



Sally Watkins

November 4, 1950 - March 11, 2025

Sally Jean Watkins, the daughter of Jack and Marian Benfield McNevin, was born November 4, 1950 at West Plains, MO. She entered into eternal rest on March 11, 2025, at the age of seventy-four years.

She graduated from West Plains High School with the Class of 1968. Sally received her Bachelors in Education with emphasis in math from Southwest Missouri State University. She obtained her Masters of Education in 2001 from Southwest Baptist University. She was a teacher her entire life, in the classroom and out of it. Sally was in the middle of her 50th year of teaching.

She taught mathematics at the West Plains Middle School and West Plains High School for 29 years until her retirement in 2004. Sally taught math courses at Missouri State University-West Plains campus after her retirement. She taught middle school mathematics at Howell Valley R-1 School District, starting in 2012 until her passing. She served as a mentor to many future

educators. She didn't just teach, she built relationships and connected with the students. She was loved by so many past students. She was honored in 1994 by Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

Sally served as a Member of the Friends of the Garnett Library. She was a board member of the West Plains Public Library. Sally was a member of the PEO Chapter MC of West Plains, MO and had served as a board member of the 37th Judicial CASA. She served as the secretary of the Heart of the Ozarks Fair Board for over 25 years. She was awarded an Honorary State FFA Degree for her work at the fairgrounds with the West Plains FFA chapter.

Sally is survived by her two children; Jay Watkins and wife Brandi of Corpus Christi, Texas, and Tiffany Ruhland and husband Daniel of West Plains; five grandchildren Hannah Joice and husband Drew, Keelee Watkins, Jacob Ruhland, Aaron Ruhland, and Shaizlee Watkins; one great grandchild Darcy Jean Joice; three sisters Sue Ann Warden, Maple Grove, Minnesota, Sandy McNevin, Wellington, Kansas, and Sunie Pace, West Plains; and several nieces and nephews. Sally was preceded in death by her parents, Jack and Marian McNevin, and one brother-in-law, Bo Pace.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial contributions be made to the

West Plains Public Library or MSU-West Plains for a scholarship to be established at a later date.

A Celebration of Life of Sally Watkins will be held at the Historic Post Office
Sunday, March 30,
2025, from 2pm-5pm.

Private Interment will be held at Oak Lawn Cemetery

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR **30**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (cst)

The Historic Post Office
204 East Main
West Plains, MO 65775

Tribute Wall

VP

“ Vickie Petkovic lit a candle in memory of Sally Watkins



Vickie Petkovic - March 31, 2025 at 11:27 AM

VP

Holding you all in my heart. Sally was a remarkable person and will be sorely missed.

Vickie Petkovic - March 31, 2025 at 11:28 AM

M(

“ Maria Robinson (Watkins) sent a virtual gift in memory of Sally Watkins



Maria Robinson (Watkins) - March 15, 2025 at 10:02 AM

M(

She touched the lives of many people and will be greatly missed. Heaven got a beautiful soul and angel.

Maria Robinson (Watkins) - March 15, 2025 at 10:04 AM

AR

“ Jay/Brandi and Watkins Families, Sue, Sandy, and Sunie and Families,

We extend our Deepest Sympathy to each of you on the passing of Sally. She loved each one of you very much! Also, she enjoyed talking and sharing wonderful things of her family that she was very proud of too. She loved her grandchildren very much as well. I have wonderful memories of her from the WPMS even though she wasn't a teacher of mine. I got the wonderful pleasure to work with her a fellow Math colleague as a Paraprofessional at the WPHS for many years before she retired. She was an excellent Math teacher and was very caring individual to each of her students too. My Dad, Norris Cozort, was a fellow colleague of hers as well. She will be missed! May God provide peace, comfort, strength, and encouragement daily to each of you. We will be keeping all of you in our daily prayers and thoughts. May God bless all of you.

In Christian Love,

Norris and Ivene Cozort

Tim, Amber(Cozort), and Corby Redburn

Amber Redburn - March 14, 2025 at 03:46 PM

VL

“ Susie, Sandy and Sunie, I am so very sorry to hear about Sally. Sending you all hugs and prayers!

Vicki Lovelace

Vicki Lovelace - March 12, 2025 at 10:24 AM

MP

*Sunie, Susie, Sandy and family,
We extend our deepest sympathy. We are keeping all of you in our thoughts and prayers.*

Mike and Diana Pace - March 12, 2025 at 09:54 PM

FW

The best sister in law a gal could ask for. I will miss her a lot. So sorry Tiffany , Jay. And Brandy. And the grandkids are so lucky to have had her in their life. Prayers for all. 🙏❤️

Fran Wightman - March 14, 2025 at 09:01 PM