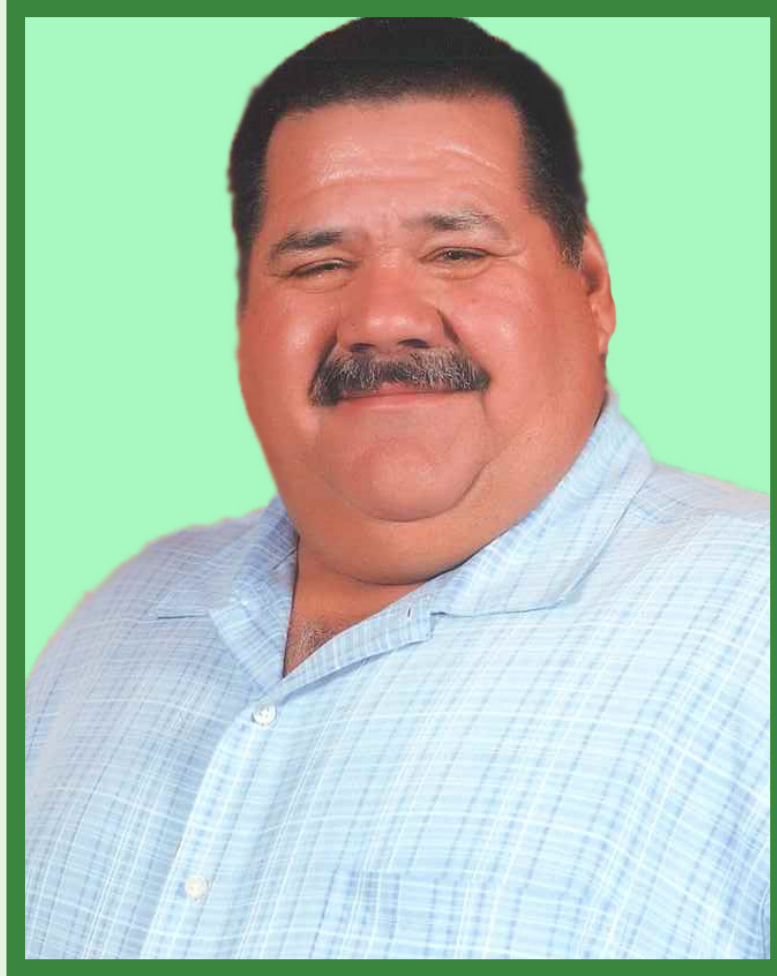


Memorial Mass of Thanksgiving
for the Life of
Mr. WALT STEVEN WATLER
22 August 1961 - 21 September 2020



St. Ignatius Catholic Church
597 Walkers Road, George Town
Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands
Saturday, October 31, 2020
Time: 2 p.m.
Viewing: 1:00 – 1:50 p.m.

Celebrant: Fr. Naveen D'Souza, SAC
Organist: Mrs. Sarah Bertran
Cantor: Ms. Denise Tibbetts

Interment: Watler Family Cemetery, Savannah

Order of Mass

Processional Hymn: Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain:
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

The Introductory Rites

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Sprinkling with Holy Water

Placing of the Pall Gary Watler & Gene Hydes

Placing of Religious Symbols Martina Watler & Alister Watler

Opening Prayer Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Wisdom 3: 1-9 Brian Connolly

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is My Shepherd Denise Tibbetts

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4: 14-5:1 O'Neil Miller

Gospel Acclamation (*Please Stand*): Denise Tibbetts

Cantor: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

All: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Cantor: Come, you are blessed by my Father, says the Lord; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Whoever believes in me will never die.

All: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25: 31-46 Fr. Naveen D'Souza, SAC

Homily Fr. Naveen D'Souza, SAC

Prayers for the Faithful Angela Miller

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn: All to Jesus I Surrender Congregation

All to Jesus I surrender,
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.

All to Jesus I surrender,
Humbly at His feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken;
Take me, Jesus, take me now.

*Refrain: I surrender all,
I surrender all.
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.*

All to Jesus I surrender,
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel Thy Holy Spirit,
Truly know that Thou art mine.

All to Jesus I surrender,
Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power,
Let Thy blessing fall on me.

Santus: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Eucharistic Prayer

Memorial Acclamation (*Sung*): When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your death, O Lord until you come again.

Great Amen (*Sung*)

Our Father (*Sung*)

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God:

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace

The Communion Rite

Communion Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness Congregation

Great is Thy faithfulness,
O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not,
Thy compassions, they fail not,
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

*Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness,
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessing all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Meditation Hymn: Ave Maria Denise Tibbetts

Prayer after Communion Fr. Naveen D'Souza, SAC

Obituary Wayne Panton

Tribute from Family Suzanne Howden

Tribute from Water Authority Gelia Van Gendersen

Final Commendation Fr. Naveen D'Souza, SAC

Recessional Hymn: Sing with all the Saints in Glory Congregation

Sing with all the saints in glory,
sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story,
to the former days belong.
All around the clouds are breaking,
soon the storms of time shall cease;
in God's likeness we, awaking,
know the everlasting peace.

O what glory, far exceeding
all that eye has yet perceived!
Holiest hearts, for ages pleading,
never that full joy conceived.
God has promised, Christ prepares it,
there on high our welcome waits.
Every humble spirit shares it;
Christ has passed th'eternal gates.

Life eternal! heaven rejoices;
Jesus lives, who once was dead.
Join we now the deathless voices;
child of God, lift up your head!
Patriarchs from the distant ages,
saints all longing for their heaven,
prophets, psalmists, seers, and sages,
all await the glory given.

Life eternal! O what wonders
crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
when, amidst earth's closing thunders,
saints shall stand before the throne!
O to enter that bright portal,
see that glowing firmament;
know, with thee, O God Immortal,
"Jesus Christ whom thou has sent!"

Pallbearers

Gary Watler
Vaughn McLean

William (Bill) Jackson
David Watler

Raymond Brown
Christopher Watler

Gustavo Farrell
Philip Hydes

Honorary Pallbearers

Alister Watler
Melbourne Watler
Hewitson Watler
Fr. Gustavo Rolando Cruz
Paul Watler
Gene Hydes
Charles Watler
Bob (Paps) Thompson
Rony Duarte
Hector Galeaneo
Rudy Sengelmann
Miguel Cantillano
Otto Watler
Colby Jackson
Robert (Bobby) Jackson
Carden (Mickey) Henning
Peter Watler
Eugene (Pixie) Bethel

Roy Jackson
Bruce Watler
Richard Ebanks
Foster Kelly
Eddie Howells
Stallen Webster
Elias Forero
Luis Rodriguez
Jason Millwood
James Dixon Jr.
Gustavo Riapira
Jack Hunter
Luis Ramirez
Elvet Conolly
Ernie Ebanks
Clinton Miller
Vincent (Horace) Grant

Albert Bryant
Kirk Johnson
Brenton Parchment
Eggbert Jackson
Tom Van Zanten
Chris Garbutt
Deniston Tibbetts
Dr. Sanjib Mohanty
Vernon Whittaker
Antonio (Danto) Gutierrez
Paul Bodden
Burns Watson
Eugene Hurlston
Junior Fisher
Carlton Powery
Alburns Scott
Steve Shorter

Guests Book Attendants:

Lianne Watler
Alicia Westin
Ainjalia Muriu
Mahalia Seymour

Ushers:

Christopher Delaney
Ryan Martinez
James Tweedie
Stephen Watler
Theo Kelly



Walt's Obituary

Walt Steven Watler was born on 22 August 1961 in Port Arthur, Texas, due to medical complications experienced by his Mother. He was the second child and son born to Melbourne and Roberta (Pal) Watler.

In his youth Walt attended Savannah Primary School under the tutelage of Ms Lucille Seymour and the late Ms Joanna Clarke. He then attended the Cayman Islands High School and graduated in 1978.

From a young boy Walt enjoyed fixing things and was known to deliberately break items just to fix them back!

Upon graduation he secured employment with Kirk Marine. Whilst employed with Kirk Marine he was mentored by one of Cayman's finest marine mechanics, Mr Stacey Tibbetts. Mr Tibbetts recommended that Walt further his education, so he was sent to Miami to train on Johnson & Johnson and Mercury outboard motors.

After a few years he resigned from Kirk Marine and started his own engine repair business and then expanded his business by purchasing a backhoe and started providing backhoe/trenching services.

In the early 1980s his father, Melbourne with his brothers Stacey and Charlie started a marl excavation and trucking service, and Walt went to work for Watler Brothers' Heavy Equipment Services where he was employed until his Uncle Stacey died in 1988 and the company dissolved shortly thereafter.

In 1989 Mr Richard Beswick hired Walt to work with what is now known as the Water Authority where he remained employed until his passing. Walt was a dedicated employee, operating most equipment. He could put his hand to do almost anything and he did it well with a good attitude!

Walt was also a farmer. Being a Watler meant farming was in his blood! Walt worked side by side with his Father raising cattle and growing crops, supplying the island with many staples including bananas, plantain, seasoning peppers, mangoes, avocados and limes. Most recently during lockdown he was granted permission to drive the workers each day to tend to the cattle and the crops. He was particularly pleased with the family grass pieces that he'd been maintaining and was always thinking ahead ensuring that there was grass during the dry season and that there was ample grass available at various locations for the cattle.

In 1988 Walt met Martina. They were united in marriage on 26 August 1989. To this union of 31 years they were blessed with two sons Alister and Gary. With his marriage Walt gained another family. He enjoyed the time he spent in Honduras with Marti as tour guide and frequently hosted his Honduras family here in Cayman.

Both Martina and Walt are hard workers. When his illness made walking difficult, Walt did not have to worry about crops, fruit trees or yard work. Martina took over, harvesting produce and selling it to local supermarkets. During this time there were a few calves that were born and one in particular unfortunately lost its mother. Martina was able to assist by bottle feeding the young calf and saved its life.

Walt had a passion for boats, trucks and cars. During his young adult years he had a few boats, and the Savannah and Newlands boys would race or ski in the North Sound. He spent weekends rebuilding a 1970 Dodge Challenger convertible and a 1969 Ford Mustang, his intention was to fully restore these cars upon his retirement. He also loved taking a few old Ford trucks and making one good truck, something he did several times, including the truck he was driving when he got ill.

During Summer 2019 Walt had issues with his left foot, later diagnosed as an autoimmune disease affecting the nerves. During this time he was under the care of Dr. Romnesh de Souza at Health City, Dr. Ashok Verma at Jackson Memorial Hospital, Dr Sydney Ebanks at CTMH Doctors Hospital and Dr. Chambers at Cayman Clinic; as well as intense physio therapy provided by Mr. Sandeep at The Physiotherapy Center Ltd.

In early August 2020 Walt started complaining of severe pain in his back and was admitted to Health City. On 13 August 2020 he was airlifted to Atrium Health Levine Hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he was diagnosed with a very aggressive blood cancer called Double Hit Lymphoma. Walt was treated aggressively with chemotherapy. However on Sunday 20 September 2020 he took a turn for the worse and on Monday night 21 September Jesus took him home.

Left to mourn his passing are his devoted wife Martina, sons Alister and Gary, Gary's girlfriend Mahalia, parents Melbourne and Roberta, mother-in-law Frances, brother Hewitson and his wife Sue, sister Esme and her husband Gene, sister-in-law Theresa and her husband Julio, brothers-in-law Carlos and Father Gustavo, nephew Paul and his wife Tracie and nieces Hannah and Farrah.

Walt's large extended family includes aunts, uncles and cousins in Honduras, Spain, USA, Guatemala, Canada, Bahamas and Australia, as well as Cayman.

Walt was very well liked and respected by many throughout the community.

Rest in Peace Walt. May perpetual light shine upon you.

You will be loved and missed forever!



Tributes

Tribute to my wonderful husband Walt Watler:

I would like to try to put into words my appreciation for my husband. I was blessed to be Walt's wife for 31 years, the partner of a loving, kind, God fearing man.

My husband and I met through my best friend Ledis Culbert. I will always remember that day. He brought me one bottle of fresh milk from his cow, he was barefoot and had a long beard. From that moment he visited me every day. It was difficult for me because I couldn't say a word in English. I always had my dictionary under my arm. He told me that I have to learn English, and he contacted one of his friends to teach me. Life could not have been better than that because I lived every woman's dream.

I felt the best of everything was at my disposal whether I asked for it or not. We had our problems like every couple, but making up and resolving our issues was magical. He loved me unconditionally. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to share his dreams, hopes, love, friendship and much more. He was the best husband, father, son, brother, son-in-law, uncle, and friend. The son who had to talk to his parents every day — it did not matter where we were. If we were on vacation the first thing he did when we got to the hotel was call Mama and Daddy to let them know we arrived safely. He was the best dad to our two sons, the one who was always there in the most difficult moments, and the best son-in-law who cared for my mother at all times.

He was a man who stood by his family throughout; a man who believed in sharing and caring; a man who put a smile on people's faces; a man who was so full of life.

It is going to be almost 6 weeks since he departed and my grief is still very fresh and painful. He was the love of my life, the one who did everything humanly possible to protect me even in the face of all sorts of misconceptions. He was the one who understood the true meaning of our marriage.

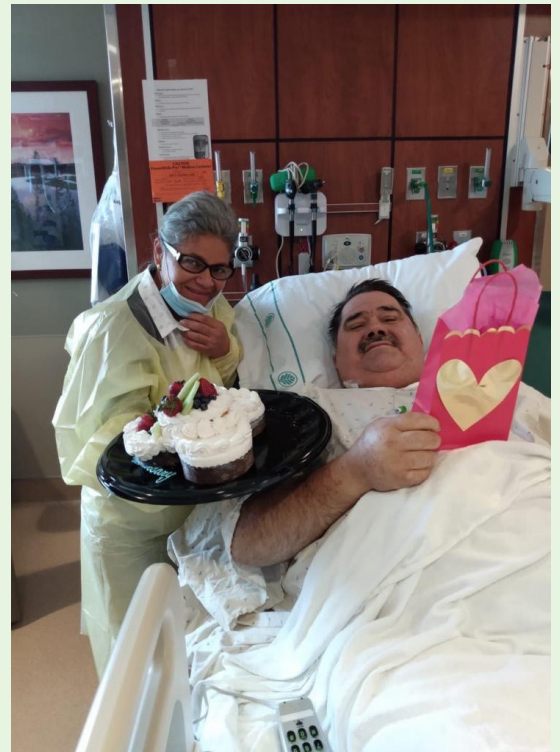
Walt, you will always be in my heart. Every moment I spent with you was like a dream and the love I have for you will never, ever die. Your last words to me still echo in my ears and I will always remember them until we meet again. Your dear wife, Martina.



1989



2015



2020

A tribute to Daddy:

I don't think I need to tell you what my father meant to me, my family and his friends, just look around, this tells you everything you need to know. We all know what type of man he is, the respect he gained and the love he has given. But if in this brief time you have forgotten, then let me remind you. Yes he was a loving husband, yes he was a caring father, yes he was the devoted son, brother and loyal friend. He was an optimistic man, bringing hope and brightness to everyone's day, we are all definitely the better for having known him.

I will cherish our time, annoying the living daylights out of each other, drinks over deep conversation while you grilled, online window shopping as I tried to talk you down from getting something that you didn't need, but just had to have, and our drives to look at more "new projects" you were ready to take on. I thank you for the endless knowledge you bestowed upon me and the constant mindfulness, keeping me fully aware that I was never alone in this existence and could depend on you, to bring me out of the darkest of days. I am honored to be your son and prouder to call you my father.

Today we lay to rest a Gentle Giant, who has done his part to making this world just a little bit better, a man who will be dearly missed. My father would not want you to mourn his passing, but ask that you focus on bettering the lives of those around you, even if just with a smile. Treat everyone with the utmost respect, no matter their background, education or race, reach out a helping hand to those in need and defend those who have been wronged. He would want me to tell you to live each day to its fullest, because tomorrow is not promised. Love your family, never get too busy for them, support them as best you can regardless of your time or resources and keep in contact often with others just to hear how the day went.

I am so sorry for not being able to be there, holding you until the end, but I am so eternally grateful that mommy was, knowing that there is no one else you would've rather had by your side.

I have come to feel a sense of comfort knowing that there was nothing unsaid or unresolved between us, I know you loved me and you know I love you, and if there was any possible way of coming back home to us, you would have done it.

Daddy you have prepared us well for life, its challenges and taught us to take nothing for granted. I promise that, You will always be respected, Forever missed, and never forgotten,

There will never be another Walt Steven Watler,
Tough as Cayman Rock, strong as a steel built bull and gentle as the breeze,
I love you Daddy.
Your big boy, Alister Steven Watler.

Tribute to Daddy:

Hello and thank you all for joining us today in celebrating my Father's life.
He was liked/loved by many and it truly shows.

Daddy,
Since your passing I've had an empty void in my life, a void that can only be replaced with memories. You were a man among men, a big person, in more than one way, yet so gentle. You worked tirelessly to provide for our family, and you'd do anything to make any of us happy. Your heart was filled with love for anyone in your life. It was almost impossible for you to go anywhere and not bring something home for us. Whether it was the farm, grocery store, pharmacy, a restaurant or wherever, you could never come back empty handed. You were an honest man and your word was always true, maybe forgetful at times, but we could always depend on you.

You taught me some of the best life lessons, which I will forever be grateful for. I've learnt how to do for myself so I won't have to rely on others, manners, how to be a respectful gentleman, an honest man, and the values of family. All of this simply from just following in your footsteps and copying you.

Although we never saw eye to eye always, nothing will ever break the bond we have.

I will miss your famous grilled foods, although you used to annoy me with cleaning the grill for you, the weekends we spent outside completing one of your many projects, the stories you would tell of growing up, the phone calls we had of you giving me orders while you were in the hospital here, as well as when you were away, your smile, and most definitely, your presence. I will miss being your shadow where ever you went.

You truly were the best Father I could have ever asked for, and the best man in my life. You were a strong fighter and I know you fought your hardest until your last breath, not only for yourself, but for us all, especially Mommy.
You were always on the go, busy doing something, and so it's now time for you to rest.
I will carry on where you left off.

I will love you now and forever, Daddy. Please continue to watch over our family and bless us.
Gary

PS: I hope there are cows and cars where you are to keep yourself busy until we meet again.



Tribute to our Son Walt:

We really don't think that there is another 89 and 87 year old couple that can say that they have three adult children who are so loving, respectful, and obedient. Yes, present tense "have" because Walt will forever be with us in our hearts!

As a young mother, Roberta travelled to her family in Port Arthur, Texas, to seek medical expertise to preserve and save her baby's life and her own; and Melbourne met up with her and named their baby Walt Steven. Six weeks after Walt's birth, Mommy and baby returned home. Now 59 years later Walt travelled to NC with the hopes of preserving his life, but Our Lord and Saviour had other plans, as he took him home on 21 September 2020.

Walt was a very honest, respectable, caring and thoughtful person. He always assisted everyone with everything. Walt was Melbourne's left and right hand and was always with him from a young boy until his last days, learning and working with his Daddy on the farm, with cattle and crops.....everything, like hand and glove they were. If Walt saw something needed to be done, he did it or arranged for it to be done without being asked, especially as we have now become seniors and less mobile.

Walt was a Blessing to have and a Blessing to know! We will forever Love you Walt, and you will always be in our thoughts and our hearts! Mommy and Daddy.



To Walt, my brother:

Shortly after Walt passed away, Andy Martin offered his condolences, and I said, "Walt was a good brother." Andy replied, "Not a good brother. A good MAN."

I was the older brother, but Walt was more skilled, more experienced—he knew how to do so many things. He also knew more people. Knew them in the Caymanian sense—who you for. After Ivan, Martina's family sent a Chinese generator. It was big and could run lights, fans and fridges for two houses. But it was built for a cooler climate, some of the pieces were plastic and would melt as the generator ran in this hotter climate. Walt consulted daily with good friend Stallen Webster, an electrical and diesel engineer. Between the two of them, they kept it running. A true mechanical miracle.

Walt had incredible focus when he was concentrating on a task. He took this ability into his personal life—there was only one woman for him. Before he married Martina, he brought her to meet grandma Gin Gin. After just one meeting, Gin Gin gave Martina her unqualified approval.

Walt loved his Jackson cousins, Bill and Jimmy. Along with Monty Farrell, they were his best friends growing up, the four amigos, bonding over cars, boats and trucks. Walt also had good buddies at the Water Authority. Working daily with Jack, Foster, Chris, Gustavo, Tom and Luis was an important part of his life. I spent a lot of time with my brother taking care of cows, fruit trees and grounds. No one could shove a lazy, stubborn cow into a trailer like Walt.

Wherever he went, Walt made friends. The family used to say, "Walt knows everyone." The outpouring of affection and support from so many people shows that they knew him, and liked and respected him. Like Andy said, "A good man."

He was a brother to love and be proud of. I will miss him every day forever.
Hewitson

Tribute to my brother Walt:

Yes young siblings fight, but we fought to kill; yet as adults we were so very, very close....that's love! The same love Gin Gin, our paternal Grandmother, tried to explain one day after a very horrible fight, and Walt then tried to hold my hand as we crossed the street to go over to her house, which resulted in another fight. Gin Gin reassured me, if Walt didn't love me he wouldn't hold my hand to cross the street!

As adult siblings we communicated daily, bounced everything off each other, offered and received advice from each other every day, played tricks on each other and on our big brother Bunda.... that's love!

Walt was a humble giant of a man, he was full of life and his smile exuded this. He was always busy doing something, making or fixing something, yet he took the time to genuinely reach out to so many people.

Since his illness and death, so many people have communicated with me. I truly had no idea how many people's lives Walt touched, across all socioeconomic classes, races and countries. Someone described his personality as that of a charismatic politician! I thought about this for some time....and then I found Ecclesiastes 7:1 "A good name is better than precious ointment and the day of death than the day of birth." I think that says it all about Walt!

Lord Jesus, you have taken a good man from us here on earth, and Heaven is all the better for it! Walt you are loved and always will be and with your usual parting words I now say "all the best"!

Love you lots, love you always,

Esme

Tribute from Bill:

Banoo, I will always remember when I said Good Bye to you on Thursday 13 August, I really didn't think it would be the last time I would see you. I will always remember the way you shock my hand and pulled me into you to say Good Bye.....strong, huge hands with a tough solid grip yet a warm loving heart.....that was Banoo. I will forever cherish these memories.
I really don't recall where the nickname Banoo came from, but it's all I called you. Rest in Peace Banoo.

To Walt, Family and Friends:

On behalf of all your family in Honduras Mother-in-law, Sisters-in-law, Brothers-in-law, and Nephews Wishing we could be there in person supporting you all.

Dear Walt, wherever you are, we know you are in a much better place, looking down at your family. As the darkness begins to unfold, at some point we know it will be you leading the way for them (your family) into the light.

Although you are no longer physically with us, you will forever remain in our hearts and your spirit will always be felt. Thank you for coming into our family and enriching all of us. You were an amazing person that showed us all how to live life to the fullest and give back to others. Although it was difficult to communicate with each other because of our languages, you will always be remembered for your favorite word 'Poca Poca', the barbecue you always made for us everytime we visited the family, the times you took us to see your cows, and when you brought us the fresh fruit from your farm. We were grateful for having you in our family - you always were compassionate for others, you were so deep and treated others with kindness and respect and many lives were blessed through your goodness.

The one thing that we know and believe with our hearts is that our beloved Walt is in Heaven with Jesus. We will all meet again one day, as a Christian's death is not the end and we will all see each other again once we accept Christ as our savior. Rest in peace beloved Walt.

Tribute to Walt:

Wishing we could be there in person supporting our beloved tia Marti, Gary, Alister and all the Watler family. Although we are miles apart please know that all of you are in our hearts and prayers daily. We had the honor and privilege of knowing and loving Walt. He was such a joyful and kind soul to be around. Always smiling and always making an effort to have a conversation even with the family that doesn't speak English well. We have all reminisced about him and not one of us can say that we ever saw him mad or upset. He truly was a soft lovable man. We pray for strength for his family and everyone that loved him. We know that he must be in heaven smiling still and so proud of the strength that his wife and sons have shown as well as all his family. We will miss you forever Walt but your memory will continue to live on. Until we see you again.
From the family in the US.

Sandrita, Evelyn, Junior, and Aleida.

Our dear cousin Walt:

We are heartbroken with your death and miss you so very much! We have so many loving memories of you. You were born in our hometown of Port Arthur, Texas and we remember your arrival in the world. You always had such a sweet and pleasant personality. You always lit up the room where you were with your outgoing personality. You had such a way about you to make everyone feel welcomed and comfortable.

You supported us at a very difficult time in our lives when you came from Cayman to our dear mother's funeral and your presence was so appreciated. Family has and will always be a strong bond with us all and our grandparents would be proud to know how we followed their teachings.

We had such great get togethers with the families and so appreciated your warm hospitality when we visited Cayman. We will also miss our calls when you always so warmly invited and encouraged us to visit Cayman. You will always have a special place in our hearts and your worldly absence leaves a void. We rejoice when we will see you in heaven.

You always ended the conversation with "all the best" and Walt that is so fitting for you because YOU were the BEST!

Your loving Henning cousins.

Mickey, Catherine, Joe and Jan.

From Nephew Paul:

Walt was the name everybody would call if you needed to borrow a tool. Even if you didn't know what to call it, he would have it – but you'd get your quality time with him trying to find it in his shed! You could always depend on him for advice on anything from mending fences to fixing cars and trucks. In fact, most times you might ask Walt for a recommendation, he'd likely as not grab a few odds and ends and before you turn around twice the thing was done. He was a cross between a handyman and a magician.

How many times did we cross him on the road behind the controls of a massive machine? And no matter how busy he was, he would smile and wave. Because Walt was a fun guy. You could count on him for comedy, telling stories that would involve different voices for the various characters he was describing. He would get started and we would run in from the next room, since there was a tale for every occasion. When he got to teasing, nobody was spared, and just about everybody earned a unique nickname. I still don't know how I wound up labeled Pauly Dangerous. Walt made all of us laugh, and he was the star of the show.

This generosity of spirit was matched in deeds. I can't count the number of times I was offered a mango, or told to take limes for my parents.

Walt and Martina were always ready to host at holidays or birthdays, and you could find Walt behind the grill, brandishing a cooking implement to indicate a refrigerator full of drinks.

Walt's legacy is an example for us young men. Everybody was always impressed with his manly qualities; he was the very definition of hard-working and dependable. He was absolutely devoted to family and was always ready to come running when he could help. We are sad to say goodbye and every memory of him is a fond one.

Tribute to Uncle Walt:

From Your Niece, Hannah

My Uncle Walt is a great man, I say 'is' because despite him no longer being with us, his greatness will live on with our memory of him. And while it was this same greatness that made us all love and adore him, it will also be what makes it so hard to say goodbye.

The only true understanding of his amazingness are the real life interactions we each had with him, now memories to cherish dearly, because the honest truth is that all the world's literature would only be like a drop of water in the ocean in describing him because there's no way to wholly describe the fine man he was, a man who loved us all and who we loved just as dearly.

When I truly think about it, I realise how similar he was to Santa Claus, and while the physical resemblance was striking, between Uncle Walt's belly and love of red shirts, more notable are the similarities in personalities. Both were bubbly, jovial and vibrant men, only difference was that Uncle Walt was 1) real and 2) like that year round. And while I doubt there will ever be an accurate enough collection of words to fully explain the man he was, I think describing him as 'vibrant' does him some justice, because like the sun he was vibrant and warm, holding us all in orbit as a family.

Though I can't say that I know what's to come for any of us now that we are without our sun, our light, I do believe we all can learn to get through this deep mourning by reflecting on what it was about my Uncle Walt that made him such a good man, and made us love him so much, and I believe it was simply his ability to love, and love hard. He constantly exuded love to all those around him, and loved so unapologetically, and boy did he make sure his love was palpable to those around him.

He loved earnestly. He loved us limitlessly, like there was no end to his love of people, which can easily be seen when you look at the relationship he had with his parents, siblings, wife, and boys. He never had to say anything for me to see and feel the love he had for those people. He showed his love through attentiveness to his ageing parents, the sibling aggravation he gave to Bunda and Emmy, the absolute adoration he had for his wife, Marti, and the utter pride with which he gazed upon Alister and Gary. While he showed his love in many different ways, it was all felt the same.

I feel that's the most important thing he left us with, knowing that he loved us by how he made us feel, because as time continues and memories fade, it will only be the feeling of being loved he branded onto each of our hearts that we will be left with.

I will miss him. I will miss him so, so much. His laugh, his jokes and stories, the scent of his cologne; I'll miss it all. I know there will be good and bad times; times where I'll be bombarded with memories of him, times I'll look at his wife who I know he loved more than I'll ever be able to understand, times I'll look at his sons and wonder how two boys could be so much like their Daddy, time where I'll look at myself and remember the countless belly laughs he gave me. All those times will be hard in their own way, but I know he will always be with all of us so long as we love each other in the same unapologetic way he loved us.

I will love him, cherish the memories made, and miss him forever.

Tribute to my Uncle Walt:

Uncle Walt was a very kind, fun, joyful and nice person to be around. He always made me laugh and would always ask me how I was doing in school and karate. He always reminded me to be a good girl and to listen to Mommy and Daddy. I will always remember him telling me how good my baking was, even if the edges of the cake or whatever I was baking were burnt, this made me feel special!

I will miss my Uncle Walt a lot but I have created many special memories. I love you Uncle Walt!

From your Niece, Farrah

Tribute to my Brother-In-Law:

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free;
I'm following the path God laid for me,
I took His hand when I heard Him call;
I turned my back and left it all.- Author Unknown

A beautiful life that came to an end,
He died as he lived, everyone's friend.
In our hearts a memory will always be kept,
Of one we dearly loved, and will never forget- Author Unknown

Although we loved you deeply Walto and never wanted to see you leave us, God saw you getting tired and put his arms around you and whispered 'come to me'. Our hearts are broken, and though we desire to question why, God knows best and has proven yet again that he only takes the best. We are comforted that you are now at rest with your maker, and have left the worldly pains and illnesses here on earth. You have been everything that one could ask for in a Brother in Law and I am eternally grateful to have had such a close bond with you and I thank you for accepting me as family even before Esme and I got married. I have often thought of you as a Brother rather than a Brother in Law. We have shared many laughs together and I can say without hesitation that I rarely saw you angry- maybe a bit frustrated, but never angry. Though this tribute could consist of multiple pages there is no need for me to do so as those who knew you, already know the great person you were and will forever be. My promise to you is that I will forever hold you in my heart and do whatever I can for Marti, Alister, Gary, your parents and siblings. You touched so many lives with your kindness, caring, loving and peaceful nature. I will end this short tribute in the same way that you ended conversations with me by saying "all the best ole buddy". Until we meet again Walto- rest in perfect peace.

Your Brother-In-Law, Gene

Tribute to Walt Steven Watler:

Today we celebrate the life of Walt Steven Watler, who was no ordinary person - he was a good father, husband, brother, nephew and cousin who will be sadly missed as he left us way too soon. He is God's hands now looking down on us all.

I remember when his mother brought this bouncing baby home to Lower Valley. We watched him quickly grow into a kind, loving person always going the extra mile to assist his family and friends.

Walt was mechanically inclined and could fix any motor and operate all types of heavy equipment. When he graduated from High School, he worked for the family business, Watler Brothers' Heavy Equipment. He was a hard worker and was able to efficiently work every piece of heavy equipment that the company owned. He later went to work at the Water Authority operating the different types of heavy equipment to lay the water lines.

Walt was definitely a family man and a wonderful son to his parents, frequently checking in on them to make sure all was well. From time to time, he would bring them turtle dinners at lunch time and the newspaper. In the evening after he returned from work and on the weekends, he would pick up his father and take him to feed the cattle and they would go from Breakers to Spots Newlands. As time went on, Walt assumed a lot of the responsibilities of his father and maintained a lot of the Watler family traditions of tending to the cattle and farming the land which he passed onto his two sons with the hope that they would pass on the traditions to their children and grandchildren.

Both Walt and his father were honored by the Government in 2016 for their work in agriculture with Melbourne bestowed with an award for being a pioneer in farming and Walt with a long service award.

One of his traits we will miss the most was his positive outlook on life and his positive energy – always looking for the best possible solution. He had such a good heart and outgoing personality that endeared him not only to family but extended to his co-workers and friends as well as strangers who held him in high regard.

We will always cherish his generosity bringing us food and inviting us to his parties where he cooked most of the food and always greeted us with a firm hug and a warm smile. His barbeques were absolutely delicious and he was always assisted by his great wife who helped to make everyone feel welcomed and at home.

Although he appeared to be larger than life, his kindness and generosity were immeasurable. He was one of the best family men we have ever known. He was so very proud of his family and cherished his wife and sons.

We shall miss Walt dearly but we know he has gone to a better place with our heavenly Father, which he prepared for during the course of his life.

We pray for peace for the family he has left behind and we will also keep his memory in our hearts. We love you Walt. May your soul rest in peace. Uncle Charlie and family.

Poem dedicated by Uncle Charlie and Family:

Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep

Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep.
I am not there, I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glint on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you wake in the morning hush,
I am the swift, uplifting rush.
Of quiet birds in circling flight,
I am the soft starlight at night.

Do no stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there, I do not sleep.
Do not stand at my crave and cry,
I am not there, I did not die.

Poem dedicated by Aunt Hal and Aunt Lou

Tribute to Walt
When you lie down
You will not be afraid
When you lie down
Your sleep will be sweet
When I remember this on my bed
I meditate on this in the night watches
For thou has been my help.
And in the shadow of thy wings
I sing for peace and joy
In peace, I will both lie down and sleep
For thou, alone, O Lord does 't make
Me to dwell in safety
Enter into his gates with his giving and into his courts with praise, peace and glory
Amen
May your soul rest in peace.

Tribute to Walt:

It is with a heavy heart that we write this tribute to our dear friend. Walt was family to us in so many ways. He was the most loving and caring person we have ever known; and this love and care was shown not only to his family; but to everyone he came in contact with. Family time was always made better with Walt as he always found a way to make everyone laugh and keep everyone entertained. Walt, you will be missed but our love for you shall never fade. We mourn, but will not mourn as those who have no hope- because our hope is in the Lord. Your fight was brave and valiant- you have finished your course and you are now enjoying your earthly reward with your Lord and Savior who you loved.

Rest in Peace dear Walt

From Alicia, Philip and Cindy

Tributes to Walt:

My visits to Cayman were always wonderful. I remember on one visit my cell phone would not work, Walt insisted that I use his home phone. I'll never forget when Walt, Jimmy, Alister and Gary took us to Stingray, great memories. Always in our heart Walt, Love Susie, Texas.

“Walt was a Gentle Giant with a Contagious Smile” From Flo Boddin-Babin, Louisiana

“Walt was always so happy and would have everyone laughing” From Patsy McGill, Texas

Tribute to our friend Walt Watler – from the Connolly Family (Brian, Gladys, Kevin, Bradley & family in UK):

Walt was a wonderful guy and I am still finding it difficult to believe that I am here and he is gone. Walt would often call me just to say 'Hi' and ask how I was and I would call him the same way.....For some reason, I nicknamed Walt 'Walt Winterbourne' (I cannot for the life of me remember why - it must have been an old Movie or something).... Walt would call on the phone and when I picked up I'd say 'Walt Winterbourne, what's up ... he'd say 'just calling to see how you doin' – it's been a while – just thought I'd call you - how are you ? I would always say 'Fair to Middling and Fine as Horse Hair' to which he'd always reply, 'I hear ya, I hear ya'. , then we'd chat.....Walt was a kind soul who would do anything for anyone and we had a great friendship – He would help me with any plumbing type of jobs (I had no clue) and I would help where I could, with any problems he had with his Computer or any papers he needed Notarizing. I'm sure I came out ahead on the deal I don't think I ever came across Walt saying a bad word about anyone or being angry. He was a loving Family man who adored his Wife, Children and his entire Family as well as his Family friends. Martina, Gary and Alister are blessed to have had a man such as Walt in their lives albeit too short a time but in them, his legacy and memory lives on and my family are blessed to have had him in our lives – he will be greatly missed. He was a great Father and Husband as well as a great Family friend to my Wife Gladys and my boys and there will be a void in our lives now that he is gone. Walt will be sadly missed by all, but I thank God that I had the privilege of knowing a man like him in my life and he will never be forgotten – his memory will remain in our hearts and our minds, until we meet him again.

Rest peacefully, my friend - in God's arms. Brian Connolly ('Mr B') for the Connolly family.

Walt, “The best person on the Grill”:

All I ever saw from the first time I met you was that you were a great husband, father and family person, that loved to entertain Martina's friends but you were such a great family man that you never left the entire family out of any event. Walt it was a pleasure to have met you, thank you for the great times and good food you provided to me and my family when they visited Cayman. They have great memories of you and the times we shared. A family man is hard to find. You have departed from our lives, but you will be in our heart forever.

Until we meet again.....

Carmen Thompson, Columbia

Tribute from Water Authority Cayman:

Walt, or Waltee as his co-workers called him, was a beloved member of the Water Authority family. Walt joined the Water Authority in April of 1991 starting as an Operator before being appointed Heavy Equipment Operator, and later a Senior Heavy Equipment Operator. He was one of the founding members of the New Works pipelaying crew which was started in mid-1995. As part of that team, Walt has been involved with the installation of the majority of the Grand Cayman Water Distribution System. In December 2004 he received the “Distinguished Service Award” for his invaluable efforts in the immediate restoration of the Water Authority operations and service following Hurricane Ivan. His expertise has benefited the Cayman Islands over the last 29 years.

Walt wasn't just one of the first trencher operators at the Water Authority, he was one of the best as well. He was so skilled some on his team believed he learned to operate a backhoe before he learned to drive a car. Walt never complained, he just worked hard to get the job done – even if that was grabbing a broom to sweep up the road at the end of the day.

Walt wasn't just respected for being a hard worker, but also for being a wonderful person. He was calm, gentle, and had an easy-going manner. He was sincere, honest and straight forward. He had a big heart, and always had a kind word for others. He had quite a sense of humour and loved a good joke, even if it was at his own expense. He had amazing stories about the adventures of raising cows in Lower Valley. He loved his family dearly and made sure they came first in his life. And of course, he always had the biggest smile on his face.

Walt was well liked by everyone at the Water Authority and was truly a shining example of a dedicated and loyal employee. This is evident today by the number of his co-workers present at this service to honour his life, and by the deep sorrow that we all feel for his loss. People like Walt are few and far between in this modern world. It is not often these days that you find someone who takes such a fierce pride in their work, and who would remain loyal and dedicated to one company for so many years. He will truly be missed both as an employee and as a friend by everyone at the Water Authority.

Tribute to Walt from CIHS Class of '78

Life is but a stopping place,
A pause in what's to be,
A resting place along the road,
To sweet eternity.

We all have different journeys.
Different paths along the way,
We all were meant to learn some things,
But never meant to stay....

Our destination is a place,
Far greater than we know,
For some the journey's quicker,
For some the journey's slow.

And when the journey finally ends,
We'll claim a great reward,
And find an everlasting peace,
Together with the Lord.
Author Unknown

Tribute from the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture:

A man's greatest possession is his dignity and no calling bestows this more abundantly than farming. It is a way of life, a lifelong commitment and oftentimes it is as a result of previous generations who have farmed before them. Farmers connect to the land, their animals, and their crop.

Walt was no different, his commitment to farming, to his family and his family's farming traditions was unstinting. This is Walt's legacy, a legacy of dignity and a commitment to family and to the land he loved. Walt we bid you a fond farewell, we will close the gate. Rest peacefully.

Adrian R. Estwick,

Director of Agriculture, and the Staff of the Department of Agriculture.



Walt's Family:

Walt had a large extended family. Distances and age differences being what they are, Walt was closer to some than he was to others, but he loved them all.

Since they lived across the street, Uncle Charlie and Aunt Jackie, cousins Peter, Judy, David, Chris and Stephen Watler were a regular part of Walt's life, particularly for holidays. He was raised like a brother with cousins Jimmy and Bill Jackson. Although they lived in Texas, he was also close to Catherine, Carden, Joe and Jan Hennings, and Jane Ann Moler. Lana and Angie became local cousins when they moved to Cayman from Canada. A week would not pass without Walt visiting his aunts June and Noreen in Newlands, and aunts Evangeline, Varley, Halcyon, LaVern and Edna regularly visited Cayman, Hyacinth frequently called.

When relatives visited Cayman, there would be barbecue down at Walt's, with wonderful side dishes made by Martina. Springtime always meant a visit from Pixie. When Walt travelled, he wanted to see relatives. A trip to Victoria, Canada, to see nephew Paul called for a stop in Seattle to see Jan; a trip to east Texas provided an opportunity to look up Aunt Eleanor's daughter; a trip to Barcelona, Spain, meant having dinner with Martina's cousin Jorge; any stopover in Miami longer than four hours meant a visit with Carden.

His illness underscored how his cousins felt about him as 15 joined a WhatsApp chat to get daily updates from Esme and send heartfelt wishes for his recovery, including Judy, David, Chris, Bill and his wife Trisha, Catherine, and Jan. They were joined by Bo Jackson from Florida, Deb Daley from New Jersey, and Suzy Garcia from Texas among others. Martina's nieces Evelyn and Sandita in the USA also joined in.

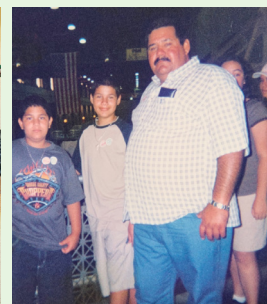
When Walt married Martina, he became part of another close, loving family. He travelled and vacationed with Aunt Sandra and her husband near Chicago and spent New Year's in Boston with Sandra's son Hector and daughter Evelyn and her husband Rudy. Hector then joined the Watler crew for skiing in New Hampshire. They also visited Cayman more than once.

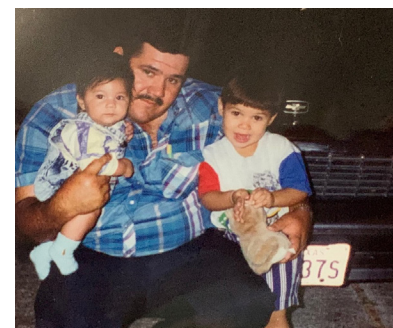
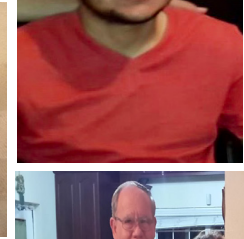
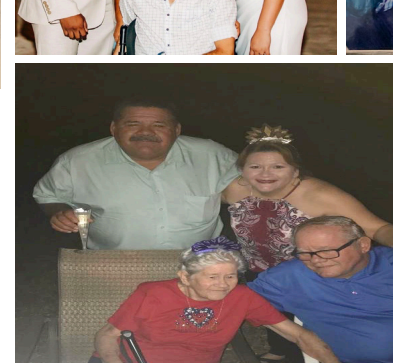
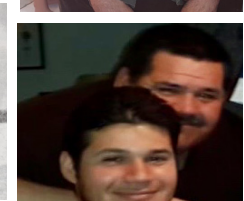
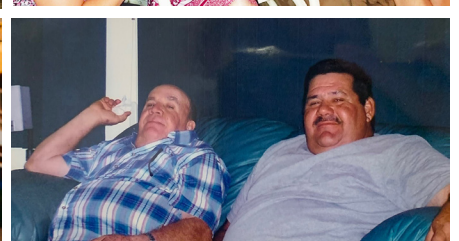
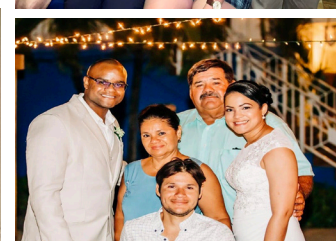
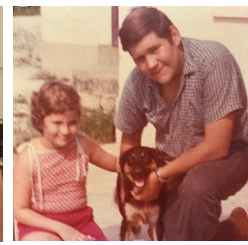
Martina's uncle Rony, sister Teresa and her husband Julio all spent time working in Cayman and joined in Watler family occasions. COVID means family will not be able to travel to comfort Martina and pay their last respects to Walt who also will be missed by her aunts Mari and Miriam, and cousins Aleyda, Orlin, Olman, Suany, Any, Oneel, Joel, Marisol, and Byron.

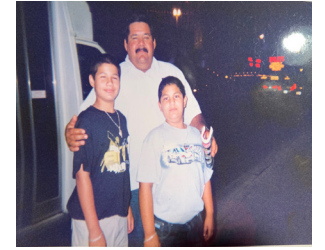
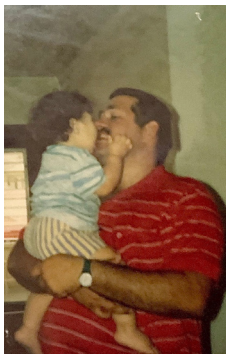
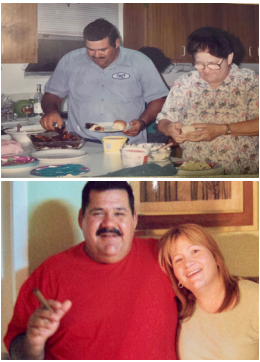
As COVID put tight restrictions on hospital visitation, Martina could have been all alone in North Carolina during Walt's treatment. However she was blessed to have her niece Evelyn a couple hours drive to the east and her nephew Paul Watler a couple hours drive to the west. Both were heartbroken that they couldn't see Walt but relieved they could provide Marti with comfort and solace.

Walt mourned with the family when we lost aunts June, Noreen, Jackie, Varley and Eleanor, uncles Ellsworth, Keithborn, Stacey and Colby, and cousins Jimmy and Robert.

Now we mourn his loss. His twinkly eyes and gentle hugs are gone. His help with drained car batteries, stubborn appliances, and leaky plumbing has ceased. However his connection to his large, loving family—including many more than those mentioned—lives on.







Graveside Service

Hymn	<i>How Great Thou Art</i>
Rite of Committal	Fr. Naveen D'Souza, SAC
Prayer	Pastor Winston Rose
Laying of Floral Tributes	
Hymn	<i>What A Friend We Have In Jesus</i>
Hymn	<i>Amazing Grace</i>

The Water Authority will sound a truck horn as a farewell to Walt.

How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the works Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

When through the woods, and forest
glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come, with shout of
acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and grieves to bear;
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in pray'r.
Oh, what a peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in pray'r.

Have we trials and temptation?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
Take it to the Lord in pray'r.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness,
Take it to the Lord in pray'r.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a lot a care?
Precious Saviour still our refuge
Take it to the Lord in pray'r.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in pray'r:
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come,
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise

September is Leukemia and Lymphoma Awareness Month. Red was chosen as the ribbon color for the fight against all blood cancers. Red was one of Walt's favorite colors and he passed away in September of Double Hit Lymphoma. In Walt's memory, please consider a donation to the Cayman Islands Cancer Society, 949-7618.

Walt's family would like to thank all of our extended family and friends in our community and around the world whom have been our support team in our time of mourning. We deeply appreciate and are extremely grateful for all of your kind words of condolences, visits and continuous prayers over these past weeks.

Thank you to the various teams of Doctors, Nurses and staff at Health City, CTMH Doctors Hospital, Cayman Clinic, The Physiotherapy Center Ltd, and Atrium Health Levine NC.

Thank you to our Church families of St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Chapel Church of God Bodden Town, CI Baptist Church and Savannah United Church.

Thank you to Scott Ruby and staff at the Bodden Funeral Home.