



# Jay Brian Watson

AUG 3, 1968 - MAY 11, 2025



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Hamlin & Hilbish  
Funeral Directors

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6
<b>Media</b> .....	Page 12



# Jay Brian Watson

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## In Loving Memory of Jay Brian Watson

It is with profound sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the unexpected passing of Jay Brian Watson, who left us far too soon.

Jay had a zest for life and unwavering friendships. To know him was to know laughter, compassion, and a soul who never met a stranger. Whether it was a kind word, a helping hand, an unexpected funny text, or simply a smile and big laugh that could light up a room, Jay had a way of making everyone feel seen, heard, and valued. Everyone that knew him, most certainly has a "Jay story" that they must pause and laugh to even get through telling it to others.

Born in Dade City and raised in Eustis, Florida, he grew up with a deep love for adventure, sports, and family. But above all, his greatest gift was the way he connected with people. Friends, family, coworkers, and even casual acquaintances all felt the warmth of his generous spirit.

Jay later built a life in Jacksonville, Florida as a successful attorney. There he married his wife Michelle and raised two beautiful daughters while building other lasting relationships with friends that became family. He continued to enjoy an adventurous lifestyle, enjoying surfing, skateboarding, camping, often with his wife and two daughters.

Jay is survived by his wife, Michelle; his children, Victoria and Madeline; his parents, Ronald and Alexis Watson; his siblings, Christopher Watson and Leslie Watson; Travis McFadin and Jesse McFadin; numerous other relatives and friends, and countless friends who became family. The loss is immeasurable, but so is the love left behind.

A celebration of his life will be held on May 24th, 2025 at 2:00pm at LifePointe Church in Eustis, where we will gather to share stories, laughter, and tears in honor of someone who gave so much



## Obituary

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of themselves to others. There will be a gathering of family and friends at 1:00pm, and a Fellowship in the church dining room following the service.


Though he may be gone from our sight, his spirit lives on in every life he touched. Rest in peace, dear friend to all. You will be missed more than words can say.





# Events

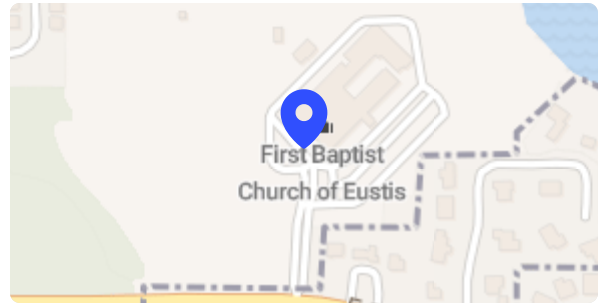
**Jay Brian Watson**  
AUG 3, 1968 - MAY 11, 2025

## Celebration of Life

 **Saturday**, May 24, 2025

 2:00 PM ET

 **LifePoint Church**  
3551 E. Orange Avenue, Eustis FL 32726





# Tribute Wall

**Jay Brian Watson**  
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**Hamlin & Hilbish Funeral Directors** shared a **Video**.



May 21 at 7:49 AM



**Robert H.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Jay.



April 8 at 9:02 PM



**Heather Kroczaleski** lit a candle in honor of Jay.  
Heather Kroczaleski lit a candle in memory of Jay Watson



November 9 at 8:42 AM



**Heather Marohn** lit a candle in honor of Jay.  
We dated for a while, we had so much fun and he was pretty much always happy.  
He loves his girls more than life!!!



June 10 at 5:43 PM



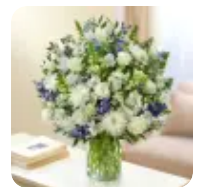
**Anonymous** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Jay.



May 28 at 11:12 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Sincerest Sorrow - Blue and White to the Watson family.



May 28 at 11:12 AM



# Tribute Wall

**Jay Brian Watson**

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**Christopher Ellis** posted:

What a Wonderful person, Jay and I went to school together, played sports together, used to come over to his house some during the summer, ski, play Baseball all summer, we would make each other laugh, and Jay most of the time, always in good spirt, my heart goes out to the family, Jay you have influenced many people in your life, rest in peace my friend.God BlessBoogie Ellis

May 28 at 9:36 AM



**Jeb Branham** posted:

I offer my condolences to Jay's great family. Jay and I shared office space for close to 10 years. We never had a moment of conflict. Jay was a good friend and contributor to my practice. We often sought each other's advice about cases and leaned on one another professionally. Jay was a man of highest character. He practiced law the right way; putting his clients' interests above his own and cultivating productive relationships with opposing counsel. He loved Michelle and his girls dearly. The world needs more people like Jay in it. He will be missed by me and many others here in Jacksonville Beach. I am sorry I was not able to be there today. While Jay is gone from us far too soon, he made the world a better place from his time here.

May 24 at 2:27 PM



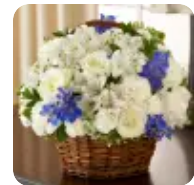
**Jeb B.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Jay.



May 24 at 2:16 PM



**Josh And Sarah Kaleel** sent a Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White to the Watson family.



May 24 at 9:12 AM



# Tribute Wall

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**T B** posted:

I only had the chance to work with Jay for a short time, but I truly enjoyed it. We both shared the "joy" of raising young daughters, and one of my favorite memories is joking with Jay about how our homes and cars had become nonstop top 10 hits for the latest pop music princesses. We bonded (or commiserated) about how those songs were always stuck in our heads. Jay was a good man, and though I did not know him well, I know he loved his family and was a kind person. Travis Bonnheim

May 23 at 12:21 PM



**America's Choice Title** sent a Floor Plant for Sympathy to the Watson family.



May 22 at 2:50 PM



**Anonymous** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Jay.



May 22 at 12:36 PM



**Anonymous** sent a White Sympathy Floor Basket to the Watson family.



May 22 at 12:36 PM



**The Buff Johnson Family** sent a Plants-A-Plenty to the Watson family.



May 22 at 9:58 AM



**Rob & Erika Cook And Family.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Jay.



May 22 at 9:36 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Jay Brian Watson**

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RF

**Rob & Erika Cook And Family.** sent a Red, White & Blue Sympathy Floor Basket to the Watson family.

May 22 at 9:36 AM



WD

**Warren Delmolino** posted:

As an administrator of a school, a teacher in the classroom, or a coach on an athletic field ... you would love to have a student who enjoys the school community, respects all stakeholders, a pupil who is positively engaged in school academics & activities, who is well prepared, or an athlete who is coachable, dependable, and hard working. When I think back to the 1980's, I remember a young man, Jay Watson: who loved being a member of the Eustis High School student body; who respected the administration, faculty, and staff; who enjoyed being part of the student body; who was prepared and participated in his academic studies; who was involved in school extracurriculars; and was a big contributor in a winning Panthers sports program. When one reflects on Jay Watson, one remembers a youngster growing up in a very nurturing and supportive home, a teenager who was developing a broad and solid academic foundation, and young man who accepted responsibilities for his performances where others could count on him for always giving his best effort. All these positive work ethics that were developed as he grew-up and matured in Eustis, Florida made him the successful husband and father that he became. Giving of himself was part of Jay's personality as a kid, a youngster, a young adult, and as an adult. He was a reflection of the way he was raised and taught at home. He made others around him better ... because of who he was and what he expected from himself. Jay also knew what the Lord expected of him. "To whom much is given, much is expected!" (Luke Chapter 12 Verse 48) is a verse that he lived by day in and day out. His parents, his siblings, his wife, his children, his colleagues, his friends, his teachers, and his coaches can all think back at who Jay Watson was for over 5 1/2 decades and know that he lived a positive and productive life always helping others. So proud of the man he was! May Jay rest in peace! Warren Delmolino / Coach Del

May 15 at 9:33 AM

DM

**Dean Millard** posted:

Though I hadn't seen Jay since high school, I remember a super nice guy from the good looking/athletic/popular crowd who didn't seem to realize how good looking, athletic and popular he was, just liked people and making them feel better. Even at the orthodontist, the place I dreaded the most, Jay could make me laugh! My sincerest condolences to his family, may he Rest in Peace.

May 16 at 9:16 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Jay Brian Watson**

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**Laura Pace** posted:

Some people come into your life and immediately feel like family. Jay was one of those rare souls. Back in high school, our house was always full—full of laughter, music, and friends—and I'm grateful that Jay was a part of that time in my life. For a time, he felt like a brother to my sister Polly and me. Always up for whatever fun was unfolding, he made even the simplest hangouts unforgettable. We spent countless hours watching MTV videos, and when rock bands like Van Halen came on, chaos would erupt—brooms and mops magically transformed into guitars, and, along with his sidekicks (Henry Bruns, Jamie Taylor etc.) and his signature energy, Jay would lead the way in an impromptu living room rock show. I'll never forget watching the premiere of Michael Jackson's Thriller video with them. It was one of those moments made brighter by Jay's excitement and humor. When my boyfriend couldn't take me to my senior prom, Jay didn't hesitate—even though he'd graduated he stepped in without a second thought. That night could've been a disappointment, but because of Jay and a group of our friends, it became something sweet and fun. I keep thinking I need to find that prom photo—it captures just a sliver of the kindness and light he carried. After high school, when life took us to different places, Jay stayed close for a while. While he was away at college, we wrote letters—always in code, full of acronyms we had to decipher. I don't remember how it started, but it was so Jay—a little silly, a little smart, always fun. Several years ago, I had the unexpected joy of running into him for the first time in a few decades at a First Friday event in Eustis and meeting his beautiful family. That night was a gift I didn't know I'd treasure so deeply. Losing Jay feels like losing a piece of those golden teenage years. I'm heartbroken for ALL of us who were lucky enough to call him a friend, a brother, a son, a husband, a dad. Jay truly was a light, and I'm certain I'm not alone in saying I will remember him with a great big smile.

May 15 at 9:33 AM



# Tribute Wall

**Jay Brian Watson**

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AB

**Alexander Brock** shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I met Jay in 2010, during my final year of college. I was 22 and living in Jacksonville Beach with my roommate Kevin. One fall evening, Kevin and I were relaxing in the front yard, enjoying a beer by his chiminea, when we spotted Jay and his future wife, Michelle, across the street. We invited them over for a drink. Little did we know, that simple gesture would mark the beginning of one of the most meaningful friendships of my life. Jay was 20 years older than us, and to us, he was the coolest guy we'd ever met. We were two broke kids living in a rundown 1950s shack, and he had it all—a great house, a cool truck, a thriving career, and a wonderful girlfriend. But what stood out the most was that he genuinely wanted to be our friend. Every Saturday, we'd gather to watch college football, share a few beers, and enjoy Jay's cooking. Those weekends became some of the best memories of my early adulthood. A few years later, Jay and Michelle were expecting their daughter, Victoria, and decided to move into a larger home. I was bummed when he told us they were moving, but then Jay surprised us: he offered Kevin and me the chance to rent his house—far nicer than ours—for just \$100 more a month. To us, it was an unbelievable gesture. Jay was a king in our eyes, and we couldn't sign the paperwork fast enough. Even after he moved, Jay stayed close. Though his family became his priority, he never drifted far. He helped me with my first girlfriend and when I was preparing to get married, there was no question in my mind that I wanted Jay to officiate our wedding. I knew he'd bring the perfect mix of heart and humor—and he didn't disappoint. As the years passed, life got busier. Even though we didn't see each other often, Jay was always there—offering advice, sharing laughs, and lending a hand when I needed it most. I especially loved watching our children play together. Those moments reminded me of how our lives had grown and stayed intertwined. I've had many friends, but none like Jay. He was more than a friend—he was a mentor, a neighbor, a big brother, a legal advisor, and an all around outstanding human being. My heart goes out to his family and to everyone lucky enough to have known him.



May 15 at 9:33 AM

GT

**Gail Isaac-Thomas** lit a candle in honor of Jay.

My heartfelt condolences, thoughts and prayers are with the Watson family. 👤  
Ms. Gail Isaac-Thomas Eustis



May 15 at 9:33 AM



# Media

**Jay Brian Watson**  
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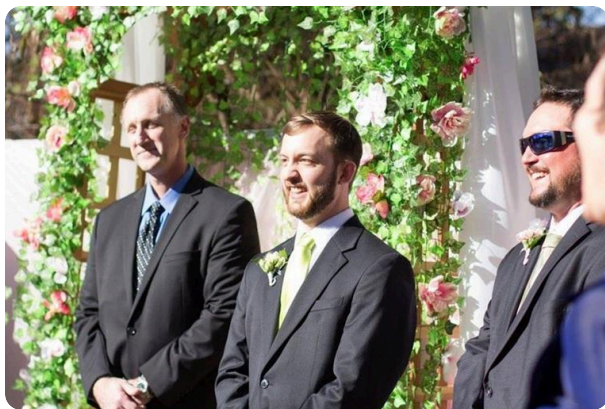
**Hamlin & Hilbish Funeral Directors** shared a **Video**.

May 21 at 7:49 AM



**Alexander Brock** shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

May 15 at 1:06 PM





# Memories only last if you share them

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



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