



## The Venerable Gilbert H. Watkins

January 1, 1930 - August 17, 2025

The Venerable Gilbert H. Watkins, a resident of St. Albans, West Virginia, passed away peacefully on Sunday, August 17, 2025, surrounded by his family at the Hubbard Hospice House. Born on January 1, 1930, in Birmingham, England, his life was marked by significant contributions and a profound sense of service.

Gil's military service began in 1948 and continued until 1950, during which he served in Egypt and North Africa. After his military service, he joined the esteemed Blackpool Police Force. On August 18, 1951, he married his beloved wife, Monica Parker, and they embarked on a journey together, eventually emigrating to Canada in 1951 and settling in Connecticut in 1952.

A gifted mechanic and entrepreneur, Gil's entrepreneurial spirit led him to establish Gil's Auto Service in 1957. Later, he founded WESCO Ford Tractor Agency. However, in 1974, he answered a deeper calling and was ordained as an Episcopal priest. His religious journey took him to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Williamson, West Virginia, where he served as Rector from 1974 to 1978. Subsequently, he served at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in St. Albans, West Virginia, from 1978 to 1993. During his tenure at St. Mark's, he founded Christ's Kitchen in 1984.

After retiring in 1993, Gil continued to serve faithfully as a supply priest and

later as Priest-in-Charge at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Huntington from 1997 to 2009.

Gil is survived by his children, including Gil Watkins (Anne), Kay Rotz (Cliff), Jason Watkins (Karen), and Grace Newell (Todd). He also has nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. His sister, Barbara Marafiote, and extended family across England, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States, also mourn his loss.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife and soulmate of 72 years, Monica.

Gil had a lifelong passion for adventure—especially motorcycles, airplanes, and sports cars. He also enjoyed blacksmithing, tinsmithing, and history. His life was marked by service, curiosity, and a deep love for his family and faith.

A memorial service for both Gil and Monica will be held on Saturday, November 1, 2025 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, St. Albans, WV at 2 pm.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to HospiceCare, 1606 Kanawha Blvd W, Charleston, WV 25387, Christ's Kitchen, P.O. Box 248, St. Albans, WV 25177, or Kanawha-Charleston Humane Association, 1248 Greenbrier Street, Charleston, WV 25311.

You may visit Gil's tribute page at [BartlettNichols.com](https://BartlettNichols.com) to share memories or condolences with the family.

Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home, family owned and located at 409 Sixth Avenue, St. Albans is honored to serve the Watkins family.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

NOV 1. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
405 B Street  
St. Albans, WV 25177

# Tribute Wall

DG

“ Gil and Monica were two special people and I was blessed by knowing them. Living in the same neighborhood, I was able to see them as they walked by and they always stopped by for a chat and to pet my Jack Russell Abby. I was also blessed by attending St. Marks and hearing Gil deliver Gods message. A life lived fully by both and we were all blessed by knowing them.

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**David Gurley** - August 25, 2025 at 09:11 AM

RO

“ What a wonderful man to have known Gil; he was very pleasant and thoughtful of others. I have always enjoyed his life experiences and the common ground we shared through our shared interest in motorcycles.

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**Robert** - August 20, 2025 at 04:20 AM

DB

“ So many memories of Gil. But I have to say that my favorite was when I was sexton. He was going to show me how to use the buffer. We went down the hall to the coffee room and said you have to hold it tight or it will get away. He held it tight and turned it on and it ran right through the wall. He stood and I could tell was a bit angry and I said "ok I think I could do that. Let me try. He said just shut up. Then we both stood in the hallway and laughed a long time. I love that man.

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**Diane Blake** - August 19, 2025 at 07:03 AM

BH

“ *Brenda Phillips Hall lit a candle in memory of  
The Venerable Gilbert H. Watkins*



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**Brenda Phillips Hall** - August 18, 2025 at 10:35 PM

LA

“ *A wonderful man who will always hold a special place in our hearts  
and meant a great deal to our family. Our sincere condolences to  
the family. Linda (Haddox) and George Adkins*

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**Linda Adkins** - August 18, 2025 at 08:51 PM

RB

“ *Rick Blankenship lit a candle in memory of  
The Venerable Gilbert H. Watkins*



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**rick blankenship** - August 18, 2025 at 05:08 PM