



## Darrel Burdett Watson

April 21, 1926 - January 12, 2025

Darrel Burdett Watson was born in Sidney NE April 21, 1926 to James Carr and Lillian Dame Watson. He was the youngest of six; James (Junior), Duane (Swede), Pauline (Sue), Forrest (Snooze) and Calvin. His family moved to Holyoke CO where he grew up. Somewhere along the way, he picked up the nickname “Wee Willy” which became Bill to his family and friends. He played football and he and Snooze were basketball stars for Phillips County High School.

He left high school in 1943 to join the Navy at 17. His father signed the consent because his mother refused – she already had 4 sons in the Army. He served in the Pacific theatre as a gunner’s mate second class on the minesweeper, USS Oracle. He returned to Holyoke in 1947 and met the love of his life, Frances Nierman.

They were married in Amherst on December 19, 1948. They made their home in Holyoke where Bill was a bartender at the VFW. When Barbara was born in 1949, he was recruited to help with her delivery! In 1952 he was delivering mail for the post office the day Mark arrived. Shortly after, they moved to Sidney NE where he was a fireman for the Sioux Ordinance Depot. Kim was born in Sidney in 1956 where they lived in Sioux Villa.

In 1959, the Watsons moved to Fort Collins where people know him as Darrel. He worked at the post office and the cement plant before he hired on at the Fort Collins Fire Department. Gail’s arrival completed the family in 1960.

Darrel was Assistant Chief when he retired in 1980 after 20 years.

Then to everyone's surprise, he started driving a school bus. The kids loved him, even though he made them behave – no shenanigans on his bus. He retired again 20 years later.

It took him awhile to find his passion, but when he discovered golf, he was hooked. He played as often as he could until he was unable to walk the course. While on a training trip for fire department, he had a chance to play a round at Pebble Beach in California, after he borrowed the \$15 greens fee from his buddy. He had 2 holes-in-one over the years and his collection of over 2,000 logo golf balls was a great excuse for show and tell.

Darrel and Frances were members of St. John's Lutheran Church and most recently of Peace with Christ Lutheran Church in Fort Collins.

When Frances passed away in 2020, his life was turned upside down, but he was determined to make the most of it. With help from his family, he was able to live at home watching football, playing solitaire on his computer, feeding the birds and cussing the squirrels.

Darrel is survived by his children Barb (Dennis) Gardner, Mark (Kristi) Watson, Kim Judith, and Gail (Bill) Cordova. He has 10 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. His brother-in-law Wes (Eunice) Nierman, his sister-in-law Mildred Watson and many cherished nieces and nephews also survive.

Thank you to the caring staff at Poudre Valley Hospital, Center at Rock Creek, and Pathways Hospice.

Darrel wanted memorial donations to go to Meals on Wheels of Fort Collins. We are forever grateful for the great meals and the wonderful volunteers who brought him lunch (and treats) with their visits.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 15. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (MT)

Bohlender Funeral Chapel  
121 W. Olive Street  
Fort Collins, CO 80524

## Funeral Service

JAN 16. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (MT)

Peace With Christ Lutheran Church  
1412 W. Swallow Rd.  
Fort Collins, 80526

## Burial

JAN 16. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

Resthaven Memory Gardens Cemetery  
8426 S. College Ave.  
Fort Collins, CO 80525

# Tribute Wall



“ My dad Tim Watson ( 1951-1999) introduced my sister Andrea and me to Uncle Bill and Aunt Fran back in the 90s. He always said he was his favorite uncle. He had a pool table in the basement, which was pretty cool. He will be greatly missed by me and my mom and sister. My daughter is named Lillian Kate.

**Janna Watson** - January 28, 2025 at 11:26 PM



“ I fell in love with Uncle Bill when he and Aunt Fran came to our house in Longmont, for their honeymoon. Uncle Bill played paper dolls with Carolyn and me and went out to play in the snow with us. I am afraid that we pretty much tried to take up all of his time. What a great sport. That was only the beginning of many memories and fun stories. He will be missed. With love, Claudia Peterson,

**.Claudia Peterson** - January 18, 2025 at 01:37 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Darrel Burdett Watson.



January 17, 2025 at 08:33 AM

RN

“ Uncle Bill and Aunt Fran were a great influence and help to us when we were at CSU and we have many memories of them. We watched the first moon walk at their home since we had no TV as we lived in Married Student housing. But Uncle Bill, on his days off, liked to cruise around ahead of the trash truck to see what people threw out that he might be able to repair. One day he showed up at our place and solved our no TV problem. He brought 2 TVs he had rescued; one had a good picture and no sound and the other had sound and no picture. Problem solved as they sat side by side in our living room. Uncle Bill, Uncle Jack and dad also provided many real-life stories that are fun to recall. I once got an A on a humorous speech in High School based entirely on their antics and adventures. He was loved and will be missed.

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**Ray D. Nierman** - January 17, 2025 at 08:21 AM

CF

“ We delivered Meals on Wheels to Darrel. He always had a smile on his face and was a favorite. We will miss him ❤️

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**Cory Fine** - January 16, 2025 at 02:25 PM

TY

“ I am so sorry we couldn't be there today. Know that our prayers are with you today and in the coming days, as you resume your lives without him.



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**the Yowells** - January 16, 2025 at 12:31 PM

IC

“ *Kim Prayers for you and your Family as your Dad joins your Mom in God's Heavenly Arms Home. What a Beautiful write up for your Dad's and Families Legacy he leaves for his Family God Bless You All with God's Peace as memories are a treasure forever.*

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**Irene C** - January 14, 2025 at 09:10 PM