



## Rev. Dr. Clarence Joseph Watkins Jr.

April 22, 2020

Rev. Dr. Clarence Joseph Watkins Jr. peacefully transitioned from his earthly home to be with the Lord on April 22, 2020 at the age of 95. The first son of the late Clarence and Levenia Watkins of Paincourtville, Louisiana. Rev. Watkins was predeceased by his first wife Margaret Watkins, sons Clarence III, Jerome Watkins and second wife Betty Badie Watkins. Pastor will be sadly missed by his dedicated daughters Delores (Arthur) Kelly, Patricia Watkins, Dimitri Watkins, and Joyce Bell; sons Clifford (Gail) Watkins, and Eric (Phillis) Watkins; 31 grandchildren; 61 great-grandchildren; 19 great-great-grandchildren; brother-in-law Merlin Gray; nieces and nephews; First African Baptist Church Family; and fellow ministers in the gospel. Upon graduation from high school, he joined the United States Navy and served during World War II. Pastor Watkins was converted and called to the ministry at the age of 13. He received his BA degree in religious education from Union Baptist College and Theological Seminary and was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from Clay College. Pastor Watkins was a life-long resident of Jefferson Parish. He pastored First African Baptist Church in Gretna for over 40 years. He served as President and Moderator of the West New Orleans Missionary Baptist Educational Association for 37 years. He was an advocate for the betterment of the residents of Gretna and will be well-remembered for his life commitment to reach, direct, and counsel many.

Formal funeral services are not feasible, therefore the immediate family will mourn him privately. His final arrangements were entrusted to D.W. Rhodes

Funeral Home, 1020 Virgil Street.

# Tribute Wall



“ *The best Father a girl could've ask for. I wouldn't have wanted anyone else to be my dad. I love you forever (Daddy) Clarence J. Watkins Jr*

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**Dimitri Watkins Patterson** - May 14 at 02:24 PM