali lovingly referred to her as “NaNa”.

She willingly accepted the role of the family matriarch after the passing of her mother in 2008. She hosted Easter dinner every year with a house full of family and friends and served her famous shrimp ball, shrimp creole, lamb, appetizers and five (5) flavored pound cake.

On her father’s side of the family she would coordinate the annual Howard-Carter family reunion trip to Littleton, NC where she would assist with games for the youth and provide prizes/awards to the winners. The family trip was never without some type of adventure. On one occasion, driving down a dark country road with the windows down, a bat flew in the driver’s window. All adults, including the driver, exited the car except Tina. She took a towel and

caught the bat in her hand to protect her infant granddaughter.

A time to Enjoy Life...

Her legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of everyone she interacted with as well as those she reached but never met. She loved to shop at Columbia Mall with her sister Deborah and always ended their day of shopping with a meal at Nordstrom Café. She faithfully supported fundraising events sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Baltimore Alumnae Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Psi Phi Omega Chapter and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Baltimore Alumni Chapter & Silhouettes. She actively participated in the Baltimore City Youth Works Program to insure her nephews secured gainful employment during the summer to gain skills to enter the workforce.

A time to Praise God...

Celestine accepted Christ at an early age. She joined Brown's Memorial Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland where her studies of the bible flourished under the tutelage of Bishop Douglass I. Miles and later Rev. R. Lee Johnson and her bible study teacher Linda Shields. She was also a spectacular Sunday school teacher to the elementary class and always won the award for "The Best Looking Classroom". Her Brown's church family always admired Celestine for her command of the English language and her articulation. She served faithfully on the counting committee at Brown's for many years.

When her daughter Monica became a member of Calvary Baptist Church, she too joined in 2009. Celestine became a very active supporter and participant of Calvary's ministries to include the Audio and Communication Team, several of Brother Kenneth Gray's bible study classes and most recently, Calvary's

95th Anniversary Celebration committee. Being obedient to the Word of God, Celestine brought her children and grandchildren up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord in a Christian home.

A time to Cherish Memories...

Celestine is preceded in death by her mother and stepfather Lucinda and Grover Reid, and survived by her father and stepmother William Lee Carter and Mary Edna Carter. Tina leaves to cherish her memory and celebrate her life two daughters Monica Rae Watkins and Jacel Zakiya Watkins as well as three grandchildren: Morgan Rae Newton, Kendall Celena Watkins, and Diallo Isaiah Ali.

She is also survived by eight siblings, Rudolph (Yvonne) Lewis, Deborah A. (Anthony) Ferguson, Theresa L. (Timothy) Wilson, Ronald (Tamaqua) Reid, Aisha M. (Melvin) Tyler, Cornell (Laverne) Brown, Faye Hines and Darren (Wanda) Hester; one niece Bjorne Ronye Czaja Reid; two nephews Maurice Seldon Jr. and Amari Tyler and a host of kind, caring, and loving relatives and friends in Baltimore, Maryland and Virginia.

# Cemetery Details

## King Memorial Park Cemetery - Grand Heritage Chapel & Mausoleum

8710 Dogwood Rd.  
Baltimore, MD 21244  
(410) 944-8300  
info@kingmemorialpark.com  
<https://www.KingMemorialPark.com>

# Previous Events

## viewing

OCT **26**. 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore  
4300 Wabash Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
(410) 542-2400  
info@marchfh.com

## Family Hour

OCT **26**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore  
4300 Wabash Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
(410) 542-2400  
info@marchfh.com

## Wake

---

OCT 27. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Calvary Baptist Church  
3911 Garrison Blvd.  
Baltimore, MD

## Service

---

OCT 27. 10:00 AM (ET)

Calvary Baptist Church  
3911 Garrison Blvd.  
Baltimore, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *Celestine D. Watkins*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Dear Monica.*

*Please accept my condolences on the passing of your beloved Mom, Celestine. What a beautiful person whose inner beauty shines through as well. And what an exemplary life and legacy. My continued prayers for you and your family. Stay strong.*

*Ije Ekweani*

**Ije Ekweani** - December 18, 2018 at 04:49 PM



“ *My condolences to you Jacel and your family.*



**Jaime Street** - October 27, 2018 at 11:00 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Celestine D. Watkins.*



October 27, 2018 at 09:30 AM

CR

“ *Monica and Jacel, My condolences to you and your family*

*Sky, Cory and Crystal*

---

**Crystal** - October 27, 2018 at 08:35 AM

TT

“ *Praying for the Reid and Watkins family. God bless.*

---

**Tonya Thompson-Brooks** - October 26, 2018 at 03:38 PM

RH

“ *Ronald Henry lit a candle in memory of  
Celestine D. Watkins*



---

**Ronald Henry** - October 26, 2018 at 02:35 PM

SM

“ *Who could ever forget that beautiful lady and her smile. My prayers  
and condolences go out to Monica and family, during this time.  
Remember earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal. Healing  
takes time, rest in the Lord for comfort.*

*Sylvia Moore & family*

---

**Sylvia Moore** - October 25, 2018 at 05:32 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Celestine D. Watkins.*



October 24, 2018 at 03:12 PM



“ *The Watkins Family (B. Vanessa + Janean D.) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Celestine D. Watkins.*



**The Watkins Family (B. Vanessa + Janean D.)** - October 24, 2018 at 12:41 PM



“ *To the great family my prayers are with you on this great loss.*



**Bishop Dr. Brock A. Brown** - October 23, 2018 at 07:40 PM



“ *We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

**March Funeral Homes** - October 22, 2018 at 12:39 PM

MB

*Words cannot express the sadness I feel. You have always been an inspiration and voice of reason. You would find the best in everyone. Thank your for the support, kind words, and love.*

*To Monica, Jacel and the grand babies. I send my prayers and love. May God continue to walk with you in every new day here after. The same God that Tine served is available for you.*

*We love you always*

*Michele, Ricky and Family*

---

**Michele Brown** - October 25, 2018 at 11:52 AM

MR

*Celeste was such a beautiful, talented, lovely, funny, and wonderful lady. The Lord allowed us to enjoy her for a little while and now she's gone home. Family be strong. Remember her always with much love and lessons she taught you concerning life. My prayers are with you. Masalina Robinson-Goodman*

---

**Masalina Robinson-Goodman** - October 25, 2018 at 11:59 PM

SC

*Celeste was a beautiful person who always greeted you with a beautiful smile. May your memories be of comfort to you. Sending you many prayers. S Cann*

---

**S Cann** - October 26, 2018 at 05:17 PM