



# Howard Lee Watson

December 8, 1938 - August 24, 2021

Howard Lee Watson Jr.

Howard Lee Watson Jr was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on December 8, 1938. He was the only child of Virginia Atkinson and Howard Lee Watson Sr. He grew up in Arlington Heights, Illinois near Chicago. He remembered the end of World War II. He was riding his tricycle when he heard the announcement of the end of the war. He was very proud to be able to share the news with everyone who passed by. Lee was very interested in science. He and his friends did all sorts of chemistry experiments in his parents' basement.

Lee went to Northwestern University for his undergraduate education. He graduated with a degree in Mathematics. He was recruited for brand new graduate program in Physics at the University of California, San Diego. He earned a masters and doctorate there. While in San Diego, he met and married Mary Anderson. This union produced a son, Jeffrey Elam Watson. After graduate school, they moved to Massachusetts where Lee taught undergraduate physics at Amherst College while Mary pursued further education. Lee did a year of study at the Institute of Advanced Studies at Princeton, University. When Lee failed to get tenure at Amherst College, he worked for a year for the Environmental Defense Fund as they were fighting the Alaskan Pipeline. At this point his marriage to Mary fell apart.

Lee worked with many attorneys in EDF and became interested in the study of Law. He married Erica Schuster and they moved to the Oakland California. Erica studied medicine while Lee attended law school at the University of California at Berkeley. After graduation, they moved to Los Angeles, California where he began the practice of law in the area of litigation. There Erica and Lee welcomed a daughter, Jennifer Gayle Watson. Lee and Erica split up. Lee had primary custody of their daughter, Jennifer.

In 1984, Lee met and married Alice Kay Silver. They had a daughter Amanda Lee Watson. Lee and Alice reared a family of kids: his, hers and ours. He continued the practice of law until he retired in 2012. He had many different clients such as IBM and the Los Angeles Clippers

Lee joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in 1983. He served in various capacities such as Scout Master, High Councilor, Employment Specialist, Ward Clerk and

teacher. Lee was an avid backpacker and hiker. He loved hiking in the Sierras. He also enjoyed travel. He visited all fifty states and several foreign countries such as Kenya, the Seychelles, Greece, the Caribbean, Mexico, France, England, Scotland, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

He died peacefully in his sleep August 24, 2012 after a long illness. He had a chance to say good-bye to loved ones before he passed.

Howard Lee Watson is survived by his wife, Alice, children Jeffrey Elam Watson, Jennifer Watson Kleinbaum (Scott), Amanda Watson Gilbert (Nick), three stepchildren Carl Anderson (Janet), Andrea Anderson, Chandra Anderson Kingsford (Dorman) 8 grandchildren and 3 step-grandchildren. Services will be held at the Juniper Bend Chapel on September 1, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. There will be a visitation at 10 am that same morning.

# Previous Events

## Service

SEP 1. 11:00 AM (MT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
14852 Juniper Crest Rd  
Herriman, UT 84096

# Tribute Wall



“ *Howard Lee Watson*

October 05, 2023 at 07:49 PM



“ *Ever since I've known Lee he has been genuine kind and very understanding to everyone around him. I know Lee suffered a lot since I've known him but he always did it with humility and grace. He loved his family even if sometimes they didn't reciprocate with that. Lee was very knowledgeable in the gospel and he will be missed in the quororms where he served. He especially loved his grandchildren and did everything he could for them and their parents. I love that guy and we will see him again 😊*

**Nick Gilbert the third** - August 28, 2021 at 03:20 AM

JK

*Yes, we struggled to reciprocate kindness because he molested me, my sister, and multiple other victims. The part where he was incarcerated and put his family through hell wasn't included in this obituary.*

**Jk** - September 11, 2021 at 11:03 AM

CK

*I'm sure he "loved" his grandchildren because they were his own personal deviancy. I'm happy I kept my children away from him and protected them. I'm irritated that I'm included in his "survived by." If anything it should say "suffered by" because that's what it was like growing up in the same household as him.*

**chandra kingsford** - September 11, 2021 at 11:27 AM

EM

*My biggest regret in life is that I did not choose a better father for my wonderful daughter. Erica Watson*

**Erica Watson ( Jennifer's mom)** - September 11, 2021 at 02:33 PM

EM

*My biggest regret in life is that I did not choose a better father for my wonderful daughter.*

**Erica Watson ( Jennifer's mom)** - September 11, 2021 at 02:35 PM

EM

*My biggest regret in life is that I did not choose a better father for my wonderful daughter.*

**Erica Watson ( Jennifer's mom)** - September 11, 2021 at 02:37 PM

HM

*Given what Lee did is it any wonder that my niece and her sister didn't "reciprocate"? Were we supposed to feel sympathy for him? How about his victims? The pain he caused is unforgivable and no victims should be expected to feel anything but betrayal and anger. And I have to wonder why a man who molested children in his own family was still held in such high esteem by his church.*

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**Hilde McNeil** - September 13, 2021 at 11:03 PM