

Dr. James W.R. Watkins, 91

Dr. James W.R. Watkins, 91, died peacefully on Monday, November 13, 2017. He was born on Grove Ridge in Casey County to W.M. Watkins and Edna Lee Murphy Watkins on February 17, 1926.

Dr. Watkins was a graduate of Liberty High School, a Navy veteran, and a graduate of Northwestern University. He was an optometrist and did pioneering work in vision therapy and child development. He was a lifelong resident of central Kentucky. His Murphy family was one of the first to settle what later became Casey County.

He is survived by his ex-wife, Mollie Musgrave Watkins, and three daughters: Lauren Lee (& David) Leatherbarrow, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Pamela Marie (and Daniel) Shields, Dry Ridge, Kentucky; and, Jamie Ruth (and Daniel) Semkow, Vero Beach, Florida. He is also survived by ten grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by three sisters and their spouses: Josephine Lenore (and John) Foster, Liberty, Kentucky; Elizabeth Lee (and Ben) Baker, Maui, Hawaii; and Sharleen Murphy (and Louis) Power, Richmond, Kentucky.

Dr. Watkins donated his body to science and memorial and interment services of his ashes will be held at later times at Camp Nelson National Cemetery.