



Benjamin Franklin Watson

December 5, 1948 - December 19, 2020

Benjamin Franklin Watson was born on December 5, 1948, in Farmington, Michigan, to Jack and Mabel “Bee” Watson. The second of five children in the rural countryside, Ben grew up with an impassioned duty to provide for his family by trapping game for dinner and collecting fresh spring water to drink. Always up for a challenge and good fun, stories of Benny’s hunting, fishing, and daredevil adventures were shared around all the dinner tables of the neighborhood. However, his boyhood escapades aren’t his lasting legacy. Even from an early age, when people talked about Benny, they talked most about the tender way he treated people. Everyone was significant to Ben, and he had the rare gift of discovering not only what people needed but how he could be of help.

Later in life, Ben would present his delicious treats from the kitchen with a huge grin and exclaim, “It’s all natural stuff. Didn’t have to add anything else to make it taste good!” We tend to think that’s what God thought too when he formed Ben, using simple yet impactful gifts, pure yet approachable values. Made in God’s image, Ben reflected God’s delight in creation. As a young man working at Steinkopf Nursery, Ben took quiet moments to observe the intricacies of different plants, flowers, and trees. Years later, with only a glance at the vast landscapes of nature, Ben could point to each sprout by name and explain their needs as only someone who had given them tender care could do. Ben also delighted in hearing birdsongs on his morning walks and in catching fish on frozen lakes, in summer streams, and over the calm ocean harbor. Simply stated, Ben delighted in God’s creation.

Ben used his gifts of artistry and ingenuity to bring God glory. After completing his apprenticeship as a master craftsman, Ben became skilled in all parts of construction including cement pouring, dry wall installation, painting, and especially carpentry. Ben’s creations met the physical needs of others and nurtured their souls with the very substance of fellowship and hope. We know God took great pleasure that Ben’s slow and obedient craftsmanship whispered eternal things that words cannot convey. Ben not only created new works, but he repaired what was broken. Ben saw repairs as a glad opportunity to show good stewardship of blessings given to him, and he met each task

before him with gentleness and generosity of spirit.

More than anything, Ben showed unbridled love for people. His skills and care for others came together during his 27-year-career as master carpenter and all-around “Mr. Fix It” for Farmington Public Schools. Generations of children laughed at his Donald Duck impersonations and colleagues took great relief that Ben was only a call away to fix any problem and tell a funny joke as he worked. Nothing warmed our hearts more than Ben’s twinkling eyes, raised eyebrows, and broad smile after he told a joke.

It was during his time with the schools that Ben met the love of his life, Julia. Ben will be remembered by many names (Ben, Benny, Papa Ben, Papa, Grampa, Papa Duck), but his most treasured role was as Julia’s husband. Together, Ben and Julia worked, retired, traveled, cooked, walked, laughed, and dreamed. Together, they asked Jesus into their hearts as their Lord and Savior and lived each day with purpose and thanksgiving. Julia rejoices that Ben is together with Jesus saving her a seat right next to him with twinkling eyes, raised eyebrows, and a broad smile.

Ben is remembered and loved by his beloved wife, Julia Watson; his daughter Ammie Watson and her children Zachary, Zander, Gavin, and Shelby; his son Evan (Leigh Ann) Roehm and their children Keira and Elle Leigh; his son Matthew (Erin) Clark and their son Dominic; his son Kristopher (Donna Jo) Clark and their children Konnor, Addy, Elly, and Knoxton; his son Aaron (Courtney) Clark; his sister Joan Miracle; his sisters-in law Karen Watson, Betty (Bob) Brindley, Sally (Bill) Schaab, Nancy Wyngaard, and Lynette Oser; his brothers-in-law Dennis (Jean) Oser and Patrick (Deborah) Oser; and numerous cherished nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends upon friends upon friends.

Ben was welcomed in Glory by His Savior, Jesus Christ; his mother Bee; his Gramp Merle; brothers Jack, Skeet and Merle; his mother-in-law Betty Oser; his brothers-in-law Mike Wyngaard and Steven Oser; and nephews Tyler Toll and Cody Oser.

We will celebrate Ben’s life on January 3, 2021, at 1:00 p.m Pacific Standard Time at South Shores Church in Dana Point, California. Pastor Ty Guy will lead the service. A link to the simulcast for virtual viewing will be posted once provided by the church.

Donations in Ben’s honor can be made to the church at <https://www.southshores.org/give>.

“We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” - 1 Thessalonians 1:3

Comments



“ Ben was truly a shining light and a ray of sunshine in our neighborhood! He was always ready with a smile, a chuckle and a kind word for everyone he met throughout each day. He was always ready to lend a hand, and to find ways to bless those around him. Working from home just across the street, I loved hearing him working in his garage workshop during the day, knowing he was probably building something beautiful for a neighbor, family member or friend just to make them smile. He built a beautiful pair of garden planter boxes for me when I could not find what I wanted in the stores, and I will treasure them always, thinking of him and his beautiful heart each time I tend my garden. I will miss his sweet spirit, the twinkle in his eye, hearing his bright voice greeting everyone he met as he was on his walks or working in his garage, and his enthusiastic gardening advice. It is hard to believe that he is gone, but I know it is not forever; I look forward with joy and confidence to the day we shall greet each other again in heaven. Until then, he will hold a special place in my heart and the hearts of my family, as well as everyone else in our neighborhood, and the countless people he has blessed.

Julia, we love you so much, and we are here for absolutely anything you need. I am so sad that we will not be able to attend the celebration of life in person, as I will be caring for my mom in a few days and I need to be especially careful not to expose her to anything, but we will be watching via livestream. Our love, thoughts, prayers and hearts are with you and your family.

With love,

The Plett Family

Tammy Plett - January 03 at 02:20 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Benjamin Franklin Watson.



January 01 at 09:15 AM



“ Jodie & Eric, Karen, Mandy & Brad, Heather & Mike purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Benjamin Franklin Watson.



Jodie & Eric, Karen, Mandy & Brad, Heather & Mike - December 30, 2020 at 07:11 PM



“ Condolences and love to our dear Aunt Jo from your Michigan “like family” friends. Ben was such a mellow soul. We enjoyed him. We loved the talk about his cabin, the outdoors, fishing, and wood carvings. He was so proud and laughed when he showed us pics of his Totum pole he carved and painted. God Bless and keep his soul. Ben is at piece.

Betty Trybuski - December 29, 2020 at 11:45 AM



“ Benny will be remembered as a genuine friend and co-worker. Always a kind word and a smile on his face. He will shine brightly in the heavens above and continue to love his family. With sadness our deepest condolences to his family.
Matt and Marcy Nichols

Marcy Nichols - December 28, 2020 at 10:03 AM



“ Ben: so able and so humble - and with a sense of humor and a far better memory than mine for the oral history of our family! Still, there were times when we'd be talking about this or that event when we were younger, and Ben would say "HmMMM, i don't know..., i'm gettin' up there, i'll have to look it up in the genealogy - if i can remember where i put it the last time!" And he'd laugh at himself as much as anything else. I will miss his ideas, his ability to fill in the gaps, to help get things rolling and keep them from rolling away, and his opinions on everyday and more serious matters. Most of all, i will miss knowing there was someone like him, who had survived so much, so young, yet grew into a man so gentle, kind, generous, and loving, who kept that childlike openness all his days.

"R.I.P.: If tears could build a stairway, and memories were a lane, we would walk right up to Heaven and bring you back again. No farewell words were spoken, no time to say goodbye; you were gone before we knew it, and only God knows why. Our hearts still ache in sadness, and secret tears still flow. What it meant to lose you, no one will ever know. But now we know you want us to mourn for you no more, to remember all the happy times - life still has much in store. Since you'll never be forgotten, we pledge to you today: a hallowed place within our hearts is where you'll always stay." (author unknown)

Eternal rest be granted unto you, dear cousin.

My most sincere condolences to you all, Julia, Joanie, and the children.
Becki

Becki - December 27, 2020 at 07:49 PM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Benjamin Franklin Watson.



December 27, 2020 at 12:46 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Benjamin Franklin Watson.



December 27, 2020 at 09:19 AM



“ Ben was such a huge part of our neighborhood. Everyone loved the woodwork in the yard and his kind words from his workroom in the garage. When my daughter’s family moved in with us while they were fixing up their new house, I happened to mention to Ben that I was trying to figure out how to make a big rainbow to hang outside the bedroom that the kids would be in. I didn’t want their view to be a block wall! About two days later, I got a text from Julia that Ben had left a gift out front. He had lovingly made a huge beautiful rainbow that the grandkids and I could paint together and hang outside their window!! This wasn’t the first, and was far from the last, gift from this generous, kind man. However, his biggest gift was how selflessly he gave of himself, his time, and his talent. Ben, I will forever think of you as part of that wonderful rainbow. The whole neighborhood will hold your kindness in their hearts. You are missed, dear friend. Helen Benziger



Helen Benziger - December 26, 2020 at 04:19 PM