



## Ada L. Watson

February 4, 1937 - March 14, 2020

Ada L. Watson, 83, passed away at home on Saturday, March 14, 2020 after a 12-year battle with Alzheimer's Disease.

She was born on February 4, 1937 in Chicago, IL, the daughter of Winston and Ruth (Olson) Kilbury. Ada lived most of her young life in Arlington Heights, IL and was a 1955 graduate of Arlington Heights High School. She was very active in high school. Ada was in the National Honor Society, Cardinal Staff, GAAS Secretary, Student Council Corresponding Secretary, Talent Show Director, Thespian Society, Forensics League and the Harmonettes.

After graduation, Ada traveled to Beloit and enrolled at Beloit College. While at Beloit she continued to be heavily involved in Music including Music Education, Speech and Dramatic Arts, Players Production Board, Choir Student Director, Symphonic Choir, National Collegiate Players President, as well as a member of the Delta Gamma Sorority. She graduated from Beloit College in 1959 and was immediately hired as the Choir Director at Lincoln Junior High School in Beloit. In 1959, she met her future husband, Bill Watson. Bill was drafted off the Beloit Police Department in 1957. After two years in the military, Bill returned to the Police Department in August of 1959. It wasn't long after returning that a mutual friend introduced them. The two dated and eventually married on May 24, 1961 in Chicago.

Ada left teaching for a few years while their children were young. Beloit Catholic High School called her to take the part-time Choir Director position and taught there for 14 years with a choir of 50 to 60 students. When enrollment dropped off, Ada was hired by the Beloit School District. She taught at several Elementary Schools including, Todd, Robinson, Royce, Wright, and Cunningham for 22 years. Ada retired from teaching in June 1999 after 36 wonderful years working with young people and teaching them the joy of music.

She kept busy before and after her retirement with her gardening and many trips to Door County in the summers and Florida in the winters; as well as several cruises to the Caribbean. Ada frequently went with her husband on trips throughout the United States with his elected position on the Beloit City Council both as a member and President of that body.

Ada is survived by her husband, Bill; daughter, Laura (Watson) Anastasi; son, Brett Watson; granddaughters, Ashley and Alexis Anastasi; great granddaughter, Brooklyn Anastasi; brother, James (Karin) Kilbury of Langenfeld, Germany; several nieces and nephews including special niece, Jennifer (Kilbury) Ritz of Long Beach, CA.

She was predeceased by her parents and brother, Bruce (Sylvia) Kilbury.

The family would like to give a special thank you to Beloit Regional Hospice and their staff for their wonderful care and help, especially Nurse Paige, and CNA's Pam, Jenna, and Ehderia.

A Service of Remembrance will be at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 21, 2020 in the Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium, 2355 Cranston Rd., Beloit, WI, with Pastor David Carlson officiating. Visitation of remembrance will be from 3:30 p.m. until the time of service Saturday in the funeral home.

# Events

---

**MAR**   **Visitation**                      03:30PM - 05:00PM

**21**

---

Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium  
2355 Cranston Road, Beloit, WI, US, 53511

**MAR**   **Service**                              05:00PM

**21**

---

Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium  
2355 Cranston Road, Beloit, WI, US, 53511

# Comments

---



“ A tribute video has been added.



**Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium** - March 22, 2020 at 11:44 AM

---



“ A webcast video has been added.



**Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium** - March 21, 2020 at 04:21 PM



“ Wonderful service, we will miss you Aunt Ada. Rest in Peace.

**Don and Bernadette Kilbury** - March 21, 2020 at 06:52 PM



“ bill, woody and I would like to tell you that was a beautiful service. she had a beautiful voice and I have a lot of wonderful memories of ada. you and bj and laura and the grandkids are all in our prayers. love Kathy & woody

**woody & kathy price** - March 21, 2020 at 06:52 PM



“ BILL, VERY MOVING SERVICE, GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.  
NICK

**nickwatson** - March 22, 2020 at 01:13 PM



“ Lovely service. The tribute to Ada was very touching. My

condolences to the family. May your great memories help you get

through this difficult time.

Linda Klebsdel, RSVP Volunteer

**Linda J. Klebsdel** - March 22, 2020 at 07:56 PM



“ Bill, My sincere condolences to you and your family. Our prayers are with you.

Ken Porter

**Ken Porter** - March 23, 2020 at 09:52 AM



“ Don & Bernadette Kilbury lit a candle in memory of Ada L. Watson



**Don & Bernadette Kilbury** - March 21, 2020 at 06:50 PM

---



“ 46 files added to the album LifeTributes



**Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium** - March 21, 2020 at 06:47 PM

---



“ I wish I could be there in person, just know, as I watch the streaming video, I am there. Love, Becky

**Beky Watson** - March 21, 2020 at 06:00 PM

---



“ Gerry & Heidi lit a candle in memory of Ada L. Watson



**Gerry & Heidi** - March 21, 2020 at 05:34 PM

---



“ Mark And Tammy Stuckey lit a candle in memory of Ada L. Watson



**Mark and Tammy Stuckey** - March 21, 2020 at 05:28 PM

---



“ Nick Watson lit a candle in memory of Ada L. Watson



**Nick Watson** - March 21, 2020 at 05:09 PM

---



“ I knew Ada in her retirement years, after she joined our church choir -- first as a guest with our "touring choir" that went to England -- and then when she stayed on. We were happy to accept a Lutheran! I don't know whether we made a Methodist out of her, but we loved her sparkling wit, her smile, and her lovely voice. My mom and I sang trios with her, which was a special joy. When she could no longer sing with us, the choir always looked for her bright smile, near the back, on the aisle, at our cantatas. My prayers are with Bill and the family.

**Ellen Butchart** - March 21, 2020 at 04:04 PM

---



“ Dear Bill:

I am so very sorry to learn of Ada's passing, and am hoping that her impact on so many students, friends, and family members will bring you peace and comfort in this time of sorrow.

Tim Weeden

Tim Weeden - March 21, 2020 at 09:31 AM

---



“ Thomas Alverson lit a candle in memory of Ada L. Watson



Thomas Alverson - March 21, 2020 at 05:28 AM

---



“ Dear Bill and family,  
Larry and I wish to express our most sincere condolences. I remember way back when we first moved to Beloit. Ada took me under her wing and introduced me to her hairdresser and got me involved in Topical Review Club. I'm still in that club! She always had a smile and was so cheerful. She was a great lady and she enjoyed sharing her musical talents with her students, family and friends. God bless and watch over you all as you deal with your grief.

Larry and Karen Arft

Karen R Arft - March 20, 2020 at 08:09 PM

---



“ Bill, Laura and BJ,  
Henry and I are very sorry to hear about Ada. She was always so cheerful and pleasant, and a wonderful neighbor. We'll keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

Henry and Cornelia Hempe

Cornelia Hempe - March 20, 2020 at 01:09 PM



“ We are sorry for your loss. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with your family during this difficult time. Shawn, Amy, Nicholas, Sarah

**Amy Anastasi** - March 19, 2020 at 09:18 PM

---



“ A long time friend of Ada, I wish to send loving thoughts to her family. She was a delightful person and a wonderful musician. She brightened many hours with her music.

**Norma Saxon** - March 19, 2020 at 06:42 PM

---



“ I will forever remember our Christmas Sings and Spring Sings at Morgan. I loved music and Mrs Watson was a of part of that. My sympathies to her family.

**Laura Stoller** - March 18, 2020 at 09:45 PM

---



“ Ada was my Aunt too. She would have a joke whenever I saw her. ALWAYS smiling. A few months back I stayed with her while Bill did a few errands. She started humming! This went on for quite a while. It sure made me smile.

**Becky Watson** - March 18, 2020 at 04:50 PM

---



“ Kathy Price sent a virtual gift in memory of Ada L. Watson



**kathy price** - March 18, 2020 at 01:27 PM

---



“ Kathy Price lit a candle in memory of Ada L. Watson



kathy price - March 18, 2020 at 01:27 PM

---



“ Ada Watson was my aunt. She was a wonderful person. She was my choir teacher at BCH. I remember calling her aunt Ada at school and she said very sternly but nicely "you will call me Mrs. Watson at school and aunt Ada anywhere else." And I respected her for that. She always played piano or organ at family Christmas get-togethers and get us all singing. Uncle Bill always stayed by her side until the very end. If there is a space in heaven for Saint Bill, he certainly deserves it. I am so very sorry for your loss Uncle Bill, cousin Laura, and BJ. You are all in my prayers. Kathy Price-cousin and neice.

kathy price - March 18, 2020 at 01:25 PM

---



“ I remember Ada tsalking about her daughter, Laura all the time during Chorus when I went to Beloit Castholic High School in 1962-1963 The omly thing i don't remember was iwhen Laura was bornt! Mind you i was a teenager at the time!! you all know teenen are!Adw was a a very happy person when she talked about her family!



Barbara Scott Pizzolato - March 17, 2020 at 11:22 PM

---



“ Mrs. Watson was my chorus teacher at Beloit Catholic High School. She was instrumental in giving me confidence and fostering the love of singing. A teacher that had a huge positive impact on so many students.

Mary Beardmore - March 17, 2020 at 07:46 PM



“ I first met “Mrs. Watson” as a student at Beloit Catholic High School. I loved her. Her twinkling eyes and when needed, she had the ability to control all of us with “the look”, along with other gestures that became like a sign language to us. Her sense of humor was always close to the surface. As time went on and I had my own child, she was his music teacher at Morgan School. Many times Ada would share that my son had created “another” work of art, or a card for her. She kept his work on her refrigerator. Her love of music and her students was in every fiber of her body. A gift to so many.

**Tara Dabson Tinder** - March 16, 2020 at 09:34 PM

---



“ So sorry for your loss. Mrs. Watson was such a kind, gentle woman. She was my choir director at BCHS in the late 60’s and early 70’s working with Jack Farina and the band.  
She will be lovingly remembered by many.  
May she Rest In Peace, Amen.

**Barb Senes** - March 16, 2020 at 08:50 PM

---



“ Our sincere condolences offered at this sad time of separation. May God comfort and care for Ada’s family and friends. She is in good company now.

Ken and Marilyn shockley ( Naples FL)



**Ken and Marilyn Shockley** - March 16, 2020 at 03:06 PM

---



“ I am so sorry for your loss, Laura. Losing a mom is never easy, but she is at peace. Now you can concentrate on all your good memories of her. Hugs.

**Sue Kurth** - March 16, 2020 at 12:32 PM



“ Laura, I would like to send my deepest sympathies to you and your family. Your mom was truly an inspiration to all. I enjoyed my time with her all those years at the credit union. You are all in my prayers during this difficult time.

**Darla Thill** - March 16, 2020 at 12:22 PM

---



“ I was fortunate to work with Ada for many years. First at Beloit Catholic High and later at the School District of Beloit. She was a compassionate and positive role model for our students and her colleagues.  
On a personal level, Ada always had a smile and encouraging word for everyone she interacted with.  
She will be missed as she gave so much of herself.  
I will miss that radiant smile.

**David Luebke** - March 15, 2020 at 08:36 PM



“ Mrs. Watson and I were good friends as well as colleagues. We both loved Music. She was really missed at Todd when she retired. Barb Selmer

**Barbara Selmer** - March 15, 2020 at 09:56 PM



“ Ada and I had a few laughs at Morgan Elementary back in the day. She sure got frustrated with our 4th-5th grade boys. At times they were a challenge, but she survived! Sorry for her illness and the loss of a good woman.

**Allene Meade** - March 16, 2020 at 06:02 AM

---



“ She was an excellent teacher. I loved her animation and engagement with us kids. For those thirty minutes, it was as though the woes of the typical school day evaporated instantaneously. She was one in a million. The legacy she created in classrooms all over this city will live on for time to come.

**Dr. Tom Johnson** - March 15, 2020 at 07:56 PM



“ Mrs Watson was one of my music teachers at Morgan Elementary school. I can still remember her rolling the piano into our classroom and greeting us with song singing 'Hello Everybody Yes Indeed My Friends'. I looked forward to singing with her every time. A wonderful and kind woman with a sweet voice. Dr Johnson had it exactly right in the impact she had on her students. Bless her.

**Mike Pickart** - March 15, 2020 at 10:39 PM



“ We are very sorry for your loss Bill and the rest of the family. You have our deepest condolences and prayers. Bless her.

Linda and Ted Reimer

**Ted Reimer** - March 17, 2020 at 04:49 PM



“ Bill, you have my sincere sympathy for the loss of your dear wife.

Shannon Stordock Hecht

**Shannon Stordock-Hecht** - March 18, 2020 at 08:17 PM



“ Mrs. Watson was my choir director at BCH. I never saw her without a smile for all of us. She pushed us to be the best we could be with a gentle nature and bright smile. And, I knew Bill Watson from the PD, also. As her memory started to deteriorate, Bill gently showed her the way to go. Prayers for the Watson Family as they work thru this loss. She will be fondly remembered by many. RIP, Mrs. Watson.

**Jan Goldsworthy** - March 19, 2020 at 02:44 AM



“ Laura and BJ, I am so very sorry about your mom's passing. She will be missed. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers.

Deb Johnson Fallon

**Deb Fallon** - March 20, 2020 at 12:13 PM



“ Mr. Watson, Laura and BJ - I am so sorry for your loss. I just finished watching the service. It was beautifully done. I will always remember our Sand Bay family, and the wonderful memories for all those years. Ada was a gift to all that knew her. I'm confident that Ada and my Mom are now watching over all of us. Our deepest sympathy to you all. Love, Mary, Mark, Emily, Michael and Madison Wegmann. Sending you sympathy from Mike Moriarty also.

**Mary Wegmann** - March 22, 2020 at 01:16 PM