



# Ernest Harold Watts

APR 13, 1922 - AUG 26, 2012



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## Ernest Harold Watts

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### Ernest Watts Obituary

Ernest (Ernie) Harold Watts, age 90, passed away Sunday evening, August 26, 2012 surrounded by his loving family, at Kingston Assisted Living Residence of Vermilion, where he had been a resident since April 2012. Ernie's beloved wife of 62 years, Ruth E. Watts, survives him as does his daughter, Judy Beebe (Norm Kummerlen) of Lorain, grandson Michael Beebe (Carol Heinz) of Seattle, WA and great-granddaughter Ana Lucia Heinz, grandson David (Anya) Beebe of Denver, CO and great-granddaughters Briana and Ella Beebe; extended family Faith (Jason) Sines of FL, and Michelle (Geof) Kazmierczak of Elyria and great-granddaughter Jillian Kazmierczak. During his final tour with the U.S. Army, Ernie's first wife Betty (nee Sanner) Watts died during childbirth. When WWII ended, he came to Elyria to be with his infant daughter, Judy. He soon enrolled at Bowling Green University and in 1949 earned a Bachelors Degree in Secondary Education; In 1950 he married a fellow Elyria teacher, Ruth Kindig, who has been his devoted wife of 62 years. He continued his education at Western Reserve University, where he was awarded his masters degree in 1953. Ernie's teaching career in Elyria Public Schools began in 1949. After teaching social studies for several years at Elyria High School, he saw the need for high school students to study economics. During the summers, he went on to further his education at the University of Illinois, Ohio Northern, and Ohio University. In 1965 he pioneered an advanced course for high school seniors in the study of economics. Although he felt impassioned about the curriculum, he is most remembered for his deep caring for his students. Ernie retired in 1985 after 36 years of teaching. Later he was admitted to the Elyria Hall of Fame for his great contributions. His career continued in the Trust Department of the Lorain County Bank for an additional 11 years. Ernie with his wife Ruth was a 40+ year member of the Round Table Book Club and a 60+ year member at the First Congregational



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United Church of Christ in Elyria, where he was on the Board of Trustees. The two of them were avid world travelers and in their later years enjoyed hiking in the mountains of Switzerland with their Elyria friends. The pictures he took on these trips were his treasures. One of his favorite hobbies for many years was solving world problems with his friends from the Gas Light Gang. Ernie was born April 13, 1922 in Purvis, Mississippi to the late Sinclair Earnest Watts and Fleta (nee Barr) Watts and was predeceased by his stepson; John R. Kindig and his older brothers and sisters: Vernon, Dale, Curtis and Edith Watts, Louise Graham, and Katherine Moore. Friends will be received Saturday September 8, 2012 from 10:00am until the time of an 11:00a.m. memorial service at the First Congregational United Church of Christ; 330 Second St Elyria, OH 44035. Reverend Christina Kukuk will officiate with burial at Ridge Hill Memorial Park, Amherst Township. Memorial contributions may be made to the Community Foundation of Lorain County; 9080 Leavitt Rd, Elyria, OH 44035. Dicken Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Elyria is in charge of arrangements. For online condolences, visit [www.dickenfuneralhome.com](http://www.dickenfuneralhome.com)

To send flowers  
to the family or plant a tree  
in memory of Ernest Harold Watts, please visit our floral store.

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## Tribute Wall

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CF

**Cheryl Maddock Fowler** posted:

I took Ernie's econ class as an EHS senior in 1974. Loved him. Loved his class. I learned so much from him. I think everyone in my class enjoyed him so very much. I wish my own sons could have taken a class with him. He'll be missed -- no doubt .

October 26 at 8:00 PM

MP

**Mona Bigler Pelkey** posted:

I will never forget Mr. Watt's good-natured teasing. He nicknamed me "Missy Mona" and "Mona Lisa," and I always pretended to be annoyed, but secretly loved it! He taught us to pay attention to current events and to understand our role in our country's economy, and he expected great things from us. He was a great teacher, and now he is home with the God that gifted him to students in Elyria. My condolences to his loved ones.

November 3 at 8:00 PM

RE

**Renee** posted:

So sorry for your loss. I did not have Mr. Watts, but my mom did and she always said he was one of the best teachers she ever had. She's been gone 9 years now, so perhaps they are having a reunion. God's comfort to you.

September 3 at 8:00 PM

BC

**Bill Camp, Jr.** posted:

Ernie, you have been such a dear friend since my high schoold days. It has been an honor and a pleasure to know you and Ruth, and Judy and Norm. One in a million! May you rest in peace. Judy and Norm (and Ruth): I am so sorry for the loss of such a great man. My condolences and thoughts and prayers are with you. Bill

September 1 at 8:00 PM

NP

**Nicki Pribich** posted:

Ernie, you will never know how many lives you touched, thank you for making us all better adults and citizens.

August 30 at 8:00 PM



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EB

**Elyria Mayor Holly Brinda** posted:

Dear Ruth and Family, Few people can say they touched the lives of so many like Ernie Watts. His challenging, caring teaching style helped build the productive futures of hundreds of Elyria students and his legacy will live on in those who were fortunate enough to be one of his students. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

August 29 at 8:00 PM

CC

**Christine Buchheit Chesover** posted:

I was a student of Mr. Ernie Watts. EHS, the class of 1981. I have great memories of his class and his stories! I never met his wife, but felt that I knew "Mama" from all of his stories. God Bless him and his family. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. Christine Buchheit Chesover

August 29 at 8:00 PM

DM

**David Moore** posted:

For the best teacher I ever had, who openened my mind to the real word, Rest in Peace.  
TANSTAAFEL!

August 29 at 8:00 PM

BF

**Barbara Foos** posted:

I will NEVER forget Mr. Watts, one of my favorite teachers. I do not live in Elyria anymore and my Mom called me to tell me of his passing because she knew how I adored him. He had such a passion for teaching, and we knew he cared about us. I feel privileged to have known him. HE WILL be MISSED! God bless his family! Barb Knerien Foos

August 29 at 8:00 PM

MH

**Michelle Rice Hilston** posted:

My sincere sympathy for your loss. Mr. Watts was the reason I decided to study economics in college. Thank you Mr. Watts!

August 28 at 8:00 PM



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PB

**Paula Basnett** posted:

Very few teachers make a difference in a student's life. Mr. Watts was on of these rare educators. I still remember TANSTAAFL! It was an honor to be in his classroom. Consider it a privilege to know that a little bit of his fingerprint is left in so many people's lives. I'm one of those EHS class of '78

August 28 at 8:00 PM

JA

**Jon W Allan** posted:

We was truly a great teacher and a great man. He saw more in us than we did in ourselves and that is a measure of an exceptional person. Thank you for believing in us.

August 28 at 8:00 PM

DH

**Don Harris** posted:

Like many students from EHS, I too have many fond memories of Mr. Watts. We will all remember his widgets and "violin" playing in class (1971-72 school year). I also remember later living on Miami Ave. and watching him walk by many evenings. He was truly a wonderful man. My sympathies to his family.

August 28 at 8:00 PM

ME

**Mike Elder** posted:

My condolences to Ernie's family. Mr. Watt's was an amazing teacher who made and significant impact on me in high school. His economics class was unique among the EHS curriculum and helped prepare me to be an adult. I know I am among the thousands who lives he touched with such positive influence and guidance. Mike Elder Elyria High School Class of 1974

August 28 at 8:00 PM

BL

**Brenda Leslie** posted:

What a great teacher he was. My favorite....made you think. Always seemed to care. Thanks "Ernie"!

August 28 at 8:00 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Ernest by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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