



Rita Kay Shepherd Watkins

November 21, 1959 - January 12, 2026

Rita Kay Shepherd Watkins, age 66, a resident of Bellows Road in Salyersville, Kentucky, passed away Monday, January 12, 2026, at the Appalachian Regional Healthcare Center in Paintsville, Kentucky.

Born November 21, 1959, in Paintsville, Kentucky, the daughter of Colleen Salyer Salyer and the late James Shepherd. Step-father, Granis Salyer, and husband, Jimmy "Booger" Watkins also preceded in death.

Rita loved going to Connelley Farm for racing and was known for being the Powder Puff Dirt Track Champion. She loved spending time with her family as well.

Those left to cherish her memory is mother, Colleen Salyer of Salyersville, Kentucky, daughters, Jamie Singleton and husband Carl of Blytheville, Arkansas Jeanna Marie and husband Roger Horn of Nicholasville, Kentucky, son, Joshua Watkins and wife Amanda of Salyersville, Kentucky, five grandchildren, Peyton Singleton, Kyle Bailey, Kaleb Stephens, Breanna Horn O'Daniel, and Austin Horn, and one great granddaughter, Violet O'Daniel, and a host of family and friends who love and miss her.

Funeral services for Rita Kay Shepherd Watkins will be conducted Friday, January 16, 2026, at 1:00 PM from the chapel of the Salyersville Funeral

Home in Salyersville, Kentucky. Interment will follow in the Jackson Cemetery in Oakley, Kentucky. The family will welcome friends Thursday, January 15, after 5:00 PM and anytime prior to funeral services.

The Salyersville Funeral Home is honored to be entrusted with the funeral arrangements. Online condolences, flowers, and gifts are available on salyersvillefuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Jackson Cemetery

Oakley, KY

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **15**. 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM (ET)

Salyersville Funeral Home
694 Parkway Drive
PO Box 669
Salyersville, KY 41465
(606) 349-1282
salyersvillefuneralhome@ymail.com

Funeral

JAN **16**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Salyersville Funeral Home
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PO Box 669
Salyersville, KY 41465
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Tribute Wall



“ *Charlie & Melva Deutscher - Sandy Smith purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Rita Kay Shepherd Watkins.*



Charlie & Melva Deutscher - Sandy Smith - January 15 at 12:57 PM



“ *Rita and Buger was always like my aunt and uncle I was always at there house with Johnathan aka(Dog) witch lived them dearly as well!!! They were great people and I can say I never went to bed hungry or cold when needed the most and a lot wo t understand but a lot will!!! I love you Rita you will be missed and Josh I love you bub I'm really sorry!!!!*

Chad Basham - January 14 at 08:52 PM