

Celebration Service for



Mrs. MERNA BRIDE POUCHIE
(Nee Tibbetts)

October 21, 1930 – February 15, 2021

Watering Place Church of God (Holiness)

Cayman Brac

Saturday, 27th February 2021

11:00 a.m.

Officiating Pastor

Pastor Dr. Gayle Woods

Pianist

Ms. Doreen Rankine

Song Leader

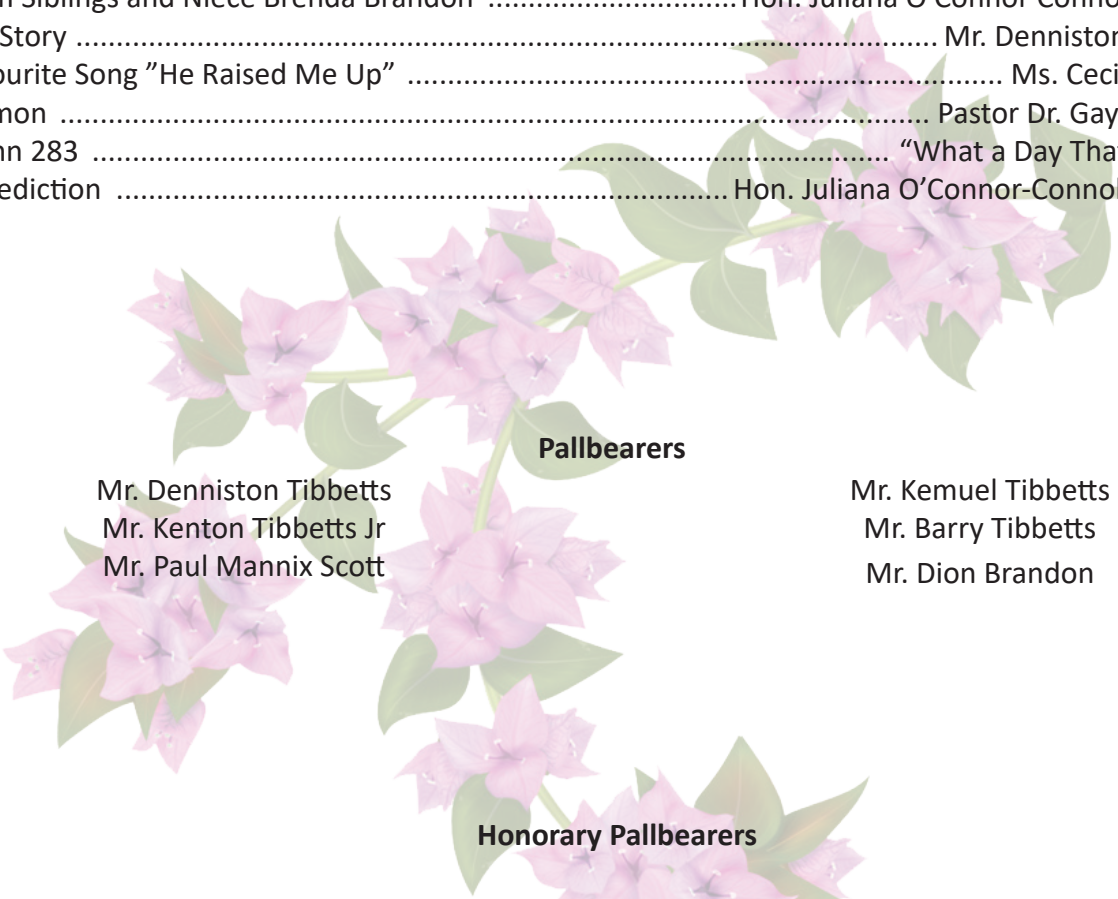
Ms. Cecile Barnes

Interment will follow at the Creek Cemetery

Please drive to the Creek Cemetery with your lights on.

Order of Service

Welcome and Opening RemarksMr. B.L. (Mark) Tibbetts, Jr., JP
Prayer Pastor Dr. Gayle Woods
Hymn 650 "When We All Get To Heaven"
Scripture Psalms 46Sis Sonia Christian
Special Song: "Tears Will Never Stain The Streets Of That City"Sister L. Ryan
TRIBUTES:
From Siblings and Niece Brenda Brandon Hon. Juliana O'Connor Connolly MP, JP
Life Story Mr. Denniston Tibbetts
Favourite Song "He Raised Me Up" Ms. Cecile Barnes
Sermon Pastor Dr. Gayle Woods
Hymn 283 "What a Day That Will Be"
Benediction Hon. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, MP, JP



Pallbearers

Mr. Denniston Tibbetts
Mr. Kenton Tibbetts Jr
Mr. Paul Mannix Scott

Mr. Kemuel Tibbetts
Mr. Barry Tibbetts
Mr. Dion Brandon

Honorary Pallbearers

Mr. Kenton Tibbetts Sr.
Mr. Charles Tibbetts
Mr. Elmer Tibbetts
Mr. Garth Tibbetts

Mr. Kurt Tibbetts
Mr. Jared Tibbetts
Mr. Ricardo Tibbetts
Mr. Steve Tibbetts

Me. Davie Tibbetts
Mr. Erbin Tibbetts

Ushers

Mr. Cary Christian
Mr. Albert Christian

Guest Book Attendant

Ms. Debbie Rankin

Service Hymns

When We All Get To Heaven

Sing the wondrous love of Jesus, Sing His mercy and His grace
In the mansions bright and blessed, He'll prepare for us a place.

Refrain: When we all get to Heaven, What a day of rejoicing that will be
When we all see Jesus, We'll sing and shout the victory!

While we walk the pilgrim pathway, clouds will over-spread the sky
But when traveling days are over, not a shadow, not a sigh.

Let us then be true and faithful, trusting, serving every day
Just one glimpse of Him in glory, will the toils of life repay.

Onward to the prize before us! Soon His beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open; We shall tread the streets of gold.

What a Day That Will Be

There is coming a day when no heartaches shall come
No more clouds in the sky -- no more tears to dim the eye
All is peace forevermore, on that happy, golden shore
What a day, glorious day that will be

Refrain: What a day that will be when my Jesus I shall see
When I look upon his face, the One who saved me by His grace
When He takes me by the hand and leads me through the Promised Land
What a day, glorious day that will be.

There'll be no sorrow there, no more burdens to bear
No more sickness, no pain, no more parting over there
And forever I will be with the One who died for me
What a day, glorious day that will be.

MERNA BRIDE POUCHIE

Merna Bride Pouchie (Nee Tibbetts) was born on the island of Cayman Brac on October 21st. 1930. Her parents, both of whom preceded her in death, were Leslie Tibbetts and Anita Tibbetts (Nee Bodden). Merna was the third of seven children born to her parents, Brother Darwin and Sister Linna Bodden also preceded her in death.

Like other Caymanian families, as Leslie and Anita's family grew, her aunt Mellylean Scott welcomed Merna into her home. You see, her family was much smaller. Although she grew up with her aunt and cousin, she still maintained close family ties with her parents and siblings.

She attended the Creek all age school until standard six which was the highest grade at the time, then she was offered the opportunity to further her education in Jamaica, where she attended Mico Training College.

After she returned to the Brac, she began teaching at a little private school started by her cousin Freda. The school was located at her Aunt Mellylean's property in the Creek. During this time she met and married Vibert Pouchie. There were no children born to this union.

After her first teaching stint, she moved to California where she stayed with her cousin Freda. But home was calling her. Her mother had passed away, and she missed her first love, teaching young children.

After returning home, she saw the need once again for her to open up her own little school teaching the younger children.

The Government Schools didn't start children until 7 years old so she was providing schooling for the younger ones. She canvassed the parents, family and friends and soon she was happily teaching the younger ones once again. Her school was now located at her parents' home in Watering Place.

She bought a small motorbike, which soon became her trademark mode of transportation. Because some of the children lived a distance away, she assisted by picking them up and dropping them back home after school. In those days, it wasn't strange to see her coming down the road with up to three of the kids perched on her bike with her.

Derrick Tibbetts remembers being too small to get his hands around her waist, so he had to cling to the sides of her dress while they were travelling. He also vividly remembers the time that Elroy found an old cow head skeleton in the grass piece behind the school, and decided to put it over his head and scare everyone. This was during break time. He certainly did scare everyone. So much so that one of the children jumped into the cistern to get away from the "duppy". The others had to quickly help him back out.

Merna followed her path because she had a special love for children. Over the years she developed many lifelong relationships with her students. She practically raised some of them as her teaching extended to having them stay with her, depending on the situation at home. Many will have vivid memories of those days. One such person is Mannix Scott and this relationship continued through his adult life when he took on a family of his own. He was like her son, and he trusted her in turn like his mother.

She was a real Mother Theresa to so many over the years. Many times she went about her vocation without receiving just compensation. But she was never discouraged, and her commitment never wavered. She was a child of God. She was a faithful member of this church, and taught Sunday School for many years. Like all of her siblings, she loved to go fishing, and always enjoyed those times. She had a fish story to tell every time she went.

We all know she was small in stature. She was a strict disciplinarian, but very rarely resorted to the strap. That was left most times for her father to sharpen his razor with. She just had that inimitable way of getting the children to be obedient and well behaved. I do believe that this was a big part of the reason why some parents were happy, even eager to let their children stay with her.

She loved her family dearly, and was fiercely loyal. She had special relationships with nieces and nephews and always looked forward to their visits, especially in the later years when those who lived overseas would visit the Brac.

For several years now, with failing health, Merna had been placed in the Kirkconnell Community Care Centre. There she would receive the best care that was required. Like many of the KCCC residents, she became an institution, and renewed many friendships with the older folks.

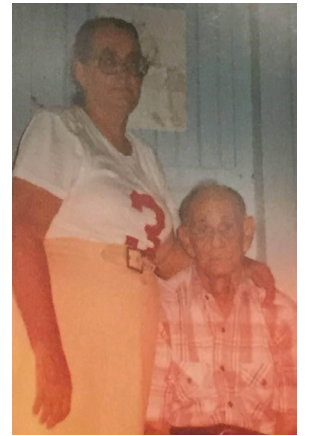
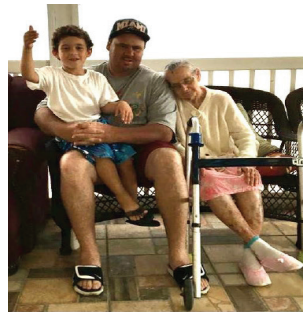
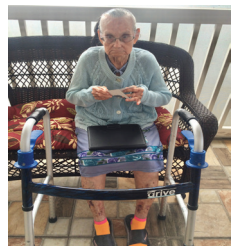
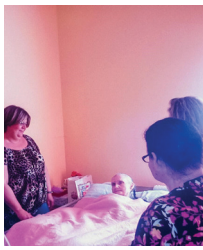
In recent months, her health, rapidly declined and finally she gave up the fight, peacefully, going to meet her Saviour on the evening of Monday, the 15th day of February last.

Yet another one of our unsung heroes has gone on leaving behind a treasure of memories.

Left to Mourn her passing:

Sister Lavonne Ryan
Brothers, Kenton, Charles and Leslie Elmer Tibbetts
Special adopted son Mannix Scott and family
Nieces, Nephews, Cousins and a host of other family and friends.

May her Gentle Soul Rest in Peace.



TRIBUTE FROM SIBLINGS

“Little is much when God is in it!
Labor not for wealth or fame;
There’s a crown, and you can win it,
If you go in Jesus’ name.”

That was exactly how the 7 of us siblings – Lenna Darvin Merna, Kenton, Charles, Levonne and Elmer were raised. We had little in the way of worldly possessions but much in the way of Godly peace and contentment. Our parents Leslie and Anita Tibbetts instilled Godly values which we adhered to all our lives. Merna lived a Godly life and has now won her crown.

We all worked extremely hard to provide for our families. However, none of us strove for wealth or fame. Our sisters Merna and Levonne were the ones who remained in Cayman Brac and worked as teachers and continued steadfastly in the church while the brothers sailed the seven seas and worked as captains and chief engineers. When the brothers sent their monthly allotments to Cayman, you could count on Merna and Levonne to ensure that our parents were taken care of and that the money was used wisely.

Today as we pay tribute to our sister Merna there is so much that we would like to say, but time is of the essence. Merna is most remembered for her humble, compassionate, kind, yet stern disposition. Although she had no children of her own, there were many who considered her their adopted mother. When she saw a need and was able to fulfill that need, she did the best that she could to help.

Elmer remembers the time when he was about 10 or 11 years old and had stepped on sea eggs (urchins) and his big toe became badly infected to the point where they were told that the toe would have to be amputated. Being the kind, considerate person that she was, Merna took him on her bicycle to Dr Lawrence in North East Bay where the doctor was able to treat the toe successfully.

We rarely called each other by name and used to, and continue to address each sibling as “brother” or “sister”. Our love was unbreakable. We stood by each other through thick and thin. Sometimes we got the privilege to work together on the same ship. We would look out for each other and share whatever we had. When one brother was leaving for the Brac the others would make sure that they sent gifts such as dresses or fabric for our sisters and mother who we honoured and protected. Today due to the pandemic our brother Charles is unable to be here with us in person. However, we can still feel his love across the miles.

Levonne spent the most time with Merna and recalls the special bond that they shared. They were always excited to get letters and gifts from their brothers. Our sister Lenna was married and living in the United States so we did not get to spend as much time with her. When Lenna passed away in 1998 Merna and Levonne grew even closer. Their relationship was unique in that they were both widows at a relatively young age. Our sisters bore their grief quietly and continued in their service to God.

The brothers of us are so grateful to Laverne for her unwavering support to Merna during her long illness. We also take comfort in knowing that although the circle on this earth is broken we will one day all be in heaven with our parents and the circle will once again be complete.



TRIBUTE TO AUNT MERNA FROM NIECES, NEPHEWS, GRANDNIECES, GRANDNEPHEWS, GREAT-GRAND NIECES AND GREAT-GRANDNEPHEWS

Articulate	Mild-tempered	Pretty
Understanding	Youthful	Outstanding
Neat	Robust	Unwavering support
Trustworthy	Nurturing	Compassionate
	Angel	Honest
		Integrity
		Excellent

These are the words that we would use to describe our Aunt Myrna. She was aunt to 3 generations of Tibbetts offspring and although we all had different experiences and memories of her, there is one common theme. She cared. Whether it was teaching us at the old family home in Watering Place, or watching us while we played in the sea behind the house, or dispensing advice, Aunt Myrna was there for us all.

For the older nieces and nephews there are the memories of Aunt Myrna in her younger days when she was teaching and taking a significant role in caring for her parents as well as playing an active part in the Brac community.

For others it is the memory of having her visit Grand Cayman and spending quality time with us. Of course the visits to Grand Cayman were shortlived as she could not wait to get back to the serenity of the Brac.

And for the youngest generation of nieces and nephews the memories are pretty dim. We didn't get to see her in her prime, but we got to hear stories from our parents and grandparents about how special Aunt Myrna was to them.

We are all grateful for the honour of having such a Godly woman in our lives. She led an exemplary life and it is now our turn to ensure that the values and integrity she displayed are passed down to the next generation.

We miss her, but also realize that the last years of her life were difficult for her. We watched as she became more and more frail as time went by. Now we take solace in knowing that she is no longer in pain and that she has gone to her heavenly reward. Well done, good and faithful servant.

With love to a special aunt from nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, great-grandnieces and great-grand-nephews.

To Dearest Aunt Merna

My Heart is breaking as I sit an, recollect of all the times we spent together. All the telephone calls we had to each other over the years, you and I had a special bond! You are a beautiful flower plucked from the flower bed to be a sweet-smelling savor in the presence of your maker. But it is hard to come into terms with the fact that I will never hear from you again. Sweet memories fill me anytime I remember the advice you found pleasure in sharing with me and will forever be cherished. I found consolation in you whenever I got downhearted. You always told me "Ben Ben Pray and Trust God, all will work out! Your benevolent smile lifted My hearts anytime you were near me. It's gone now! Never to come back!

Rest In Peace My Precious Aunt sleep well till we meet again.

Loving you always

Your Loving Niece Brenda

Tribute to My School Teacher,

You were a phenomenal Teacher and I was privileged to be your student and get my foundation of learning from you. I always respected and cared for you and loved seeing your face light up when I gave you Christmas gifts as a token of my love for you. You and my late mother were very good friends and I treasured the bond you both had with each other. Thank you also for loving all of my children too and especially for the fond memories, Paulette, Gina and Ben have of those nighttime fishing trips. You will be missed.

Rest sweetly in Heavenly Peace,

Your student Elmetha Conolly

Graveside Service

Opening Remarks Pastor Dr. Gayle Woods

Choruses

“What A Happy Time”
“When My Pilot Comes”

Laying of Floral Tributes Family

Committal Pastor Dr. Gayle Woods

“Hymn” “I’ll Fly Away”

Closing Prayer Hon. Juliana O’Connor Connolly MP, JP

“What A Happy Time ’twill Be”

What a happy time ’twill be
When we all get home,
Over by the crystal sea,
Nevermore to roam;
In that homeland of the soul,
Where the joy-bells chime,
Singing while the ages roll,
What a happy time.

“When My Pilot Comes”

When my pilot comes,
I’ll take an aeroplane ride
I will be so happy
with Jesus by my side Sun,
moon and stars,
and it shine so bright
When my pilot comes,
I’ll take an aeroplane ride

“I’ll Fly Away”

Some glad morning when this life is o’er I’ll fly away To a home on
God’s celestial shore I’ll fly away

I’ll fly away, oh Glory I’ll fly away when I die Hallelujah by and
by I’ll fly away

When the shadows of this life have flown I’ll fly away Like a bird
from prison bars has flown I’ll fly away

I’ll fly away, oh Glory I’ll fly away when I die Hallelujah by and
by I’ll fly away

Just a few more weary days and then
I’ll fly away
To a land where joy shall never end
I’ll fly away

I’ll fly away, oh Glory yes I’ll fly away when I die Hallelujah by
and by I’ll fly away

Acknowledgement

*The family of the late Ms. Merna Pouchie would like to express their deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation for your expressions of sympathy, love, prayers, kindness and support during this time of sorrow.
Special thanks also to the staff of KCCC, the Faith Hospital, Cayman Brac and Bodden Funeral Service.*