

*Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of*



*Cecile Milliglee Merren*  
*10 January, 1943 - 25 October, 2020*

*Church of God-Chapel*  
*Walkers Road, Grand Cayman*  
*Saturday, 14 November, 2020*  
*3:00 p.m.*

*Officiating*  
*Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert. Hon.*

*Organist*  
*Ms. Cathy Gomez, JP*

*Interment*  
*Garden of Reflections Cemetery*

## Order of Service

Words of Comfort .....	Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert. Hon.
Hymn "How Great Thou Art" .....	Congregation
Prayer .....	Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert. Hon.
Scripture Readings Proverbs 31:31 & 1 Corinthians 13:4-7	Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert. Hon.
Songs "Remember When" & "Back Home Again" .....	Mr. Chuck & Mrs. Barry Quappe
Tributes from Children .....	Mr. Mario Ebanks
Tribute from Sister, Mathlee Downs .....	Mr. Mario Ebanks
Tributes from Grandchildren .....	Miss Joni Ebanks
Words from a Friend .....	Capt. Owen Farrington
Obituary .....	Mr. Wayne Panton
Sermon .....	Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert. Hon.
Closing Hymn "Blessed Assurance" .....	Congregation
Prayer for the Family .....	Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert. Hon.
Benediction .....	Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert. Hon.

### Pallbearers

Mr. Jeremy Bodden  
Mr. Rayal Bodden

Mr. Brad Jackson  
Mr. Joe Jackson

Mr. Dwight Merren  
Mr. Franklin Thompson

### Honorary Pallbearers

Mr. Robert Bodden  
Mr. Joey Derringer  
Mr. Phillip Ebanks  
Mr. Shane Ebanks  
Mr. Shaun Ebanks  
Capt. Owen Farrington  
Mr. George Hinds  
Mr. Johnny Hinds  
Mr. Joey Jackson

Mr. Kem Jackson  
Mr. Cameron Merren  
Mr. James Merren  
Mr. Roger Merren  
Mr. Burns Ruty  
Mr. Clayton Thompson  
Mr. Franklin Thompson, Sr.  
Mr. Cebert Wood

### Funeral Register Attendant

Mrs. Thalia Pennington

### Ushers

Miss Laura Grey

Mr. William (Billy) Pennington



**Obituary  
Of  
Cecile Milliglee Merren  
Affectionately known to all as “Milly”**

Cecile Milliglee Merren was born on January 10, 1943 in West Bay, Grand Cayman to Mr. Ira Rivers and Mrs. Aldeen Rivers. She was the fourth of five children which included her older brothers Burke and Dodston Rivers, older sister Pheobe Ebanks and younger sister, Mathlee Downs.

Milly grew up in West Bay with her entire family. Her father, Ira Rivers, went to sea so Milly along with her other siblings helped their mother with all the home duties. She grew up in a lovely home surrounded by lots of land where they raised cows and chickens and had many local fruit trees.

Milly started school at the Cayman Islands Government School and later transferred to Triple C School where she met her loving husband, Johnny Merren. At the tender age of sixteen, Milly and Johnny were married. They had four children, John Roger Merren, Karen Ann Jackson, Dwight Lyndon Merren and Carolyn Patricia Thompson. Milly and Johnny first lived on South Church Street with Johnny's mother, Mrs. Valerie Merren and later moved into the Panton House off South Church Street with their three kids at the time, Roger, Karen and Dwight. They later built their family home on Crewe Road in George Town just before their fourth child, Tricia, was born. The family still owns this house and Milly continued living there until her passing.

Milly was a very hard working and dedicated woman and held several jobs throughout her life including positions at the Caymanian Compass, the George Town Post Office and Kirk Freeport Airport Shop and Downtown stores.

Following the passing of her husband, Johnny, in April 2005, Milly shortly thereafter retired from working and spent a large amount of her time involved in local charities including the Seafarers Association, Happy Seniors and other charities and events for church and the elderly.

Unfortunately, Milly later became ill and following a long period of illness she peacefully passed away on Sunday, October 25, 2020 at the George Town Hospital surrounded by her children and grandchildren. Mrs. Merren leaves to mourn her loving sister, Mathlee Downs, children, Roger, Karen, Dwight and Tricia, sons-in-law, Joey Jackson and Franklin Thompson, Jr., daughter-in-law, Sue Merren, grandchildren, Jenica Merren, Jerrica Merren, Gerrick Merren, Regis Merren, Joe Jackson, Brad Jackson, Katelyn Merren, Cameron Merren, Maddison Thompson, Clayton Thompson, great grandchildren, Noah Ebanks and Cristian Jackson along with many other close relatives and friends.

**Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of  
Cecile Milliglee Merren  
TRIBUTES FROM FAMILY  
Saturday, 7th November 2020**

**Tribute from Children**

To our dear Mother,

We were blessed to have you with us for 77 years and thought you would be with us much longer. The Lord had a different plan and took you to be with Him much sooner than we realised. God knew that you were not in the greatest of health and thought best to call you home out of your suffering before it became any worse; for that we have to be grateful and selfless, as your prayer was that He take your pain away. Your prayer was granted as you slipped peacefully away from us sadly and unexpectedly on October 25th. Every remedy possible, including our prayers unfortunately did not bring you back. We find strength, comfort and peace knowing God knew what He was doing and obviously needed another angel in heaven to help protect us here on earth.

We love you forever,  
Your children, Roger, Karen, Dwight and Tricia

**Special Tributes from Children**

**Daughter, Karen –** To my dear Mommy,

I will always cherish the good times we enjoyed with you and daddy as a family growing up in our cozy sweet Crewe Road home; our home was often filled with beautiful family, friends, music, dancing, humour and love. The lovely memories of family vacations, Christmas dinners and other fun filled visits will always stay near and dear to our hearts.

I often reminisce about how we enjoyed dancing in our living room in the evenings after work and how you were always happy to hear my stories when I returned home from outings with girlfriends and have a good laugh.

The good memories will go on.

When reality hits that you are in your heavenly glory, I find comfort in thinking you are in good hands with your Saviour, Daddy and other beloved family and friends. I pray and believe that God will grant me the privilege of meeting you, Him, Daddy and all the others there one day.

I will miss the visits and calls with you, checking to make sure everything was okay for you and Jennifer, your dedicated caregiver, and helping where I could and was needed and very happy I did.

I am so happy you got to meet my first grandson, Cristian, who brought you so much joy! I am sure you are telling Daddy and the others about him.

May your soul rest in peace. We are comforted to know you were ready and have gone to your Heavenly home.

I will miss and love you forever.  
Your loving daughter,

Karen

**Daughter, Tricia –**

To my dear Mommy,  
I can't believe you left us so suddenly, but I know you were really starting to suffer way too much and I am actually comforted in knowing that you are no longer in pain and suffering. You are now in heaven with our Heavenly Father, God, and reunited with Daddy and all your other close family and friends. I will miss you very much. Thank you for all you did for me and my family, especially with always helping with Maddi and Clay and being Maddi's traveling buddy on our vacations together. Thanks for the many teachings you gave me – especially about cleanliness and neatness. We always joked about what a cleaning fanatic you were and that you would even make up our beds if we got up during the night to go to the bathroom. Franklin also misses you. He will miss the spelling bees and other jokes you and he always shared. He loved you very much too. Rest in peace Mommy, until we meet again you will remain in our hearts.

Love forever.

Your daughter,

Tricia

**Son, Roger –**

Mama, we always joked about you having fish poisoning while you were pregnant with me. Well, I guess I can now say thanks because I'm still eating fried Cavalli and Bara today and I haven't been poisoned since! Now that you are gone to your Heavenly home which I like to refer to as Mount Zion, make sure you have some fish waiting for me when I get there! I pray we will meet again one day and I know I already have my ticket for the Zion Train! See you again in a better world my sweet Mama.

Rest peacefully. ONE LOVE.

Your first born,

Roger

**Son, Dwight –**

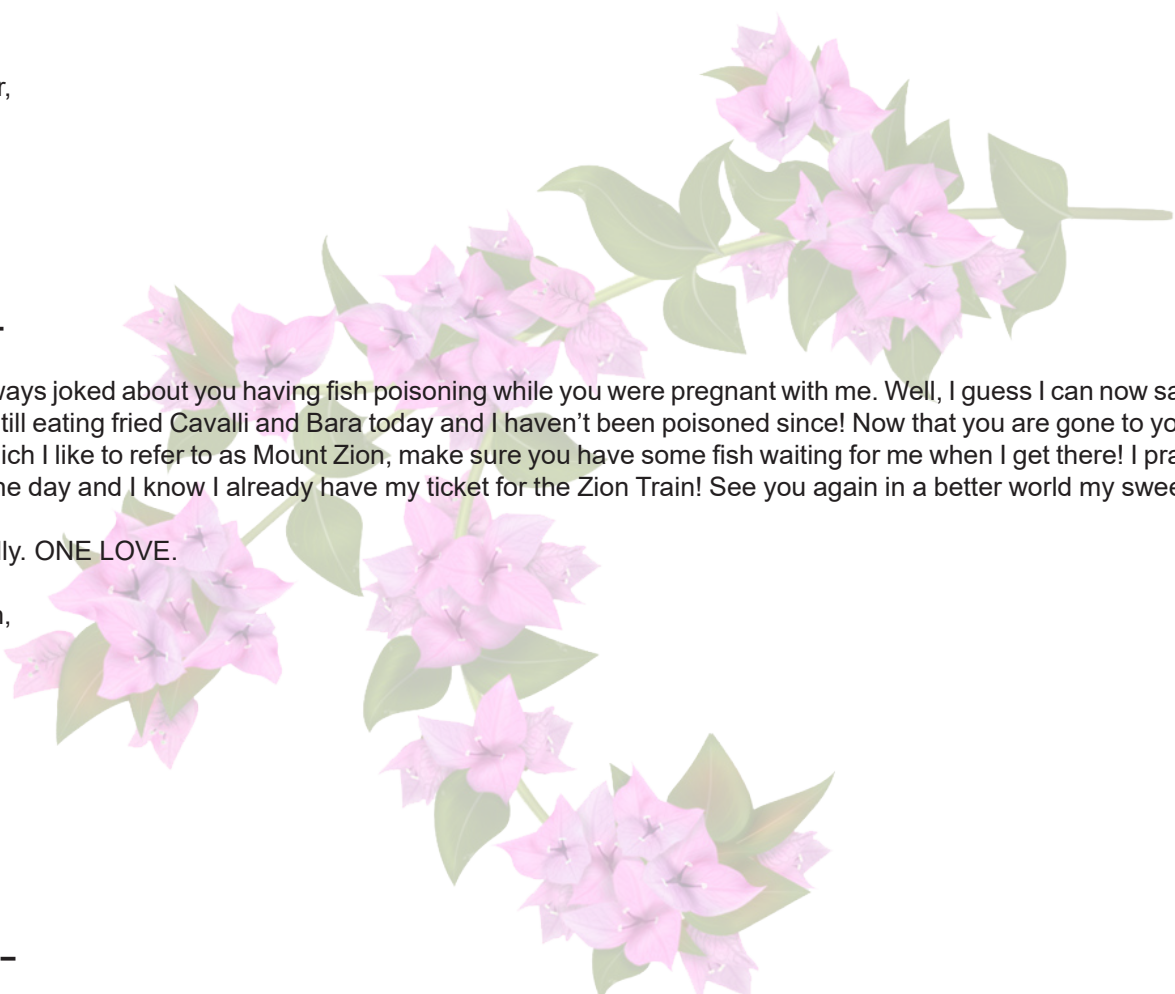
Mommy, I am so glad I had a chance to see you on Friday before you passed. We had a few last words and I got to kiss you one last time, before I left. I didn't know you were going to leave us that weekend, but God knows best. I will miss my many visits with you, and especially visits over my lunch hour where I would sit with you and make you laugh, albeit, talking "pure foolishness" and of course watching TBN with you. It really recharged my batteries, to go back to work for the rest of the day.

I love you my sweet Mommy and will miss you tremendously. I look forward to meeting in that Heavenly Home someday with you, Daddy and all of our loved ones, when my time is up on this earth.

Rest in Peace my sweet Mommy. I love you and miss you.

Your loving son,

Dwight



## Special Tributes from Grandchildren

### **Grandson, Joe Jackson –**

On the morning of Sunday, 25th October 2020 you took your seat on your heavenly throne next to God and gained your crown of victory. I never thought I would have to face the reality of losing you as soon as I did, none of us did. One thing that you always imparted on me was your unbreakable sense of faith and knowing that everything happens for a reason. The finality we experience with death is unapologetically cold and callused. As easy it is for us to sit and ponder the profound mystery of death, why we experience loss, why we feel hurt, pain, why we mourn, there is one thing that rings true to all of those unanswered questions we ask ourselves – everything happens for a reason and all in God's time.

Your sharp wit and tenacious spirit were among some of the traits I admired most. You were always my biggest cheerleader, whether it was getting through my final exams for law school or becoming a new father you always believed in and supported me like no other, no matter the challenges I faced or chapter of life I was in. You were a champion for all of us and you taught us that if we wanted to accomplish the goals that we each aspired to in our lives, we had to begin with our Spirit. It was so incredibly hard for me to watch your health deteriorate over the last year but the one thing that never faltered, never buckled, was your devotion to God and the love for this beautiful life He gave you. You never once shed a tear, never feared death and for me that became a source of inspiration that carried me from the day you took your last breath to today. You believed so deeply in God's divine plan and I will never forget it. From watching you, I learned to never underestimate the power of a kind gesture because kindness is a choice that comes from incredible strength. I remember sitting in this church 15 years ago for Papi's service when he passed and was overwhelmed by the amount of people that attended, tents packed the parking lot to accommodate the crowds that day. Even at that age, I knew what that meant to you, I knew what it meant to me, to all of us as a family. The character, the honesty and integrity that you both carried with you throughout your lives was sound tribute to the turn out we received that day all those years ago and 15 years later, we find ourselves here again. You may not have been the richest in earthly fortunes, never materialistic but you and Papi were blessed beyond measure in the currency that mattered most – genuine happiness.

So as I sit here writing this, having to acknowledge that I'll never receive another one of your weekly calls checking in on me to see how work is going or another Whatsapp message from you wanting to see baby Cristian in action, I have His peace that surpasses all understanding just knowing you threw down that old walker and are now skipping along the streets of gold, hand in hand with your Jesus and our Papi. I am eternally grateful for that.

I will forever carry you in my heart wherever I go and do my very best to continue the legacy that you and Papi left for us.

All of my love,

Your Joe Joe

### **Grandson, Cameron Merren –**

Nanie, it was very hard to deal with losing you too early but I know you were ready to see Heaven and I am grateful and blessed that you are now away from pain and flying high with God and Papi. You were a true blessing to this earth and the perfect grandmother.

You were a very positive and loving human being to me and the whole family, and a true and loving mother to my father.

May you fly high and rest in peace Nanie.

Love,

Cameron

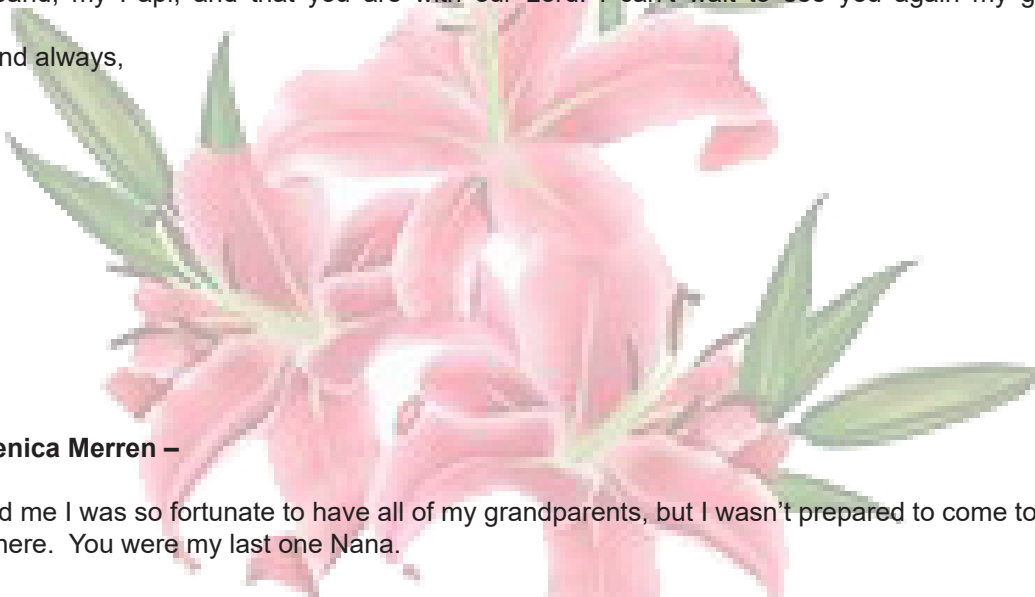
### **Granddaughter, Maddison Thompson –**

My Nanie was one of the sweetest people you could ever meet. Nanie was the perfect example of how we should treat others. Whatever she had, we could have, and where ever we wanted to go, she would take us. Nanie would always go out of her way for her children and grandchildren no matter what they needed. I aspire to be just like her. My Nanie was a very hard working woman and she taught us to work hard to provide for ourselves and to get the experience we needed to be successful in life. She taught us that it was ok to like the nicer things but to also be humble and to help others first, especially our loved ones. I remember her always showing us her legs and saying “see Mad Mad, this is what long hard days standing up in Kirk Freeport looks like!” I can honestly say that my Nanie was my best friend, we did everything together. We went dancing, out on dinner dates, and had sleepovers while we watched all her favourite shows like The Golden Girls and movie marathons on Hallmark. Nanie would always remind me of how much she loved me and I would reply “I love you to the moon and back Nanie”. We had so many good times together. Nanie was my biggest supporter and inspiration. I thank God every day for putting someone like her in my life.

Nanie, you were a true believer in God and did your best to make sure we all knew that God is our Almighty King and that he will protect us and help us through any hard times we encounter in life. I hoped that one day you could sit in the crowd at my graduation and cheer me on but I know that you will still be looking down on me from Heaven and cheering me on in everything that I do. I will always brag about how good you were to me and how much you taught me. Like Nanie always said, “everything in life happens for a reason”. I will miss you my beautiful Nanie. Losing you is one of the hardest experiences I have ever had to go through but I’m glad that you are with your amazing husband, my Papi, and that you are with our Lord. I can’t wait to see you again my guardian Angel.

I love you forever and always,

Your Mad-Mad



### **Granddaughter, Jenica Merren –**

Mommy always told me I was so fortunate to have all of my grandparents, but I wasn't prepared to come to a point in life when you weren't there. You were my last one Nana.

Nana, I always thought you would live to be 100 because you were so full of life and a social butterfly who never liked to sit at home alone. You were a part of my life from the day I was born from Cayman to Miami Children's Hospital with Mommy and Daddy and 33 years later at the hospital waiting on your first great grandchild. I was so happy and proud I had you there when Noah was born. My favourite part was when you told the doctor, “that's my first grandchild and I'm counting on God above and you to take care of her and my great grandson, make sure nothing happens to them”. I said to Nana, “you really said that to him?” she said “oh yeah, I sure did!”

You gave me a book entitled God's Road Map to for Life when I left for university. I kept it on my nightstand all these years and read whatever page it opens up to when I pick it. Tonight, it's on a page titled forgiveness and the first passage says “Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

Thank you Nana for keeping the family together all these years after Papa passed away. I promise to keep your memory alive in my house until we meet again. I have no doubt you are in heaven Nana, dancing with Papa in Hallelujah Square.

Love,

Jenica

## Tribute from Grandchildren

**Nanie,**

We are still trying to process the fact that you quietly slipped away from us but we know in our hearts that you were ready to go home to meet your Saviour and to join Papi in Heaven. We prayed our hardest for a miracle but God had different plans and these are things in life that we just cannot question. Thank you for the countless laughs, the love you showed us, the lessons you taught us, you always lead by example when it came to showing others kindness and compassion. Each of us would give anything to sit with you one more time with our heads on your lap and have you tell us about the good old days at Kirk Freeport or how you and Papi would go dancing until your feet were sore. Well Nanie, today you are dancing again, reunited with the love of your life and free of any pain or ailment and that is all we could have wished for you. We love you with all of our hearts and we look forward to one day being reunited with you in Heaven. It was our privilege to have each shared so many precious moments with you and to have you as our Nanie. Noah and Cristian, your great grandsons, were both such a light to your life and brought so much happiness back into your home even with all the health challenges that you were facing as your time to leave us approached. Every time any of us mentioned their names your face lit right up. It's the sweetest thing we know of, just spending time with you. It's good to be back home again.

Rest peacefully our Queen. We love you forever and ever.

Love,

Your grandchildren Jenica, Jerrica, Joe, Katelyn, Brad, Gerrick, Cameron, Maddison, Regis and Clayton and great grandchildren Noah and Cristian.

### **A tribute to my friend, Millie Merren**

Good afternoon, let me first offer my condolences to any family member, extended family, church family, members of the Cayman Islands Seafarer's Association or any of Millie's former co-workers that I may not have spoken to. Special mention should be made to Ms. June Escalante.

It is very difficult to eulogize someone as special as Millie, in such a short time. I will try to give you some idea of this dear Sister. Millie was a mild mannered, patient and loving individual, who often said, "love will make everything right" and "God is her refuge and strength".

She adored her children, grandchildren, great-grandson, aunts, uncles and cousins but she never forgot her close friends and colleagues that were previously mentioned.

When she was unable to attend church, she became a homebound worshiper, with Dr. Jeremiah being her favorite to watch on TBN.

I recruited Millie to serve on the governing council of the Seafarer's Association during my last term as president. She was a widowed member and she was very happy to contribute her time to the Association. I found out that one year she sold more Seafarers' calendars than any other member and she offered her help with selling raffle tickets. The proceeds from these sales went to help fund our projects that support our members.

I am thankful to God for the guidance he gave me to approach the government to seek approval for widows of deceased Cayman seamen to be acknowledged as members in their own right. It would be remiss not to mention Dr. Hon. Lenford Pearson for his assistance with granting this request so quickly. I am also thankful to God to be able to attend this memorial service for Millie, as she is the first widowed member that I have the privilege to participate in their memorial service.

As a close friend of Millie, I was always impressed by the close attention paid to her by her sister Mathlee Downs and her sisters-in law, Aline Wood and Chasteen Bodden. Mathlee always made sure that Millie had her lemon pies anytime that Millie wanted one. Aline cooked food that Millie liked and Chasteen was her chauffer to Chicken Chicken. Then, as Millie's health deteriorated, these ladies religiously visited her.

My life is richer from knowing Millie. I learnt a lot from her and I received a great blessing from her friendship.

My last visit with her ended with a short prayer and I told her that she was safe in the arms of Jesus. She replied, "I see my God on the blue horizon." Those were the only words from her on that visit and it was very unusual for her not to say more. I took her last statement as comfort in knowing that she is now safe in the arms of Jesus.

May the soul of this very special lady rest in peace and light perpetual shine on her.

Your friend - Capt. Owen Farrington



### **Special Tribute from Son-In-Law**

**Son-In-Law, Joey Jackson** – Ms. Milly I was saddened and shocked to hear of your sudden passing. We expected to have you with us for many more years to come. It is unfortunate and so hard for me to believe that after being a part of your family for almost 39 years, I did not get to say a final goodbye due to work related demands. I have no doubt in my mind that you and Mr. Johnny are now happily reunited together in your heavenly home.

May your soul rest in eternal peace.

Your loving son-in-law,

Joey

### **Special Tribute from Sister**

**Sister, Mathlee Downs** –

A Tribute to my Sister Milly...

The death of my sister hits us all hard... for me it references many memories, childhood stories, life changing, character-building experiences a person amasses over a lifetime with a close sibling. The memories will live on.

Milly has been my constant. She represents and encapsulates everything I know about myself in my seventy-four years of life. As my last surviving family member and sibling this is especially heart-wrenching.

Milly was only four years older, so we shared everything as sisters. She was the sensitive one; I earned the reputation of being tough and we learned from early childhood how to divide task and play to our strengths. We were close.

As we grew up, married and had our own families we continued to support each other.

Milly was the most caring, non-judgmental person I know. From childhood I entrusted her with my secrets, as I knew Milly was confidential.

Milly was also very sensitive. I remember our older sister, Phoebe and older brother, Burke were pranksters and knew just how to really "rile her up".

But in true Milly-style, she could never hold a grudge and would soon join along in the sibling laughter.

Milly was patient, kind and always sought to make peace. In more recent years, we reconnected in a way that only siblings can. We supported each other through many life challenges. We celebrated our children and grandchildren's successes and even welcomed on board great grandchildren.

We would attend family functions and community events together. We lunched together as often as we could and recounted our childhood times. I know that visiting our beloved Aunt Ethel was something that both she and I loved and found special.

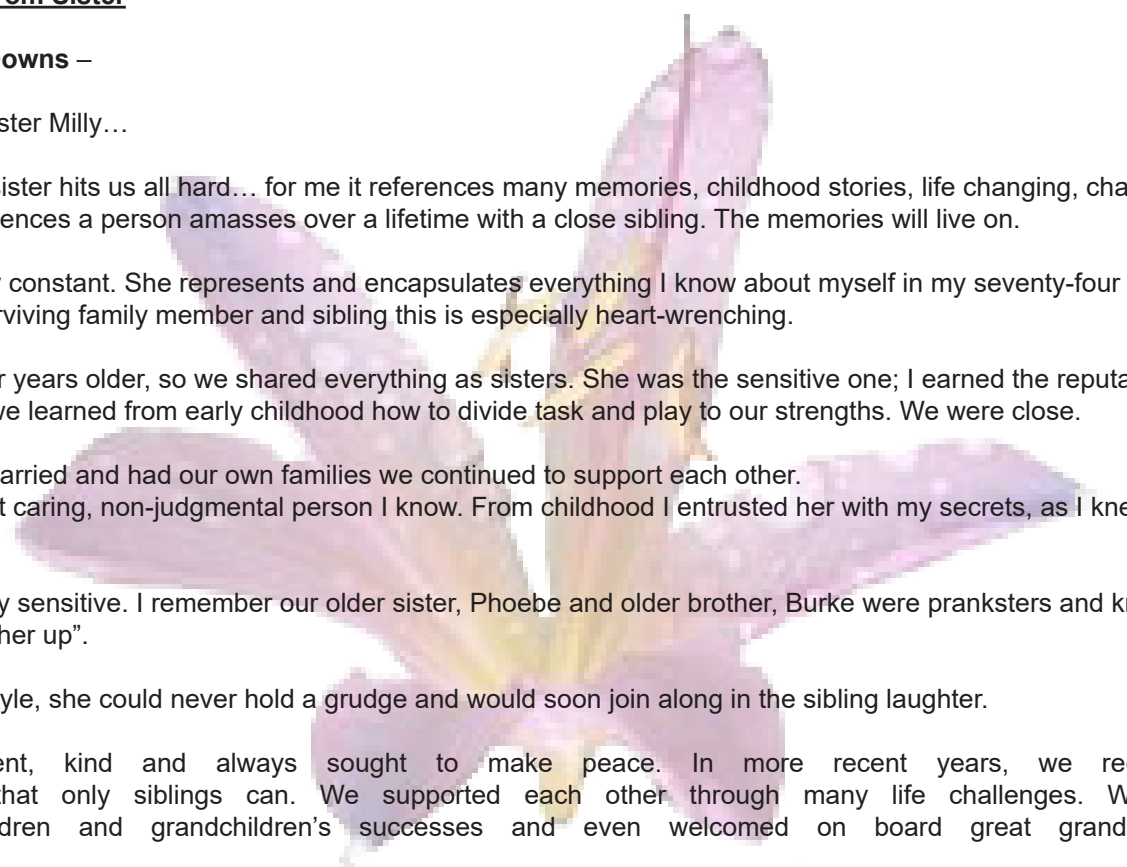
For me, Milly was, and will always represent my Gold Standard. God fearing, kind, loving and non-judgmental.

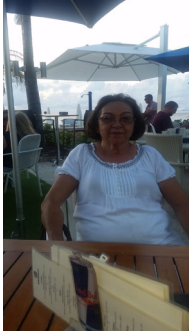
We promised to support each other until the end. Roger, Karen, Dwight, and Tricia, you can count on me to be there for you, for the rest of my life.

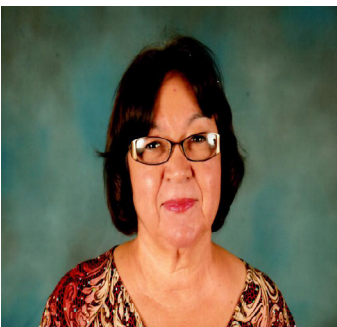
Rest now, my beautiful sister... I know that Johnny is there with you now... I will miss you and cherish the memories. Until we see each other again.

Your loving sister,

Mathlee







**Interment  
Order of Service**

Opening Remarks ..... Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert. Hon.  
Prayer ..... Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert. Hon.  
Committal ..... Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert. Hon.  
Hymns ..... Congregation

*“Amazing Grace”*  
*“Old Rugged Cross”*  
*“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”*  
*“Take My Hand Precious Lord”*  
*“When the Roll is Called Up Yonder”*

Benediction ..... Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert. Hon.

**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  
than when we’d first begun.

**Take My Hand, Precious Lord**

Precious Lord, take my hand  
Lead me on, let me stand  
I’m tired, I’m weak, I’m lone  
Through the storm, through the night  
Lead me on to the light  
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

When my way grows drear, precious Lord linger near  
When my light is almost gone  
Hear my cry, hear my call  
Hold my hand lest I fall  
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

When the darkness appears and the night draws near  
And the day is past and gone  
At the river I stand  
Guide my feet, hold my hand  
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

Precious Lord, take my hand  
Lead me on, let me stand  
I’m tired, I’m weak, I’m lone  
Through the storm, through the night  
Lead me on to the light  
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

**The Old Rugged Cross**

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame;  
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best, for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain: So I’ll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down  
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.

O, the old rugged cross, so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me;  
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above, to bear it to dark Calvary.

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, a wondrous beauty I see;  
For ‘twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, to pardon and sanctify me.

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, its shame and reproach gladly bear;  
Then He’ll call me some day to my home far away, when His glory forever I’ll share.

**Leaning on the Everlasting Arms**

What a fellowship, what a joy divine  
Leaning on the everlasting arms  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine  
Leaning on the everlasting arms

Leaning, leaning  
Safe and secure from all alarms  
Leaning, leaning  
Leaning on the everlasting arms

What have I to dread, what have I to fear  
Leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near

Leaning on the everlasting arms  
Leaning, leaning  
Safe and secure from all alarms  
Leaning, leaning  
Leaning on the everlasting arms

**When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder**

When the Trumpet of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more,  
And the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair  
When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore,  
And the roll is called up yonder, I’ll be there

Refrain: When the roll is called up yonder, when the roll is called up yonder,  
When the roll is called up yonder, when the roll is called up yonder,  
I’ll be there

On that bright and cloudless morning when the dead in Christ shall rise,  
And the glory of His resurrection share when His chosen ones shall gather  
To their home beyond the skies, and the roll is called up yonder, I’ll be there

Let us labor for the Master from the dawn till setting sun,  
Let us talk of all His wondrous love and care then when all of life is over  
And our work on earth is done and the roll is called up yonder, I’ll be there.