

Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of



James Austin Piercy Sr

August 18th, 1929 – June 16th, 2021

Seafarers Hall, Prospect

Saturday June 26th, 2021

10:00 am

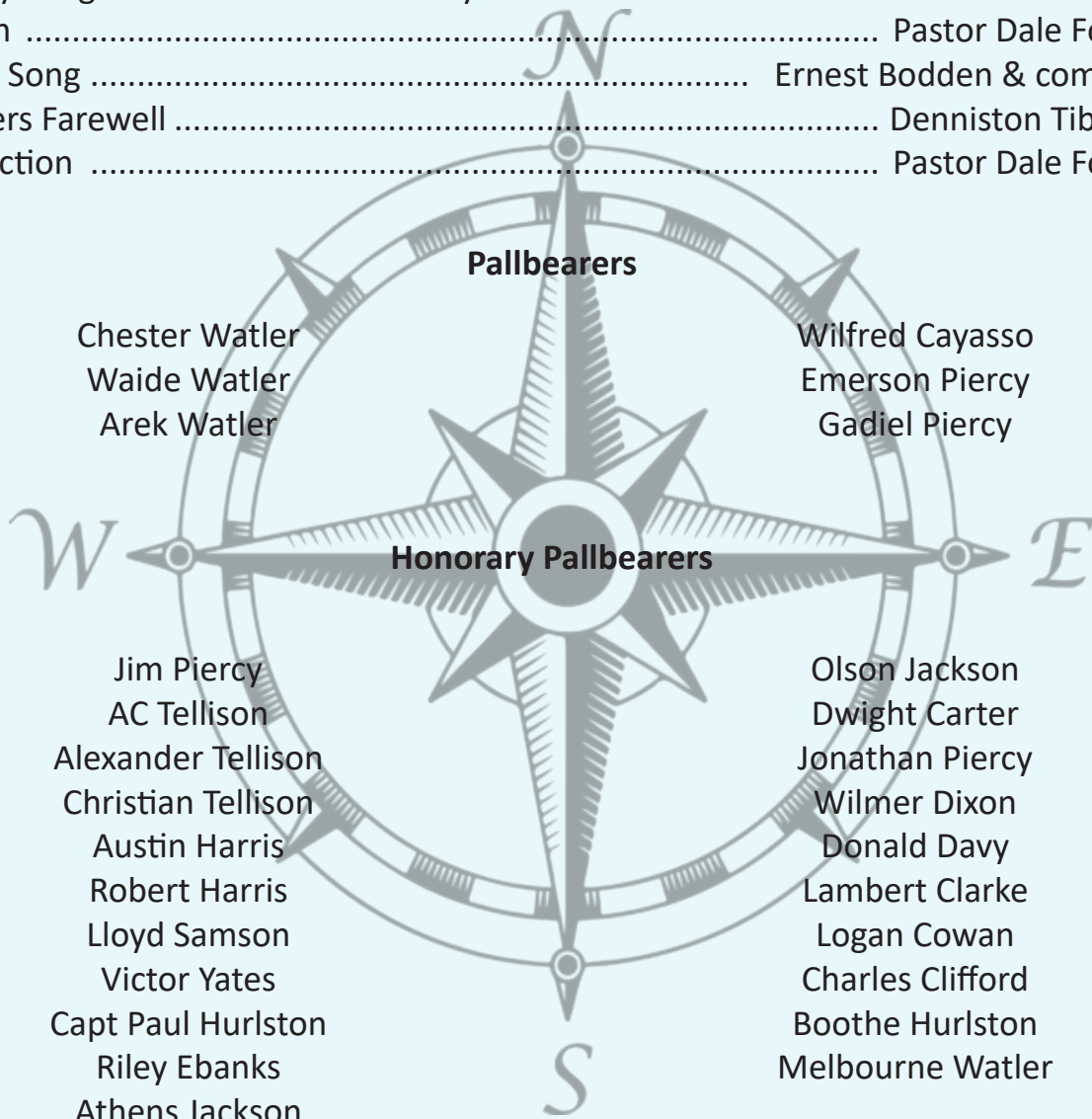
Officiating Minister:

Pastor Dale Forbes

Interment will follow at the North Side Cemetery

Order of Service

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Prelude music | Ernest Bodden & company |
| Opening remarks and prayer | Pastor Dale Forbes |
| Scripture reading | Heather Bodden |
| Special Song – I Do it for you, Bryan Adams | recorded music |
| Prayer | Emerson Piercy |
| Life Story..... | Kurt Tibbetts |
| Country Songs - Alan Jackson and Holly Dunn | recorded music |
| Sermon | Pastor Dale Forbes |
| Special Song | Ernest Bodden & company |
| Seafarers Farewell | Denniston Tibbetts |
| Benediction | Pastor Dale Forbes |



Guest Book Attendant

Jemsina Stewart

Usherettes

Darlene Zelaya and Jeanne Walton

Life Story of James Austin Piercy Sr

James Austin Piercy Sr was born on August 18th, 1929 to James Emerson Piercy and Gladys Bardowell Piercy. He was known as Austin to family and friends and named after one of his uncles.

Austin grew up in George Town and went to sea at a young age, after working at H O Merren & Co Ltd.

He met his wife Elverine there as well and had her on his mind the entire trip. Upon his return home he went to visit her and asked her to marry him. Austin enjoyed telling the story of their first encounter and often told different versions from time to time. He said while Elverine was deciding how to respond, he stole a kiss and she told him that he was a fresh boy, but at the same time she appeared to be happy.

They wed in August 1956 at the Bodden Town Manse with their best friends June Jackson and Ulric Coe by their side. Austin and Elverine first resided in the area known today as the main Court House, until their family home off Smith Road was completed. The children clearly remember arriving at their new home as it was a joyous time for them, even though they asked to go home when night came, but Daddy said, "this is your new home now".

Austin continued going to sea for approximately 30 years. He worked mainly for West Indies Line, as their Chief Engineer and has been around the world three times. He was called on to take a new member of the fleet out of dry dock every time one was ready to set sail. His last venture was in Nicaragua with Lane Dredging on a five-year contract.

He was a very meticulous, accurate, self-motivated person who studied in his spare time. He knew something about everything and enjoyed intelligent conversations and staying in touch with the latest news of both local and international affairs, sports, such as cricket and baseball and was a die-hard Cubs fan. Loved and understood politics inside and out and taught himself computers. What he didn't know he would quickly call Waide or Arek for advice or an upgrade. He could make anything work that came to mind.

He was also an avid reader who purchased many books and a set of Encyclopedias and engaged in research on any topic of interest. He was quite the adventurer too, as he got off in each port and absorbed something about each country. He was on board the first sea plane to land in the North Sound, and was on board the first flight to land at Owen Roberts. He booked his wife to meet him in any nearby port, once the children were on summer holidays, for a trip out with him and she was just as excited to join him. There were the many Greyhound bus trips for hours to get to him. One time he even moved us to Florida to be with him each weekend as he was scheduled to come into port there for a few months, when we were kids.

While he was a dedicated family man, he was God fearing and ethical but loved fun as well. He was also a good dancer and liked the Barefoot Man and Andy Martin a lot, because he too loves country music.

After retiring from sea, he opened Austins Appliance Center, because he still had the love of engines in his blood. Once his wife retired from her businesses he did so as well to be home with her and to enjoy their grandchildren, Katrina, Waide, Dwayne and Arek.

He was a Dad to daughters, Edna, Charmaine, Judy and son, Jim who were passionate about not only his family but lifelong friends and enjoyed conversations, outings, gatherings, special occasions, parties as it was customary to travel to Florida each May 1st after the twins, Alexander and Christian were born to celebrate with them, which was made another family affair.

As of recent he was super excited about his new great grandchildren, Madison, Austin and Aria all who knew him as Papa. His family has so many memories of him as not only being so well versed but as a great storyteller, a huge music lover for which he possesses a fair collection. He called regularly just to ask how we were doing, early almost every morning, as he said he just wanted to hear our voices.

Austin fell sick about two weeks ago and had to be hospitalized and passed on June 16th, 2021 at 9pm at the George Town Hospital, with his children by his side.

Austin is preceded in death by his wife Elverine, father Emerson, mother Gladys, sister Marjorie, brother Sydney and grandson Dwayne.

While the family is sad to lose him, they are comforted that he has made it to his heavenly home for eternal rest with his wife.

Huge thank you to Ms. Dorothy his caretaker for loving and caring for him over the past 3 1/2 years.

May his soul rest peacefully.



Daddy

You were good to me and I endeavored to be good to you.

When you asked for a glass of water I gave you two, when you wanted your favorite local dish I delivered, when you wanted the grandchildren I called them, when you wanted a milkshake, burger, stew turtle or fry fish I ordered it. When you had a doctor's appointment I took you there, when you needed medicine I ordered it, when you wanted a drive out we went, when you needed coconut water I brought it for you. I stood by your bedside and I fought for you.

I am left with so many memories from beginning to end. From the tricycle to the bicycle rides, trips in your rental car, you recording me while I played the drums, dancing at Galleon Beach to Barefoot Man and the band, to the times mother and I boarded the plane and hopped on the bus to come see you, to the many beach picnics that you and mother planned on Sundays after church. The times you would make a stop in Cayman if your ship was passing nearby or if the crew just wanted to show off a new member of the fleet. When you were leaving, we would drive along the shoreline flashing the car lights and you would flash a high beam light back at us.

Coming home from sea each Christmas and New Years was excitement but also a lot of work, because mother had us all doing chores to provide a spread for you.

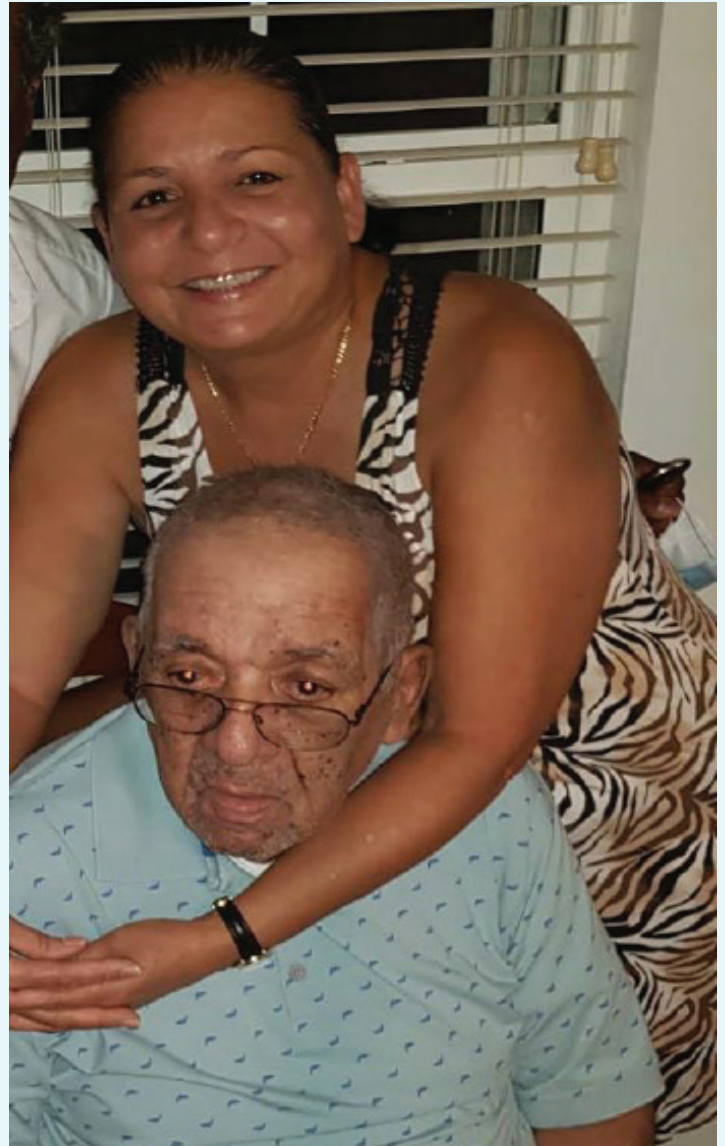
I grew up and began to embark on my own personal journey. You were over the moon about the birth of my boys and fell in love with them before even seeing them. You have been there every step of the way guiding them, enjoying them and celebrating with them. Then came their families and the gorgeous great grandkids, Madison, Austin and Aria.

I stood close to you after mother left us to provide care, support and love, but you couldn't let go and I understood that your love for her was everlasting. I am comforted knowing that you and mother have now been united again in your heavenly home. I'm content knowing that I could care for you and remain by your side all these years.

Will always be thinking of you and so brokenhearted to part with you,

I'll love and miss you always,

Your Daughter, Judy.



The loss of a parent is never easy but what brings me comfort is knowing that he has been reunited with Mama and Dwayne.

Daddy, give them a warm hug for me....

Don't think of him as gone away
his journey's just begun,
life holds so many facets
this earth is only one.

Just think of him as resting
from the sorrows and the tears
in a place of warmth and comfort
where there are no days and years.

Think how he must be wishing
that we could know today
how nothing but our sadness
can really pass away.

And think of him as living
in the hearts of those he touched...
for nothing loved is ever lost
and he was loved so much.

Rest in Peace Daddy,
Charmaine



For Papa: the man who loved the most, lived the most, and laughed the most.

I know we are all feeling a little bit sad,
That we've lost our Papa, our friend, and our dad.
Together we have cried an ocean of tears,
As we feel so empty and hold our fears.
But Papa would want us to know he's in a good place,
And that he's watching us all with a smile on his face.
As we have made him so proud, as proud as can be,
That he has raised such a beautiful and special family.

Thinking back now, we really must say,
We feel lucky and privileged to have known Papa to this day.
For in our lives, you have played a special part,
The memories we will treasure and keep close to our heart.
For us we are glad the twins he got to meet,
And for all of us, be grateful for his life is now complete.

To each one of us he has loved and cared,
As a family, be thankful for the good times we shared.
Although he has gone we will always be together,
And his spirit will live on in each of us forever.
When you look to the sky, look for the brightest star,
As that will be Papa looking down on us from afar.

And now we would like to thank the good Lord above,
For blessing us with our Papa, with his kindness and love.
Dear God, if it's not too much of a fuss,
Take extra special care of Dwayne, Mama and Papa, for they are so very dear to us.

Papa, if you are listening say a prayer for us every day.
Be sure to protect us and guide us on our way.
We know when God called you, you had to go,
But we want you to know Papa, we miss and love you so.

Rest in peace Papa. Enjoy that big reunion we know you're having in the sky.
Love, Edna, A.C., Katrina, Alexander & Christian



Papa,
Its breaks my heart to know that you're no longer with us. I'll miss the calls every day just to check in.
I appreciate every moment that we ever shared, and I'm so grateful that you were able to meet Madison, Austin and Aria. I wish you were still here, but I also don't want to be selfish as I know it was your time. It's truly heart-breaking but humbling being happy and sad at the same time. I always thought we would have more time; I just didn't think this day would come so soon.
You would always say to me that you loved Mama so much, you didn't think you would ever get over losing her. Those words completely shattered my heart every time because I knew there was nothing I could do besides listen and wipe the tears away.
Thanks for leading by example, leaving behind a legacy of excellence and huge shoes to fill. You will be remembered forever as a loving and incredible Husband, Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather. I'll love you and miss you forever.

Your Youngest Grandson,
Arek.

Papa – when you get to live to the age that you did, it truly is a blessing. The countless stories about your travels at sea, how you swept Mama off her feet and all the great friends you met along the way. I can still hear the sound of your voice telling me these stories and I hope I always will.

It warms my heart to know that you saw your kids and grandkids grow up and that you were able to meet and spend time with your great-grandkids.

I often wish that I lived life with the freedom and curiosity that you did. Even at the age of 91, you still made it a point to turn on your computer daily and browse the web. Often you would print online articles of interest to you and was never shy about sharing them with us when we visited.

You were born in an era when there were no computers and the fact that you refused to make technology leave you behind, I think speaks to the brilliant man that you were. You persisted, you self-taught and you never stopped wanting to learn. You pursued the things that interested you, that excited you and that you were passionate about. This is living free and that was my Papa.

I remember walking around your shop as a kid with a tape measure clipped to my belt desperately trying to find something to measure. I'm sure you got a real kick out of that but whenever I returned, you would always hand me the measuring tape again. Once I grew tired of pretend measuring, you would take me to Miss Patsy's to buy a pack of skittles and that was our routine. It is a fitting end to our story that I get to call your office, my office and spend many hours of my days in the same place where you spent many of yours.

On September 23rd 2019, my wife and I had our first child. We named him Austin Waide Watler as a tribute to you and the great man that you were. Our son will remember you Papa and he will know what a remarkable father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend you were. I am so privileged to have shared so many of my life's greatest moments with you and I am thankful you were there for them all.

Rest peacefully Papa

Love you always and forever.

Waide, Cari and Aussie



I met Austin when I moved to Grand Cayman in 1968 after marrying my now late husband Sydney, who was Austin's younger and only brother. Austin was always a very kind and considerate individual and a superb provider for his family. I always admired how easy it was for him to publicly display his affection towards his wife and family. Austin was also very devoted and loving towards his late mother Gladys, affectionally known to all her children and grandchildren as "Mama". Whenever Austin returned from sea for a visit, he would always go by and visit Mama on Sunday evenings to keep her company and check up on things. When Austin retired from seafaring and returned home permanently, he would visit more regularly and not necessarily just on Sundays.

Austin was always warm and welcoming towards my children and I. All of the children have fond memories of Uncle Austin, playing with them as youngsters. On a few occasions, when he went by to visit Mama, Aspasia and Jonathan would also be there spending time and he would take them for the drive in the evening to securely lock up and set the alarm to his store, Austin's Appliances. He would then take them for a little drive around George Town, sometimes stopping to buy them an ice cream sandwich before dropping them back to Mama's. As they got older, whenever he saw any of the children, he would always take the time to catch up with them and enquire about the rest of the family. Last August, some of the children were able to go by and celebrate his 91st birthday, with him and his family. It was really a very special occasion.

I was saddened that he could not open his eyes or speak to us on Thursday the 16th of June when we were notified of his grave condition and went to the hospital to visit. I truly hope that he felt our presence and our love for him as we tenderly rubbed his arms and feet.

Austin was truly a reliable and good-natured brother, brother-in-law and uncle to his brother, me and our children. His kind and gentle ways and his unassuming intelligence and wit will surely be missed.

On behalf of my children and I, we extend deepest sympathies to Austin's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. May his precious soul rest in peace.

Legora Piercy and family

Dearest Papa,

We love you dearly and will miss your hugs and kisses and all the excitement caused when we visited with you. We are sad you couldn't stay with us longer to see us grow more.

Your great grandchildren, Madison, Austin, Aria



Austin,

We grew up in Piercy square as brothers and sisters, yet we were really cousins.

We never had a rye word said between us and got along very well.

You were a very loving, intelligent and hard-working person.

Will love and miss you forever,

Your cousin, Sybil

Tribute to a Special Uncle

The Uncle we love remains with us, for love itself lives on. The memories we have will never fade.

We will always remember that special smile, that caring heart and most of all those warm hugs and kisses.

Rest in peace Uncle Austin,

Celie's children, Machado, Dean, Darlene and Jeannie

Dear Mr. Austin,

I have spent 3 ½ years caretaking you after your wifes passing.

Everyday, we talked about many things but you always either began or ended the conversation with a story about the love of your life, your wife. He talked about her every day and did not allow himself to forget her. He knows so much about so many things. He loved to watch the news, baseball games, talk politics and rose to his computer early each morning for updates.

While he was down over his loss, he was not sick until two weeks ago.

I will miss him and all his interesting stories and the many jokes that he shared.

May your soul rest in peace.

Dorothy

Graveside Service

Prayer The Republic of Liberia Pastor Dale Forbes
Scripture Reading LICENSE NUMBER Pastor Dale Forbes
Committal BUREAU OF MARITIME AFFAIRS Pastor Dale Forbes
Hymns (Guitar by Patricia Ebanks) I'll Fly Away

In the Sweet By and By
Father I Place Into Your Hands

LICENSE OF COMPETENCE TO MERCHANT MARINE OFFICER

Benediction to the authority contained in Title 22 of the Liberian Code of Laws of 1956, as amended, it is hereby certified that

JAMES A. PIERCY SR.
has been found duly qualified to perform the duties of
CHIEF ENGINEER
on MOTOR vessels of HULL NUMBER
and is licensed to perform in said capacity on vessels registered under the Maritime Law of Liberia. This license is valid for a term of five years from its date of issuance or renewal and is subject to suspension or revocation by the Commissioner or any Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs.

Some bright morning when this life is over

To that home on God's celestial shore

I'll fly away oh glory

I'll fly away (in the morning)

When I die hallelujah by and by

I'll fly away

When the shadows of this life have gone

I'll fly away

Like a bird from these prison walls I'll fly

I'll fly away

Just a few more weary days and then

I'll fly away

To a land where joys will never end

I'll fly away

Father, I Place Into Your Hands

Father, I place into your hands
The things I cannot do,
Father, I place into your hands
The things that I've been through.
Father, I place into your hands
The way that I should go,
For I know I always can trust you.

Father, I place into your hands
My friends and family.
Father, I place into your hands
The things that trouble me.
Father, I place into your hands
The person I would be,
For I know I always can trust you.

In the Sweet By and By

There's a land that is fairer than day,
And by faith we can see it afar;
For the Father waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there.

Refrain:

In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;
In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.

We shall sing on that beautiful shore
The melodious songs of the blessed;
And our spirits shall sorrow no more,
Not a sigh for the blessing of rest.

To our bountiful Father above,
We will offer our tribute of praise
For the glorious gift of His love
And the blessings that hallow our days.

Father, we love to see your face,
We love to hear your voice.
Father, we love to sing your praise
And in your name rejoice.
Father, we love to walk with you
And in your presence rest,
For we know we always can trust you.

Father, I want to be with you
And do the things you do.
Father, I want to speak the words
That you are speaking too.
Father, I want to love the ones
That you will draw to you,
For I know that I am one with you.

Acknowledgement

The family of the late James Austin Piercy Sr wish to express their heartfelt thanks to Dr. Ulett, Dr. Kreigel, Dr. Campbell and nurses of the George Town Hospital, Bodden Funeral Home and all the family and friends for the love and support offered during our time of loss.