**Rowland 'Bus' Watkins laid to rest**

Rowland Watkins, Jr., affectionately known as “Bus,” was born on Feb. 23, 1972 to Rowland Watkins, Sr. and JoMarva Jarrett in Steubenville, Ohio. He was the second of two children born to this union.

Rowland accepted Christ and was baptized at an early age at Zion Christian Church in Troy, Michigan, under the leadership of Pastor Dan Gardner Sr.

Rowland was educated at Zion Christian School in Troy and completed his secondary studies in the Clintondale Public School system in 1990. Rowland went on the attend Michigan Christian College on a basketball scholarship and completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1995 at Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. He was in the final phase of completing his Master’s degree in Public Administration at Central Michigan University.

Rowland was united in Holy Matrimony on Dec. 27, 2000, to Montisa Anntoinette Counts. To this union was born Roschard Isaiah Watkins. He was the target of Rowland’s mission to raise a strong son who was a leader. Rowland’s greatest accomplishments came from being a father to Roschard and a husband to Montisa.

Rowland united with the Living Faith Church in 2004, under the leadership of Pastor Robert Ellis, where he served as a Deacon and youth mentor. Rowland’s desire was to change the world using his mind, charisma and the unique ability to function in whatever circle he found himself. He could engage with anyone ranging from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to the senior citizens at St. Pat’s Community Center. He served on the board of the Kiwanis Detroit Club No. 1 and Michigan Legal Services.

Rowland stayed hungry for life, family and people! He also served as a fellow for the National Director’s Association with YouthBuild USA. He was an advocate for those who had less, but wanted more. He cherished each of those appointments by helping each organization achieve their mission. In addition, he worked at Youth Detroit Builders for the past 11 years, with his latest appointment being that of Executive Director for the program.

Rowland remained committed to his church, community and family, especially in the rearing of his two nephews, Malik and William, as well as strengthening the family bond between his mother and sister. He was a very loving, giving and caring person. He never minced his words and you knew he was genuine in his efforts and intent to serve others.

Rowland was stylish, outspoken and had a great sense of humor. His hobbies included shopping, traveling and spending time with his family in Ohio. He was a devoted sports fan, always attending sporting events, playing in basketball tournament leagues, and pick-up games around the metro Detroit area. He made time for everyone, especially his buddies. For his recent 39th birthday, Rowland, along with part of his “camp,” enjoyed the festivities of the NBA All-Star weekend in Los Angeles.

Rowland Watkins Jr. received “rest for his faithful and tireless labor” when he went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, March 10, 2011. He leaves to celebrate his life, his devoted wife Montisa Anntoinette; one son, Roschard Isaiah; grandmother, Pearl Jarrett of Steubenville, Ohio; his parents, JoMarva and Rowland, St. (Joslyn); his siblings: Kisha Watkins-Miles of Detroit; Tenisha, Yasmine and Maurice of Steubenville, Ohio; five aunts: Linda (John) Donnell of Columbus, Ohio, Leslie Jarrett of Southfield, Michigan, Pam and Peggy Ingram of Steubenville, Ohio; Patsy Lovell-Cross of Cleveland, Ohio; three uncles: Kevin (Lorie) Jarrett of Steubenville, Ohio, Robert Jarrett of Mt. Clemens, Michigan and Marcus (Marie) Jarrett of Columbus, Ohio; one brother-in-law, Robert (Tonya) Counts; one sister-in-law, Janel (Orlando) Scott; three nieces: Robin Smith, Morgan and Cydney Counts and two special nephews, Malik Miles and William Trice, along with a host of other relatives and many, many, many friends — all whom were special in their own unique way.