

## PRESS RELEASE NEW YORK

November 4, 1998 | Thomas S. Watson, Jr.

Thomas S. Watson, Jr., 51, co-founder of Watson, Rice and Company, died on October 30, 1998, after a long battle with cancer.

Tom attended the University of Miami and Cleveland State University— where he earned both his Bachelor of Business Administration and Master of Business Administration in Accounting and Management. He was an alumnus of Harvard School of Business, and Case Western Reserve University, where he served on the Board of Directors for Weatherhead School of Management.

In 1971, Tom co-founded Watson, Rice and Company. Watson Rice is one the largest culturally and ethnically diverse public accounting and consulting firm in the nation, with offices in Cleveland, OH, New York, NY, Miami, FL and affiliate offices in Washington, DC, Rutherford, NJ and Namibia, South Africa. Today, Watson Rice employs over 100 employees.

Tom's notable involvement in professional associations included election to the Governing Council of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and service on more than 10 senior committees; he was the only known CPA to have served on two State Boards of Accountancy (the licensing and regulatory boards in the State of Ohio and District of Columbia), an achievement for which he was honored by the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy; and he was an active member of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA), he was instrumental in the development of a partnership between NABA and the Association of Black Accountants in Southern Africa.

Tom taught numerous professional education courses. He authored, and was the subject of, numerous articles in AICPA national publications. As a published author, his books include Connecting People: Discovering Peace and Power through Cultural Flexibility and the folklore A Window on the World. He also wrote a syndicated weekly newspaper column on international business, the Global View.

Tom was a community leader, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the NAACP. He was one of the founders of Leadership Washington and Leadership Cleveland. He provided services to Operation Understanding, International Platform Association, Downtown Kiwanis, Washington Ballet and served as Director, Board Chairman or Treasurer on more than seventy-five (75) community services and professional organizations during his lifetime.

As an advocate and a political leader, Tom was a member of the Black Republican Small Business Committee, served on the Small Business Administration's National Advisory Council, and the United States Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Council. He was the Commissioner of International Trade for the 1986 White House Conference on Small Business. He served two terms on the Board of the National Business League and was a current member of the Board of Directors for Polytech, Inc. He also served as a Senior Advisor for small business issues during the Reagan, Bush and Clinton administrations. He was a private sector member of the U.S. Delegation negotiating the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). He served as Chairman of the Industry Sector Advisory committee on Small and Medium Enterprise for Trade Policy Matters (ISAC14) and chaired the First American/European Small Business Trade Congress (Export '89) in Messe Frankfurt, Germany.

Tom was a friend, motivator and an inspiration to us all and he will be deeply missed by those whose lives he touched. In his passing, we reflect on our management philosophy, fostered by Tom, of conducting our activities in accordance with God's Divine Will. Our commitment is manifested in the manner in which we deal with people, the manner in which we render services and the manner in which we discharge our obligations. We respect individual beliefs and recognize that we must deal with the public in a straight forward, honest and professional manner if we are to keep their respect and support.

### Contact

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