



## Kay Watkins

April 4, 1941 - June 12, 2025

Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch

Barbara Kay Watkins, 84, of Olive Branch, MS passed away on Thursday, June 12, 2025. Friends are invited to a visitation with the family on Monday, June 16, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with the Celebration of Life service to follow at 12:00 p.m., all at Coleman Funeral Home. Interment will be at Red Banks Cemetery after the service. Rev. Melissa Malinoski of Bethel Presbyterian Church will officiate.

Kay was born on April 4, 1941 in Hattiesburg, MS to Georgia Mae and Claiborne Freeman. She was a member of Byhalia Presbyterian Church. Kay taught school for over 30 years. She spent most of her teaching career at Olive Branch Elementary School before eventually retiring from Chickasaw Elementary. Kay adored spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, listening to blues music and boogying. She found great joy in fishing with her husband and woolin' on her animals. Kay always did what she wanted to do when she wanted to do it.

Left to cherish Kay's memory is her daughter, Lessie Hoback Bailey (Bill) of Byhalia, MS; son, Jack Hoback of Waterford, MS; granddaughters, Billi "BJ" Harris (Mark) and Maggie Watkins; grandsons, Justin Hoback (Halie), Coltin Hoback (Jessie) and Joe Watkins; great-granddaughters, Hayli Busby,

Morgan Hardy, Clara Hoback, Tinsley Hoback, and Ella Kay Harris; great-grandsons, Silas Busby, Weston Harris, Will Harris, and Collier Hoback; sister, Ruth Byars; step-sisters, Mary Grimes, Winnie Crump, Helen Eidson, Bennie Tackett, Lela Norris, Jane Houser and Jean Baradar; step-brother, James Kennedy; and closest friend, Marsha Brigance.

Kay was preceded in death by her husband, Joe Watkins; son, Stan Watkins; mother, Georgia Mae Freeman; father, Claiborne F. Freeman, Jr.; step-mother, Bonnie Freeman; and, step-brother, George Houser.

In lieu of traditional flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Kay's name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital ([www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)).

Online condolences can be left on her tribute wall at [www.colemanfuneralhomeob.com](http://www.colemanfuneralhomeob.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Red Banks Cemetery

100 North Red Banks Road  
Red Banks, MS 38661

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUN 16.** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch  
6815 Parkview Boulevard  
Olive Branch, MS 38654  
(662) 893-3900  
info@colemanfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.colemanfuneralhomeob.com/>

## Funeral Service

**JUN 16.** 12:00 PM (CT)

Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch  
6815 Parkview Boulevard  
Olive Branch, MS 38654  
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info@colemanfuneralhome.com  
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# Tribute Wall



“ Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch created a Tribute Video in memory of Kay Watkins



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**Coleman Funeral Home (Olive Branch)** - June 14, 2025 at 01:18 PM



“ Thinking of Your beautiful during these difficult times. May the precious memories of her life well lived bring you comfort.

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**Cassie Mangrum** - June 16, 2025 at 08:00 AM



“ I can't begin to only share just one memory of this wonderful human being. Having been blessed to grow up across the gravel road from her house and hearing her voice yell out across to our house "Lessssieeee, Staaannn, Jaaacckkk!!! Supper's ready!!! was like a daily ritual during the summers when we were kids and those simpler times we all shared being the only neighbors on a narrow dirt road in the middle of nowhere she was like a second Mom to us and a dear friend to my mom as well and she just kept us all laughing and smiling and she loved us and we could feel it. I can still see her in that red mustang convertible flying up that dirt road leaving a cloud of dust rising up behind her. My mom would look out over the front yard and say , "There goes Kay! She is something else!". ❤️❤️❤️

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**Jay Farris** - June 14, 2025 at 12:49 PM

RW

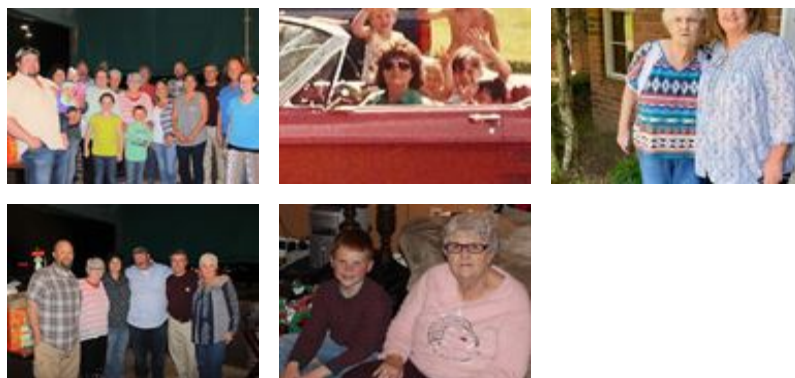
“ Robert & sherry williams purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Kay Watkins.



Robert & sherry williams - June 14, 2025 at 08:58 AM



“ 102 files added to the album LifeTributes



Coleman Funeral Home (Olive Branch) - June 13, 2025 at 11:45 PM

WD

“ Worked w Kay at OB schools for many years...  
Always admired her dedication.. 🙏🙏🙏🙏🎥

Wendell Davis - June 13, 2025 at 09:43 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kay Watkins.



June 13, 2025 at 05:39 PM