



## Claude "Dean" Watkins

October 29, 1963 - April 14, 2024

Claude "Dean" Watkins, age 60, of London, Kentucky passed away on Sunday, April 14, 2024.

He leaves behind his loving wife of 40 years, Nelda Gilbert Watkins; two children, Elizabeth Peterson & husband Adam of Delmar, DE, James Watkins & wife Swayze of London, KY; one granddaughter, Paisley Watkins; his in-laws who he loved as his own family, Rodney Chesnut, Ben Edwards, Linda Mounce, Wanda Dozier, Claude Gilbert & wife Sandy, Glenda Whitaker; plus a host of nieces, nephews and other family and friends to mourn his passing.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James "Jim" and Opal Stillings Watkins; his sister, Patricia Watkins; and by his in-laws, Brenda Chesnut, Edna Edwards, James Mounce, Calvin Dozier, Eddie Whitaker.

Claude was a man of many passions, first among them was his unwavering love for his family. His devotion to his wife, children, and grandchild knew no bounds, and his presence brought warmth and laughter to every gathering. He found his greatest joy in the simple pleasures of life, whether it was sharing stories around the dinner table or watching his grandbaby take their first steps.

A true son of the earth, Claude found solace and purpose in the fields he

tended and the machinery he operated with expertise. His love for operating heavy equipment was matched only by his dedication to farming, a calling he pursued with tireless determination.

Among Claude's most cherished companions were his cattle, whom he regarded not merely as livestock but as beloved members of his extended family. He took great pride in their well-being, giving each a name and treating them with the kindness and affection reserved for old friends.

In the quiet moments between dawn and dusk, Claude found solace in the gentle rhythm of rural life, where every sunrise brought the promise of a new beginning and every sunset whispered of days gone by. His passing leaves a void that can never be filled, but his spirit will live on in the land he loved and the hearts of those who knew him best.

Funeral services for Claude "Dean" Watkins will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2024 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the chapel of House-Rawlings Funeral Home with Claude Gilbert officiating. Burial will follow at Rough Creek Cemetery in London, Kentucky. The pallbearers will be Adam Peterson, Jeff Mounce, Mike Pavone, Claude Gilbert Jr., David Mounce, Nick Price. Honorary pallbearers are Rodney Chesnut and Ben Edwards. The family will receive friends on Thursday, April 18, 2024 beginning at 11:00 a.m. until the funeral hour also at the funeral home. The family has entrusted House-Rawlings Funeral Home with the arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 18. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

House-Rawlings Funeral Home  
510 East 4th Street  
London, KY 40741  
(606) 864-2158  
info@houserawlings.com  
<https://houserawlings.com>

## Funeral Service

APR 18. 2:00 PM (ET)

House-Rawlings Funeral Home  
510 East 4th Street  
London, KY 40741  
(606) 864-2158  
info@houserawlings.com  
<https://houserawlings.com>

# Tribute Wall

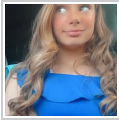


“ *House-Rawlings Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Claude "Dean" Watkins*



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**House-Rawlings Funeral Home** - April 20, 2024 at 12:19 PM



*I miss you papaw I love you so much I can't go a day without missing you*

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**Paisley Watkins** - April 11 at 11:40 AM

EL

“ *I miss you dad  
I'll love you forever and always*



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**Elizabeth** - April 22, 2024 at 05:04 PM

GD

“ *Dean in my mind was a great man and a true gentleman. Cousin wish we could of spent more time together. Tell Patricia we love and miss her. Condolences to the family*

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**Gary Day** - April 21, 2024 at 08:10 AM

GD

“ Gary Day lit a candle in memory of Claude "Dean" Watkins



Gary Day - April 21, 2024 at 08:02 AM



“ 105 files added to the album Life Tributes



House-Rawlings Funeral Home - April 17, 2024 at 03:29 PM

MC

“ Mark and Karen Chaney planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Claude "Dean" Watkins.

Mark and Karen Chaney - April 17, 2024 at 10:42 AM

MC

“ Mark and Karen Chaney purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Claude "Dean" Watkins.



Mark and Karen Chaney - April 17, 2024 at 10:42 AM

KC

“ Sorry to hear the passing of Claude (aka) known to me as Uncle Si ❤️ , Uncle Si always talked about his precious granddaughter, Pray God comforts his family may God Bless all of you ! Katrina -SJB



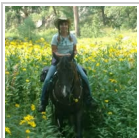
Katrina Conley - April 17, 2024 at 10:10 AM

KB

“ Kenneth bargo lit a candle in memory of Claude "Dean" Watkins



Kenneth bargo - April 16, 2024 at 03:21 PM



“ I will miss you Deano. You and I sure had a wonderful childhood together on the farm. Heaven gained a wonderful, sweet man. Love you cousin ❤️

Karen Chaney - April 16, 2024 at 02:01 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Claude "Dean" Watkins.*



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April 15, 2024 at 07:14 PM



“ *G George lit a candle in memory of Claude "Dean" Watkins*



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**G George J** - April 15, 2024 at 03:15 PM



“ *I was in London the day Opal brought him home when he was born. I was also present when he and Nelda were married. He will be missed.*

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**Kent (Ted) Forslund** - April 15, 2024 at 01:30 PM