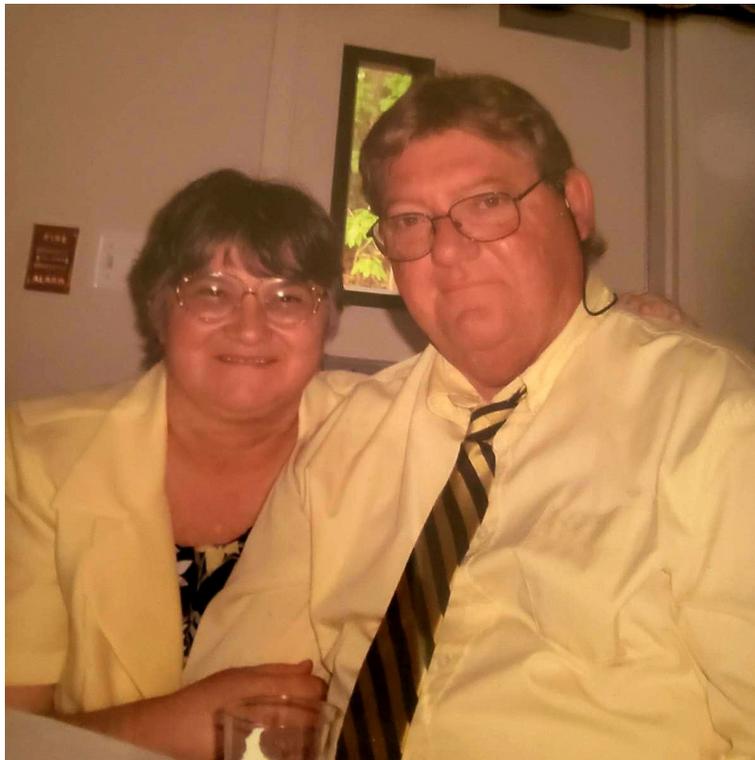




Clarence Darrow “Butch” Watkins March 10, 1949 - April 25, 2020



Mary and Butch Watkins

Dear Friend,

In all honesty I did not know Clarence "Butch" Watkins well. But CU Naturalist Mary Watkins, his loving wife, spoke of him often on our walks, especially in recent years as she often curtailed her time with us at various points to be by his side.

When Mary was a trustee of CU I would speak to "Butch" since he often answered the phone when Mary was in the wilds leading a group or scouting for her next teaching venture. He was always pleasant and polite.

Normally I would not write about someone whom our members didn't know well or

who hadn't made contributions to CU at various levels. But Butch's situation is much different. He lovingly supported Mary's time with us, he always donated to the World Series Team, and those of us who went on walks with Mary would hear about Butch such that we felt like we knew him. I think Butch would have joined us had he not been confined to his wheelchair.

Mary always smiled when she mentioned him in recent years, but that smile was tinged with an additional look of concern as his health took a turn for the worse. But one thing was always unmistakable: Mary was devoted to Butch and loved him very much. They were soul mates for sure.

I know many of you will want to offer your condolences to Mary. I did not want to notify our members until we had Butch's obituary in which Mary describes him so well. Our condolences to Mary, David, Kathy, Bill, Chris, family and Butch's friends.

Please read it below to learn more about this special person.

Sincerely,



Jane Morton Galetto
CU Maurice River Board President

Clarence Darrow “Butch” Watkins



On Saturday April 25,2020, Clarence Darrow “Butch” Watkins, Jr. passed away peacefully and painlessly at home with his wife, after a short battle with cancer. He was 71 years old.

Butch was born in Bridgeton, N.J. on March 10,1949 to Clarence D Watkins, Sr and Evelyn Williams Watkins. He attended Bridgeton Public Schools, where he was active in High School Chorus, Drama and Football. He also

sang in the youth choir at United Methodist Church in Bridgeton. He studied Chemistry at Maryville College in Tennessee, where he met and married his first wife, Judy Clark of Ohio. They returned to Bridgeton and worked as groundskeepers at Holly Hills Golf Club. After the marriage ended, Butch pursued a professional career in music, travelling to Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona with the Lost Texas Band playing Country and Western in roadhouses. He was an accomplished bass player with a velvety baritone voice.

Butch again returned to Bridgeton to care for his mother Evelyn in her home as she succumbed cancer. There he bought a small music store and continued playing in bands including The Soft Touch and Joan’s Headache. He became proficient in sound engineering and worked for a short time at Four Way Studios in Pennsauken, N.J. He assisted with many music festivals in and around Bridgeton.

Butch worked for Agway Petroleum in sales, then for South Jersey Gas in Glassboro

N.J. as a training supervisor. He called this his “real job” and retired in 2014.

Butch met his second wife, Mary Donnelly-Fusco of Bridgeton, in 2002 through Match.com. They found that they had many common interests in music, science, and nature, and coincidentally, many common friends. They also found that they lived less than two miles from each other. They dated and then lived together for ten years, and were married on October 7, 2012.

Butch is pre-deceased by his parents Clarence and Evelyn Watkins and his brother William Watkins. He is survived by his devoted wife Mary (Donnelly) Watkins of Bridgeton, stepson David J. Fusco of Willingboro, N.J., sister-in-law Kathy Watkins, and nephews Bill and Chris Watkins of Mays Landing N.J. as well as Mary’s sisters and brothers and many dear friends. He considered the two cats, Goldie and Callie, to be his kids.

Butch had a difficult life of chronic pain and physical limitations. His quick, painless and peaceful passing is considered a blessing. I, his loving wife, will miss my “Rock Star” forever. There will be no service at this time.

Donations in his name can be made to [ASPCA](#), or [CU Maurice River](#).



Butch with "Goldie" having a staring match - the other woman in Butch's life

Butch with Mary's son Dave.

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