

In Loving Memory

John Edward Eden

4 September, 1954 ~ 3 August, 2020

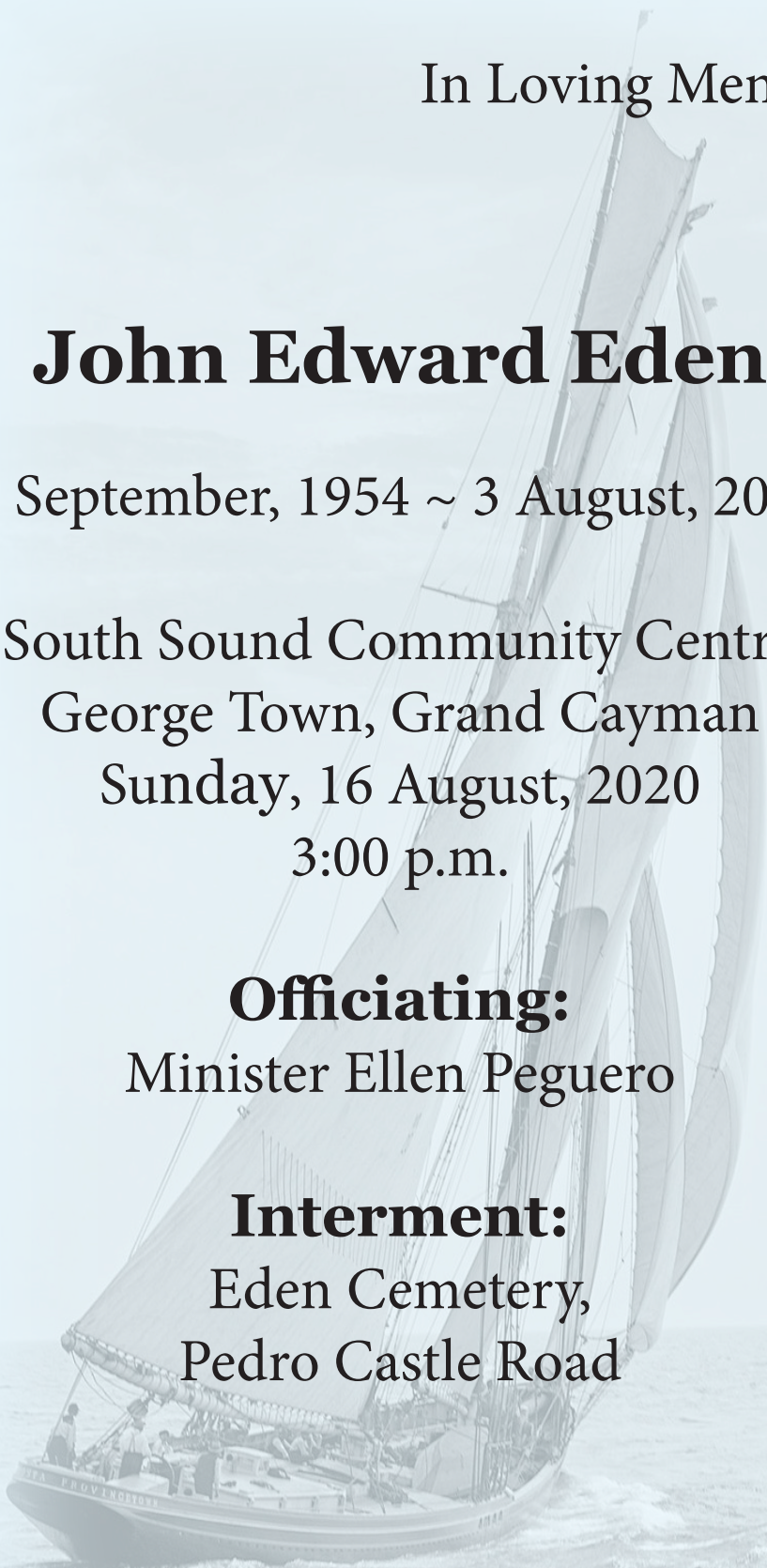
South Sound Community Centre
George Town, Grand Cayman
Sunday, 16 August, 2020
3:00 p.m.

Officiating:

Minister Ellen Peguero

Interment:

Eden Cemetery,
Pedro Castle Road



Order of Service

Opening Remarks	Minister Ellen Peguero
Prayer	Mr. Carlson Benjamin
Scripture reading Eccl. 3:1-8	Mr. Clive Hinds
Hymn "What A Friend we have in Jesus"	Congregation
Life Story	Mr. Charles Glidden
Tribute from Wife ~ Song	Ms. Ricarda Harvey
Message	Minister Ellen Peguero
Hymn "Hail Mary, Full Of Grace"	Congregation
Closing Prayer	Minister Ellen Peguero

Order of Leaving the Church

Minister, followed by the Casket and Pall Bearers, Immediate Family and Congregation.

Please drive with headlights on dim enroute through South Sound to the Eden Cemetery, Pedro.

Pallbearers

Gary Bromfield
Herman Myrie
Sean Davis

Dominic Jackson
Jeremy Yates
John Michael Stafford

Honorary Pallbearers

Yuri Kenneth Eden
Carey Hurlston
Hank Hurlston
Paul Bethel
Clive Hinds
Thomas Hinds
Charles Glidden
Olson Jackson
Junior Hydes

Gene Allen Eden
Denham Hurlston Sr.
Eugene Bethel
Gerald Dilbert
John Hinds
Derek Bogle
Scott Ruby
Dwight Clarke
Lennox Seymour

Anthony Eden
Denham Hurlston Jr.
Raymond Bethel
Thomas Whorms
Phillip Hinds
McGregor Yates
Craig McCoy
Ray Hydes
Herbert Bodden

Guest Book Attendants

Judy Dilbert
Kacee Dilbert

Life Story of John Edward Eden

John Edward Eden was born on the 4th of September 1954 to Kenneth Stanchel Eden and Ruth Sonia Eden, of blessed memory. Known affectionately as “Brownie” he was the third child and the second son of this union. He grew up in South Sound with his older sister Rolena, older brother “Jimmy-Ken”, of blessed memory, and younger brother Gene.

He spent his childhood days with his siblings; cousins: Heather, Judy, Mikey, Hank and Hinsey; and many childhood friends who he considered his extended family: Carson, Gregggy, Jeremy, John and David. He spent the days, along the bay in South Sound, swimming, fishing, going out in the boat with his father to dive conchs and going up in the land “to look” mangoes. Sometimes he would help his father with milking and butchering cows. Many nights were spent reading, anything he could get his hands on by the light of a kerosene lamp. John was an avid reader, a trait he would later pass on to his daughter.

As he grew into young adulthood, he would take odd jobs raking the neighbours’ yards to “make a shilling”, as he would say, and help his parents around the house and cleaning up the yard in South Sound. He attended Truth for Youth school and was in the first graduating class in 1973. One of his favourite memories and stories to tell about his school days was the one about Sister Wilma Moffitt, and what he would do when he wanted a day off from school. He used to tell us that he would stick a pack of cigarettes in his front pocket just for Sister Wilma to see and when she did, she would send him straight home, but not before he got a whopping. Unfortunately he said, whenever his mother found out, he would receive another one from her.

Sometime after he graduated from high school, he went to work on a Lobster Boat and lived in the Florida Keys working on the lobster boat for about a year and a half.

He returned to Cayman at the end of 1977 and secured employment at H.O. Merren & Company’s Hardware Store. In March 1978, he met his wife to be, who was working at the same company as an Executive Secretary. Apparently it was love at first sight, as he went home that evening and told his mother that he had met the woman he was going to marry. After a short courtship John and Nidie were married on the 1st January 1979. They honeymooned in Belize, where Nidie is from originally, and her family also fell in love with John. Their marriage was a very happy one that lasted 41 years, and from this union were born Tarifa Isidora Eden in 1980 and Yuri Kenneth Eden in 1983.

In the first few years of their marriage they lived in an apartment on South Church Street and in 1982 they moved in with John’s parents in South Sound where they lived for about two years, thereafter they moved to their home in Savannah in 1984 where they raised the family and have lived to this day.

John’s career path was quite a colourful one. John was employed at Kentucky Fried Chicken for about 2 years where he was trained to be a manager. Thereafter, he eventually took on a position of Steward with Cayman Airways where he worked for about 24 years. The first 13 years he flew as a steward and due to a back injury he was grounded and then held several positions in various departments with CAL. John loved his life in the air and often told stories of his travels and what fun things happened during flights. He always told us that he was waiting on something exciting to happen; and on one of the flights the plane was struck by lightning. Thankfully nothing happened, but the way he described the lightning spreading over the windshield like the tiny veins in a leaf almost made you want to witness it yourself. St Elmo’s fire he used to call it. He retired from Cayman Airways in 2005, but shortly thereafter took up employment at the Reef Resort as Concierge for about a year. He suffered a heart attack in 2006 and he was unemployed for about a year during his recovery.

Always loving the fun jobs, John then took employment with Island Companies as a Pirate. If you didn’t know any better, you would say this job was created just for John. He thoroughly enjoyed this job and always told us if he kept it up he would be more famous than Captain Morgan! But if you knew John, you knew that what he enjoyed the most was meeting and greeting the tourists off the ships and sharing some joke, wise crack or anecdote to make them smile. His position was made redundant after about 2 years and then due to his health enjoyed retirement.

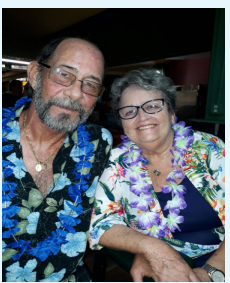
During this time he enjoyed reading on his back porch, sitting in his hammock and having his morning and afternoon coffee. He tended to his plants, along with his son, and spending time with his first granddaughter Ayanna. He also did a bit of construction and converted his tool shed into a studio apartment. He also became an expert chef and would have dinner ready for when his wife got home from work in the evenings. John enjoyed other simplicities during his retirement, family dinners, drives to East End to get his favourite Caesar salad at Eagle Ray’s, going fishing with his son and spending time with friends on his back porch on the weekends.

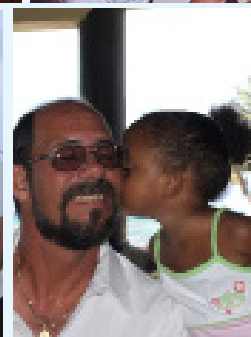
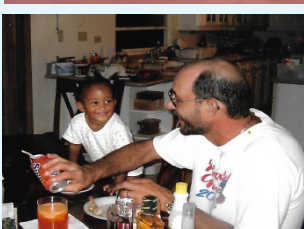
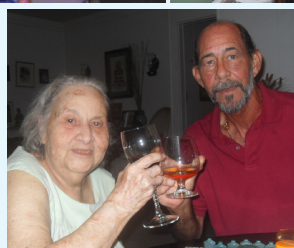
In September of last year John was diagnosed with lung cancer and although he had radiation and chemo treatments, the disease and the treatments took a toll on him. During his last months he found joy in spending quiet moments with his wife and his new grandchildren, Gabriel and Anani. He went peacefully to his rest on 3rd August 2020 at home surrounded by his family and brother and sister in law.

He was preceded in death by parents, Kenneth and Sonia Eden, and his brother, James Kenneth Eden. He leaves to mourn his wife, Nidie, children Isidora and Yuri, daughter-in-law, Letitia Davis-Eden, grandchildren Alora, Ayanna, Gabriel and Anani, sister Rolena and husband Dave Hosley, Brother, Gene and his wife, Marie Eden, Special Uncle Anthony Eden and wife, Ellen, other uncles, Aunts, cousins, and a host of relatives and friends.

May his soul rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon him.

And as he always said “Ciao, Ciao!”





Tributes

I have lost a Cousin, a Buddy, a Confidante, and a very good friend. But he has left a million memories of times spent together. All of them good. When Manfred commented that it was not normal that John and I got along so well together, given our difference in age, John quickly asked where he got the idea that we were normal. We had long agreed that being normal was not much fun. Whenever I would come home to visit or John would come to Nassau, his first words were always "Boy it's good to see you." And it was always good to see him.

We shared a sense of humour that allowed us to laugh at almost any situation. After Ivan I came down to help John clean up. He said he thought they'd lost the second floor of the house but it was only out in the yard. So we cleaned up and had like six fires going at a time. Every day. Seventh heaven.

When Jim died I came home for ten days. John took Jim's death very hard. I would like to think I helped him through that time a little. Before I left I told him to take care of himself because I didn't want to go to his funeral. He grinned and said he didn't want to go to mine either. Well look at where we're at today. Can't. Wishes granted. God does work in mysterious ways.

But God is good and we will meet again. And when we do I know exactly what he will say.

I'll miss you Cuz.

From, "Pix"

John Ed was someone you just couldn't help loving. That mischievous grin and irreverent sense of humour couldn't hide his warm and loving personality. I know how much he loved his Aunt Roma and how much we all enjoyed the visits he and Nidie made to Nassau to see her. To say he will be missed is an understatement. A very special light in our family has gone out, but left us all with many memories to treasure. I hope we'll meet again in a place where we'll have the best fun ever, knowing that the best is yet to come.

Love and prayers to Nidie, Isi, Yuri, and everyone. Wish we could be there with you.

From Paul Bethel and the Nassau Family

Uncle John,

Every time we think of you we will remember you on your back porch, swinging in your hammock, coffee in hand and greeting us with a big smile and a, "Hello darling". We will never forget your contagious laughter and that one-of-a-kind sense of humor that would make anyone laugh. We love you and miss you. Tell Daddy "Hi" for us.

Love,

Nelmy and Georgie

To my sweet Johnjohn, you had always been my JohnJohn from a little girl making sure we made it to Cayman every chance we got to helping me get my job at Cayman Airways. Thank you for always being so loving and full of fun. I have the sweetest memories of times spent with you and Aunt Nidie, for rides in the yellow truck and thanks for letting Thomas and I borrow it, as we know it was your pride. We will miss your sweet smile and coming to swing in the hammock with you and chatting. We hope you have been reunited with your toe although we know how much you loved to show people your stubby and swore you danced better without. You were the best Sir Turtle in the World and Jack Sparrow has nothing on you when it comes to being a pirate. The kids always loved when Uncle John brought fruits and the family BBQs at your house, they all looked forward to those. We will miss you but know that you are in good company; and Jim, Papa, Gran and you will have a wonderful reunion. You will be forever in our hearts and memories.

Love, Elaine, Thomas, Jordan, Jada, Alyssa, Aiden and Joanna

Uncle John,

You will be missed. We did not spend so much time in the later years but my childhood is filled with wonderful memories that I will forever be thankful for. I remember when you would come up to Miami to collect us so that we could spend summers and Christmas in Cayman. The old big Yellow Toyota truck that you drove so fast, that she would vibrate so much. Letting us ride in the back which was so much fun until, the rain came down hard on us and you would stop for us to all cram into the cab. You were the one who taught me to drive with my knees (which I use all the time). You would take us up to your house to play all day with Isi and Yuri and carry me home in the night when I would be afraid to stay in the bush. You were not happy when Isi, Yuri and I would come in covered in dust from sliding down the rock plies in the quarry next door. As for the mangos, limes and anything else that could grow that you had an abundance of, you would always bring to share whatever you had. When we had our kids you made sure they had a swing set to play on and a yard to play in whenever they wanted. We are not happy that you are gone but grateful that you are no longer in pain. Thank you for everything you gave us.

Love and will miss you, Judy , Kacee and Gerry

Walk with me Daddy,
Don't let go of my hand.
There's things that I've learned in life,
I still don't understand.

Who will I ask my questions to,
When you leave this place?
Who else will know that something's wrong,
Just looking at my face?

Don't leave just yet Daddy,
There's so much more to say.
I wished there was a magic wand,
To take your pain away.

I'm going to miss your brilliant smile,
The one reserved for me.
But I can't be selfish Daddy,
Your soul needed to be free.

Now the pain is in my heart,
It will not let me be.
But day by day it dissipates,
Because you walk with me.
By: Tarifa I Eden ©

I will miss you always. You left us peacefully, now rest peacefully.
Your daughter, Isi

TRIBUTE FROM THE PAST CAYMAN AIRWAYS INFLIGHT CREW

The 1980s brought an asset to our National Airline, Cayman Airways, when John became a part of the KX Inflight family. John loved life, loved people, loved his family, including his KX family as well, and in return we could not help but to love him likewise. He just had that unique way of caring while portraying kindness and humour to us and to those passengers whom he came in-contact with.

Whether it was a flying day, cloudy and rainy with much turbulence, or just a normal day of clear sunny skies, or one of us just not in that happy-go-lucky flying mood, that would all change if John were around. From enplaning to deplaning, his humorous demeanour would remind us that life was about living, laughing, and loving, while bringing out the best in all of us. He gave us many happy fun-filled days of laughter and more laughter of flying the friendly skies; days not to be forgotten that have made us all reminisce, laugh about from time to time, whilst wishing we were still living those cherished memories that we continuously cling to and refuse to let go. Truly, we are all blessed to have lived those happy moments.

HIGH FLIGHT

We have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward We've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds – and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of – wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hovering there,
We've chased the shouting wind along, while daring pilots soared
The eager craft through the footless halls of air.
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue
We've topped the windswept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew.
And, while with silent, lifting minds we've trod
The high un-trespassed sanctity of space,
Put out our hands, and feel the breeze in our face.
Flying above the clouds is simply an amaze.

From your past KX family to you John: Thank you for all the smiles and laughter you brought to our faces, day after day. You will always live on in our hearts with cherished memories of how we all lived in the past, although for us it is not a past but more like the present still. REST IN PEACE!



With love from your son, Yuri





Graveside Service

Remarks Minister Ellen Peguero
Hymn The Old Rugged Cross
Committal Prayer Minister Ellen Peguero
Committal Song Coming in from the Cold
Closing Hymn When the Roll is Called Up Yonder

Acknowledgment

The family of the late John Edward Eden would like to express their deepest gratitude and appreciation for all the love, kindness and thoughtful gestures that have been shown upon them during this difficult time. Special thanks to Drs. Richards & Sekhar and all the other doctors, nurses and staff of the George Town Hospital, the Critical Care Unit, Caring Hands Cayman and Total Home Care. An extra special thanks to Lyria Josephs and the Hospice Team.

Thanks most of all for being here today to pay your last respects to our beloved John.

Funeral services and programmes entrusted to Bodden Funeral Home.