



*With Our Heartfelt Thanks*

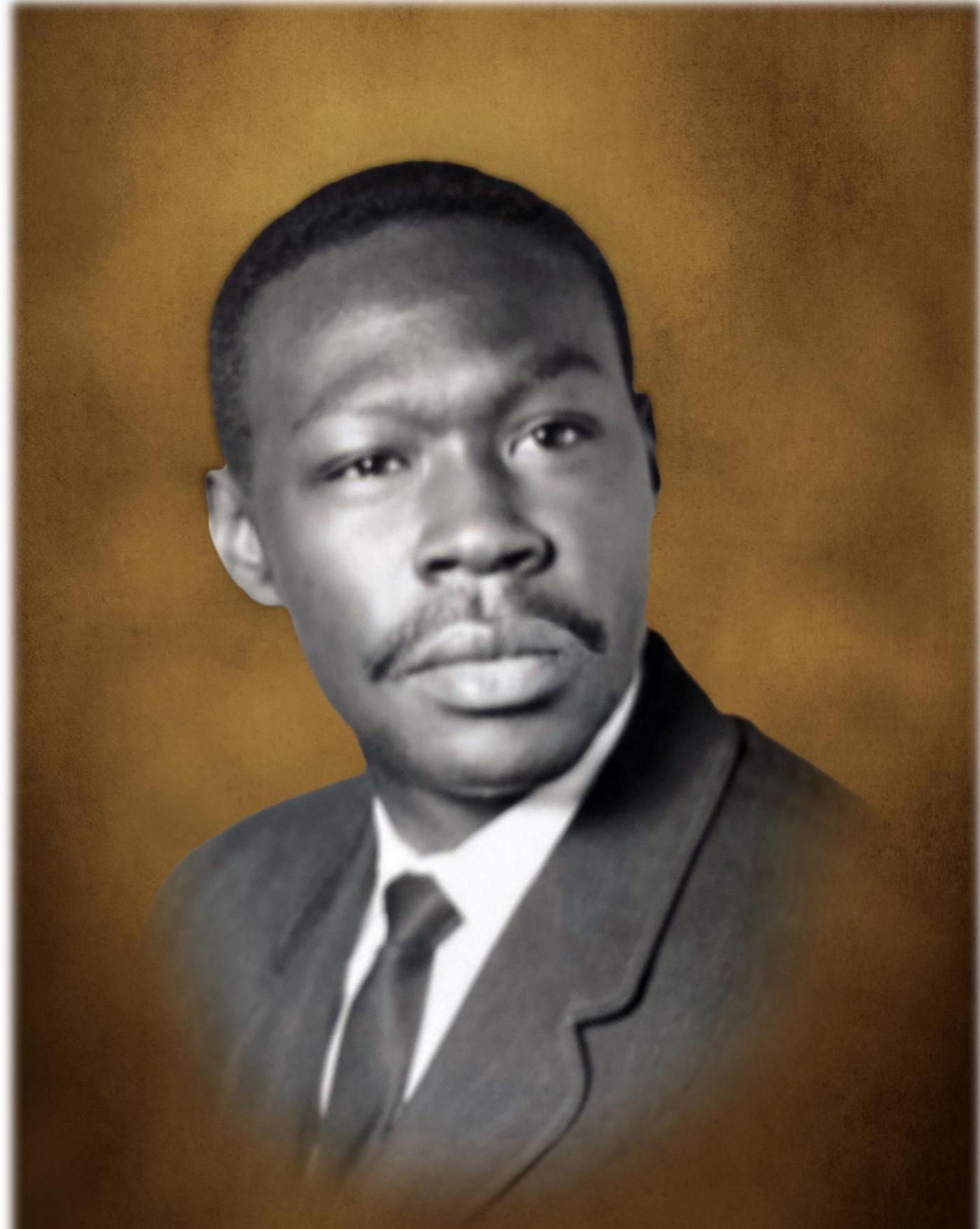
...that we through the patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope, (Romans 15) **God** has given us our church family, neighbors and dear friends, to help us as we go forward. **God's Word has been manifested through** your many expressions of sympathy and support; **we praise God from whom all blessings flow.** Thank you for honoring the memory of our beloved **Billy** and for remembering us during his passing. Your thoughtfulness will forever remind us of your love and support. May God continue to keep you in His tender care. In our risen Lord, **we have peace that passes all understanding.**

**The Watts Family**

Professional Services Entrusted to "*Those Who Care*"

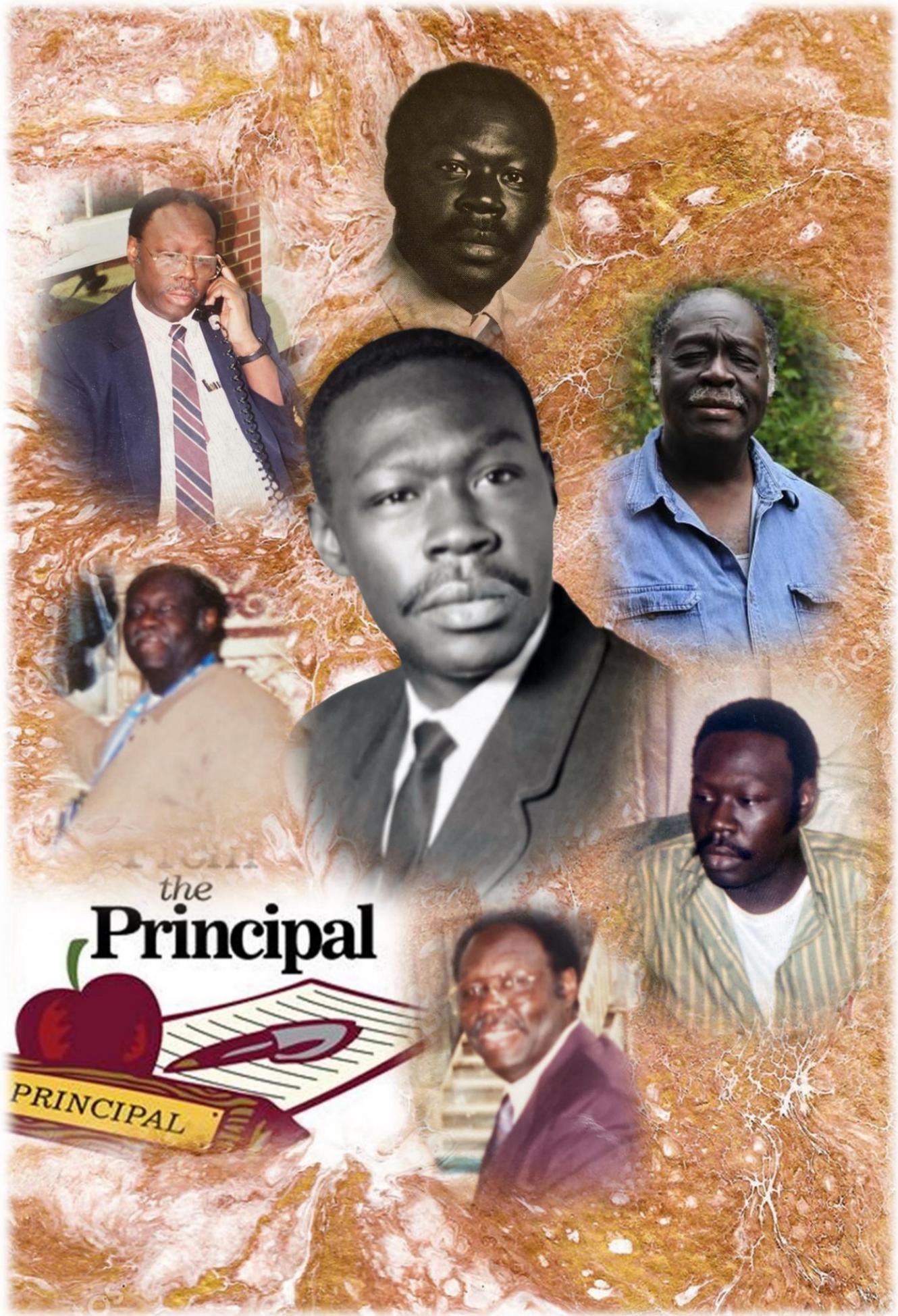
Rutledge & Bigham Mortuary, Inc.  
603 South Center Street, Statesville, NC 28677

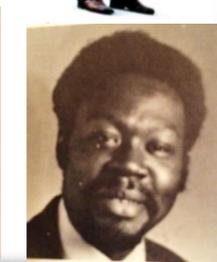
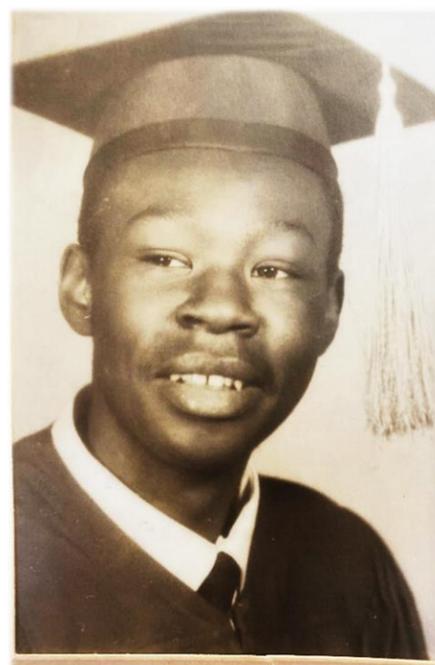
Visit Mr. Watts' Online Tribute at  
[www.rutledgeandbigham.com](http://www.rutledgeandbigham.com) - 704-873-3611



**MR. BILLY LOUIS WATTS**

NOVEMBER 12, 1942 — SEPTEMBER 24, 2020





*The Family Tribute*

**Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning**

**Billy Louis Watts**, was born November 12, 1942 in Iredell County, N. C., and was the son of the late Ernest Alfred Watts, Sr. and Viola Shives Watts. He departed this life on Thursday, September 24, 2020, at Iredell Memorial Hospital following an extended illness.

He attended Morningside School and graduated in the class of 1960. Billy enrolled in NCCU in 1960, where he earned an undergraduate degree with a major in English and a minor in music. His commencement exercise was in 1964. He did further studies at the National Education Institute- Columbia University in New York in 1967; Catawba Valley Technical Institute where he received an Associate Degree in Applied Science; Data processing Technology in 1972; Billy attended the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, obtaining a Master of Education Degree in 1979; Appalachian State University, receiving a Specialist in Education Degree in 1989; and Catawba Valley Community College, where he earned an Associate Degree in Applied Science- Business Computer Programming, with Phi Theta Kappa honors in 1992. Billy taught in Bel Haven, NC, and later returned to Statesville, where he was employed in the Iredell-Statesville Schools System. He was a classroom teacher, and later became an assistant principal, and supervisor. Billy's services with the Iredell-Statesville School System, spanned for 31 years.

He served with a strong sense of dedication, determination and diligence as a member of the Carolina Region Lay Leader of the Carolina Region Annual Conference of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church for approximately eight years. He restarted the Lay Luncheon in 2006 for the Carolina Region. Mr. Watts spent time traveling to different churches presenting Workshops on the Lay Ministry. Mr. Watts was active in the Winston Salem/Greenville District Local Lay Council.

At Holsey Memorial, Mr. Billy Watts faithfully served as Sunday School Superintendent. He had a passion for teaching God's Word. Mr. Watts often challenged people to step out of their comfort zone and to become more involved in Sunday Church School. As a result, the Sunday Church School began to grow.

Mr. Watts was actively involved and totally committed in the Financial aspect and other areas of the Church. He served as the Recording Steward for many years, and on the Social Concerns Auxiliary, and the Senior Choir. He was instrumental in getting the baby grand piano at the church. Even though Mr. Watts' health started to decline, he was concerned about the welfare of the church and still continued to support the church. Often times he would make contributions and support for persons that went to college to further their education.

He has received numerous certificates and plaques honoring his work at Holsey Memorial, in the community, on the District and Annual Conference level of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

Along with his solid faith, he had a great sense of humor. He often evoked laughter from others with his quick-witted responses and statements. In addition to his parents, Billy was preceded in death by his maternal grandmother, Clara Shives, and his paternal grandparents, Junious and Zora Lackey Watts; his brother, Earnest Alfred Watts, Jr., his sister, Emma Lois Watts, several uncles, aunts, and cousins.

He leaves to cherish the memories of his life, two nephews, Russell Alfred (Valerie) Watts, of Ayer, Massachusetts and Billy Louis Watts, of Aurora, Colorado; a niece, Tamra Sawyer of Statesville, NC; two great nieces, Shanta Sawyer, of Mooresville, NC and Naomi Watts of Ayer, Massachusetts; two great nephews, William Louis Watts II and David Franklin Watts, both of Colorado Springs; one aunt, Beulah Watts Mack of Statesville, NC; a sister-in-law, Mary Agnes Watts of Statesville, NC; and a host of cousins, church family, and numerous friends.

***So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart,  
For every time you think of me, I'm right here in your hearts.***

**A Service of Love and Remembrance for**

*Mr. Billy Louis Watts*

**Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Rutledge and Bigham Funeral Home**

**Statesville, North Carolina**

**Reverend Michael Sharpe, Officiating**

**Reverend Barbara McCollum, Pastor of**

**Holsey Memorial CME Church, Eulogist**

*The Order of Service*

- The Processional
- The Invocation ..... Reverend Michael Sharpe
- The Hymn: *"Hold to God's Unchanging Hand"*
- The Prayer of Comfort ..... Minister Reginald Strickland
- The Scripture
  - Old Testament: *Psalm 46* ..... Minister Tshombi McIver
  - New Testament: *I Corinthians 15:50-58* ..... Reverend Jeffery Daniels
- The Musical Selection: *"The Lord's Prayer"*
- The Church Resolution ..... Mrs. Ora D. Merritt
- The Remarks (*Limit two minutes please*)
- The Acknowledgments and Commemorative Presentation ..... Funeral Director
- The Musical Selection: *"My Soul Has Been Anchored In The Lord"*
- The Eulogy ..... Reverend Barbara McCollum
- The Committal
- The Recessional Selection

*In the procession to the cemetery, please remember to turn on your headlights, take caution at all intersections, and fasten your seatbelts for safety.*

***Horse Drawn Carriage***

**Please remain prayerful as we go to the final resting place**

*At The Belmont Cemetery*

**The Placing of the Casket**

**The Final Departure**

*Casket Bearers*

**Relatives and Friends**

*Flower Bearers*

**Relatives and Friends**