



Services will be held 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014, at the L.E. Black, Phillips and Holden Funeral Home for Mr. Hardy A. Watkins, 78, who departed this life Nov. 7, 2014, at St. Elizabeth Health Center.

Mr. Watkins was born on Dec. 7, 1935, in Youngstown, a son of Shaw and Inez Bethea Watkins.

As a teenager, he attended the Reeds Chapel AME Church and served as a Sunday school teacher. He was an excellent roller skater and enjoyed skating well into his adult years. Hardy was a graduate of North High School. He served in the U.S. Army and worked at Strouss, U.S. Steel, and as a carpenter in the City of Youngstown, Building and Grounds Maintenance Department. His favorite pastimes were shooting pool, and fishing. Following retirement, Hardy enjoyed traveling and spending time with his sons and grandchildren.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his loving wife, the former Betty Jean McKinney, whom he married Dec. 10, 1957; two sons, James Watkins of Yakima, Youngstown; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Viola Smith; and four brothers, Alexander, Lacy, Robert and James Watkins.

Friends may call one hour prior to the services from 10 to 11 a.m. at the funeral home.