



## Watson Ridenour

August 18, 1924 - July 4, 2020

Watson Monroe Ridenour, of Wall, NJ passed away peacefully on July 4, 2020. Watson was born on August 18, 1924, in Jersey City, New Jersey and was the son of Watson and Florence (Linck) Ridenour. He grew up in Rahway and lived in Clark and Ocean. While in high school Watson played multiple sports, but his passion was baseball.

Watson was a true American Patriot. After the Pearl Harbor attack and once he reached the age of 18, he voluntarily enlisted in the US Navy. Following nearly 3 years with the Navy stationed overseas he returned. On August 12, 1950, he married Joan Marie Mau from Roseland. They were married for 57 years upon her passing in 2007.

Watson was a graduate of Newark State College and returned to Rahway to have a rewarding teaching career in the Rahway School System for 25 years. Upon his retirement, Watson spent his time as a volunteer for the Monmouth County Food Bank and Meals on Wheels.

Watson's true love was his family. He is survived by his son, John, his wife, Linda (Thomas), their children Melissa, Daniel, Courtney and Joli; his son, David and his wife, Kathleen (Stetler) their children Marie Luksch (John) and Stephanie; and his four great grandchildren.

Due to the current restrictions on public gatherings, services for Watson will be private. Memorial Donations in Watson Ridenour's name can be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital and The Monmouth County Food Bank.

For online condolences, please visit Watson's memorial page at [www.bongarzonefuneralhome.com](http://www.bongarzonefuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

BL

“ I know this is a late entry, but I was thinking of people in my life who truly blessed me. I had Mr Ridenour as a 5th and sixth grade teacher. I had learning disabilities and he gave me lots of extra help. He gave me so much encouragement and made me feel good about school for the first time in my life.

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**Bill Losey** - May 19, 2025 at 12:26 AM

LR

“ Watson was more than a friend; he was family. Since getting to know him when I was transferred to Grover Cleveland School early in my teaching career, he became an important part in my life as well as my family. His humor and positive outlook on life, helped nurture me and lead me to become a better person; more like Uncle Wats! He and Joan were the ones you always wanted to be around. My family and I will miss him and cherish the memories!

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**Larry Reed** - July 14, 2020 at 11:22 AM

RE

“ Since 1971, Watson and I were more than 6th grade teaching buddies - we were friends. Many escapades, many great memories, always fun. He was my mentor. He was a great man! He will be missed. Rest In Peace. Ron Ervick

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**Ron Ervick** - July 12, 2020 at 12:37 PM

MF

“ Most honorable, caring, loving friend may you now rest in peace. You have left this earth a better place!  
Mary Foster

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**Mary Foster** - July 09, 2020 at 07:44 PM

ES

“ I first met Watson at Newark State in the early 1960's. My fondest memory of him is when we were in intro to music class where Watson had difficulty with the flutephone. I remember one time when Watson made believe he was playing the flute and I was tootling behind him. The teacher was not impressed!

He was one of the kindest, friendliest, and happiest fellows I ever met.

Sincere condolences to the family

Ed Sjonell

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Edwin Sjonell - July 08, 2020 at 09:51 AM

RC

“ I met Watson 50 years ago at Grover Cleveland School when I was the fifth grade teacher and Watson was the 6th grade teacher. He was always happy and helpful.

What a gentleman. He will certainly be missed by friends and family, but fond memories of him will live on.

With heart felt condolences.

Rosemary Crane

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Rosemary Crane - July 07, 2020 at 10:34 PM

DI

“ Sorry for your loss John. May your father rest in peace. Reading his obituary and the memories below he was a wonderful man. He had a good life. Hope all is well with you and your family. God bless you and Linda with four children.

*Francine and I offer our condolence,*

*Dr Gustav Ibranyi (Still at St Mike's)*

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**Dr Gustav Ibranyi** - July 07, 2020 at 08:24 AM

JS

“ When our father/father-in-law/grandfather John Smith moved in to the Atria in 2012, a new chapter of his life began. He befriended Watson and they became fast friends and shared many good times until John's passing in 2016. We continued to exchange Christmas cards with Watson as his brightening of John's life was truly memorable and much appreciated. Sending condolences to the family in the hopes that they find some small comfort in knowing what a good man they had in Watson. Rest in peace. John, Jo, Rosemary, Jack, and Seton Smith

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**John Smith** - July 07, 2020 at 07:19 AM

MS

“ Always had a smile and a twinkle in his eye. So very sorry for your loss

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**Maryellen Sullivan** - July 06, 2020 at 07:28 PM

MN

“ Watson was a true gentleman in every sense of the word.

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**Mary Norris** - July 06, 2020 at 06:22 PM

BR

“ Watson was a family man. He loved each and every member from the bottom of his heart until the day he passed. My fondness memories of Watson all center around family gathers and his interest in all. He will be missed.

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**Barbara Russ** - July 06, 2020 at 05:07 PM

RK

*So sorry for your loss. Sounds like your dad was a wonderful man*

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**roni kimelman** - July 06, 2020 at 09:10 PM

JS

*John and David and families-----sor sorry to read of the loss of your dad, He raised great boys and was an exceptional man. Stay well.*

*Joe Streit---formerly of ALJ*

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**Joseph W Streit** - July 07, 2020 at 08:04 PM

BH

“ *Lit a candle in memory of Watson Ridenour*



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**Bongarzone Funeral Home** - July 05, 2020 at 03:48 PM