

Celebration of Life for
Restmin “Nellie” Elaine McCoy
30 March 1948 to 14 July 2021



Church of God Chapel
George Town, Grand Cayman
Friday, 13 August 2021
12 Noon

Officiant: Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert Hon
Pianist: Ruby Smith

Interment at Prospect Cemetery

Order of Service

Prelude Ruby Smith
Welcome and Opening Prayer Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert Hon
Hymn: Amazing Grace Congregation
Family Tributes:
 Children Randy Sarju
 Sisters Arek Nicholson
 Solomons Raquel Solomon
 McCoys Harwell McCoy Jr., JP
Eulogy Gina Ebanks-Petrie, JP
Solo: No More Tears Karen Turner
Tribute from Cayman Islands Civil Service Hon. Franz Manderson, MBE, JP
Tribute from Mosquito Research and Control Unit Janet Macmillan, Cert Hon
Time of Reflection Slideshow
Sermon Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert Hon
Hymn: What a Friend We Have in Jesus Congregation
Benediction Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert Hon

Pallbearers

Andrew Solomon
Burns Watson

Fisher Porter
Harwell McCoy Jr.

James Myles
Mark Pessoa

Honorary Pallbearers

Frank Flowers Sr.
Franky Flowers
John Berry

Josiah Berry
Kearney Gomez
Kerith McCoy

Michael Stewart
Toney Reid
Vijar Narayan

Guest Book Attendants & Ushers

Dionicia Moya-Myles
Donna Yen
Ernestine Powell

John Smith
Judy Reid
Robin MccArter

Rose Gabsby
Suzette Riverol

Family Tributes

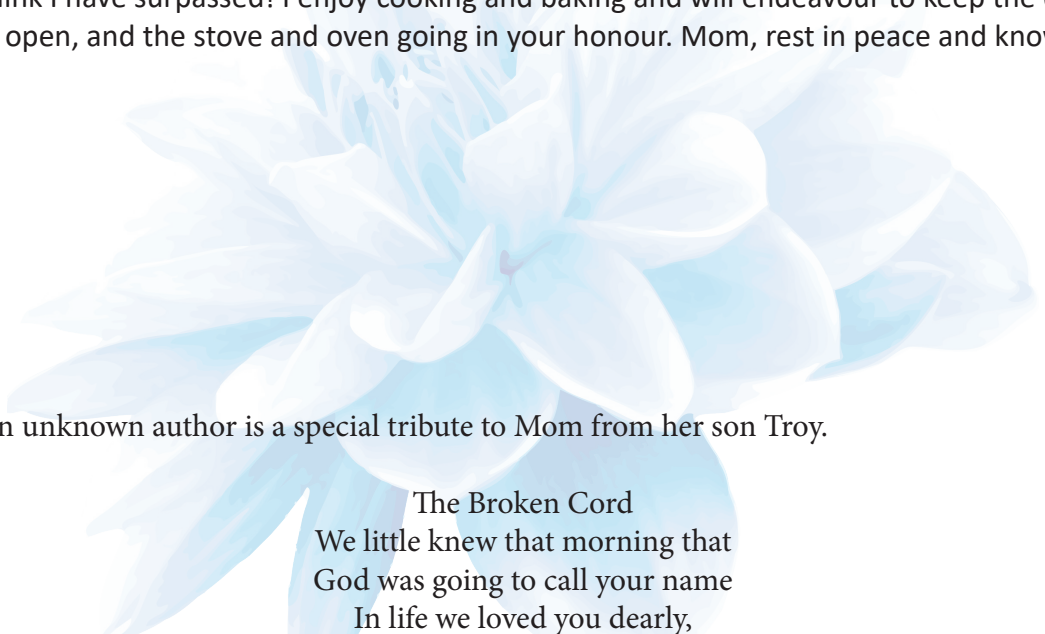
Although life was tough for me with medical challenges shortly after my first birthday, as the first-born child of Nellie and Rupert this created a bond between my parents and me that was special. I continued to receive what I thought was a lot of attention, even after my younger brother Troy came on the scene. Mom was often patient and protective of me growing up. I recall in my earlier years that Mom would not want me to do much work around the house in fear of me hurting myself, and I was thankful when my older 'sister' Joy came to live with us as she helped to carry the load of the household chores. I will always remember Mom loving to have people around her and the house parties with music and dancing that she and dad would often host. I have great memories of those parties which would last the entire weekend!

Over the years, mom and I didn't always see eye-to-eye on life, but we loved and understood each other. It has been difficult for me to watch my mom's health decline over the last several years, but I'm thankful to have been able to be around to provide support and assistance getting her to and from doctor's visits and in the last year to be at her bedside during her time in hospital.

Mom, I am proud of your contribution to our country and for the legacy of generosity, kindness, and warm hospitality that you have left for us to carry on in your honour. Your legacy of being a great cook is one that I would like to think I have surpassed! I enjoy cooking and baking and will endeavour to keep the doors of the McCoy's house open, and the stove and oven going in your honour. Mom, rest in peace and know we've got this covered!

Your daughter,
Dawn

This poem by an unknown author is a special tribute to Mom from her son Troy.



The Broken Cord
We little knew that morning that
God was going to call your name
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
You did not go alone;
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.
You left us peaceful memories,
Your love is still our guide;
And though we cannot see you,
You are always at our side.
Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same;
But as God calls us, one by one,
The Chain will link again.

Your son,
Troy

Mom, when I think of you many words come to mind: generosity, kindness, selfless, compassion, hospitable, love. You have modeled these qualities before your children in so many ways and I am thankful for the example you have set for Dawn, Troy and me. In addition to us, your grandchildren, family and friends have been recipients of these exemplary Christ-like character traits. We are proud to be your children and pray that those same traits might also be seen in us.

As a young child, I experienced those traits in volumes at a critical time in my life when Pops and you invited me into your family and I became big sister to Dawn and Troy. This invitation changed the trajectory of my life and I will forever be grateful. I still recall when Pops and you made the decision to enroll all three of us kids in Triple C School. It was a financial sacrifice that you both agreed to make for us to attend school together and receive the quality education Triple C provided. I will never forget that sacrifice because in doing so I came to know Jesus. As I reflect back over the decades of being your daughter, I remember the long nights writing reports in high school when you sat up with me to provide moral support. I specifically recall the Science project on 'Mosquitos' that you helped me to research and the proud 'A' grade I received for that project! I recall the many nights riding with you in the MRCU fogging truck to keep you company. You used to bribe me with Froot Loops cereal which we would both enjoy nibbling on as you drove 10 miles an hour fogging those dark and lonely roads in the evening. To this day I still enjoy eating Froot Loops and every time I eat them, I think of you. I recall you teaching me to drive a stick-shift car along the South Sound Road and you naming a stop sign 'Joy' because I almost took it down! Today your granddaughters, Jasmine and Indra, are beneficiaries of that lesson as they too can proudly drive standard cars. Another significant memory is your support of my relationship and marriage to Randy who you grew to love as your son. My greatest joy was to watch your baptism after you accepted Jesus as your saviour. What a glorious memory of thanksgiving for this step of faith and for the wonderful women of God, Ms. Doll and Nurse Melissa your caregivers, who invested in your health and knowledge of God. I know you loved and appreciated all they did for you. All of these moments are indelibly written on my heart and memory. I love you, Mom!

Mom, you have left behind a legacy of hospitality that many people in the Cayman Islands will miss. I often tell my friends in Canada that I grew up in a house with a revolving door. A compliment to your open-door philosophy and your gift of hospitality! You have always made more food than our household could possibly eat because "You never know who might drop in". People knew this about the McCoy's household and would happily pop in to see what was cooking. Even today Dawn and Troy carry on the legacy of 'everyone welcome, great food, and warm hospitality'!

Mom, there isn't enough space in this tribute to record all the ways you have impacted and changed my life. These past few years have been difficult for Randy and me to watch you decline in health from a distance, but was grateful for technology that allowed us to see and speak with you. Your significant impact in Cayman with over 50 years at MRCU will always be remembered and may the lives of your children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren continue your legacy in honour of your memory. We love you, Mom. Rest in God's love, grace, mercy and peace.

Your daughter,
Joy

A Tribute to Our Sister Nellie

Life has been filled with ups and downs, moments of happiness and sadness, challenges and disappointments. But we were always sure of one thing... we had each other. We fought, we argued, we disagreed but we never ever left each other. Regardless of our individual conditions, we were a family and family is everything. Sisters have a special bond that is difficult to describe in words. It is easier to illustrate. You see it in the shared meals and the late night chats. It's seen in how we care and love each other's children. It's seen in the quiet moments spent sitting in each other's company on the front porch, catching the evening breeze. We shared a bed as kids and sometimes as adults. We were there for each other's life events. And now we must stick together as the journey ends for another of us.

Nellie, you were a good sister, a good role model, a wonderful support system, a friend. You will be missed for the role you played in our lives and in the fabric of our family but our sadness and grief come second to wishing you peace and an end to your struggle.

We hope you are enjoying life now with your Jesus, Jasmine, Mama and Daddy, Rups and Marvie. They've missed you too and we must share you. Until we meet again Sister. Walk good.

Sisters forever,
Dorothy and Delores

Our Auntie Nellie

So many memories. Phone calls. Hugs. Chats. Drives. Sunday lunches. Christmas dinners. Graduations. Weddings. Vacations. Where do we begin?

How can we put into words what you have meant to us? Who has an Auntie Nellie that can compare? Both you and Uncle Rupert were a constant support system in our lives, bonus parents if you will. Certainly, you both were invaluable in helping to raise Andrew. I know you are proud of the man he has become.

You were always just across the street, available to give a listening ear, show us how to do something, drive us where we needed to go. We always thought Dawn and Troy were so lucky to have you as Mommy was always so hard on us. But as adults, we value those hard lessons. Mommy's tough love made us appreciate the soft shoulder, warm hugs and gentle words you always had at the ready that much more.

Watching you suffer over the last year has been hard. You were always the strong one. The hardworking one. The one who worried about everyone. The one who took care of everyone else.

Who can fill your shoes? No one. Not a soul. Nary a one of us.

You will be missed for all you were and all you will forever be to us.

We will continue to make you proud and we promise to love each other the way you loved us all.

Your Solomon Children

Nicola, Raquel, Salema and Andrew

Dear Grandma (Ama)

We can't believe you're gone; taken from us too soon. There was still so much we wanted to learn from you and share with you.

We will miss you, but we cannot thank you enough for all the memories you have left us with. Sunday lunches where all were welcome and food was in abundance. Sitting on the patio with you, people watching and chatting. Your belly laughs and a smile that brightened our day. Falling asleep beside you and needing your unique scent to fall asleep. Watching you play Ludo--it always gave us a laugh.

We will miss your tender heart, whose worries simply showed how much you cared. You've left a legacy, one we hope to carry forward on your behalf. A legacy that encourages thoughtfulness towards others, giving of yourself and serving others.

Thank you for the memories you've left with each of us. The pieces of YOU that will forever be a part of each of your grandchildren. We will cherish our memories and look forward to the day when we can see you (and grandpa) again.

We love you,

Your four grandchildren,

Jasmine, Indra, Tatty and Tristan

Eulogy

Restmin Elaine McCoy, fondly known as Ms. Nellie, was born on 30 March 1948, in Kingston Jamaica to Rosie and Henry Singh. Nellie was the middle daughter of five, leaving to mourn Dorothy Stewart of Kingston and Delores Solomon of George Town. Nellie is also survived by her children—Joy Sarju (spouse Randy), Dawn McCoy and Troy McCoy, grandchildren—Jasmine Bitgood (spouse Kenny), Indra Sarju, Tatyanna McCoy and Tristan McCoy, a great grandson Theodore Bitgood, and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Nellie's eldest sister, Jasmine, encouraged her to immigrate to the Cayman Islands where she met, fell in love, and married the late Rupert Churchill McCoy in 1967. Nellie and Rupert gave birth to Dawn and Troy and later "adopted" Joy as one of their own. Nellie and Rupert's boundless generosity and kindness extended to all of Nellie's family members, many of whom spent part of their life growing up within the family home. The McCoy household was known in the community for their warm hospitality, generosity, and great food which drew many to their home, relatives and friends alike. It became a natural thing for many, especially the friends of her kids, to address Nellie as "mom".

Nellie's favourite time of the year was Christmas. She loved the decorations, giving gifts, and all the festivities, foods, gatherings and celebrations that come with the season. The Christmas table was always loaded with a variety of foods and at least three kinds of meats, and of course Ms. Nellie's famous fruit cake which will be greatly missed by everyone. Nellie held on to the season as long as possible by delaying the opening of gifts beyond Christmas Day, which was a challenge for those in her household and always led to mischief!

Nellie was introduced to the joys of cruising when Rupert and she were invited on a cruise as chaperones for the Triple C graduating class of 1990. This was the start of a love affair that lasted for many years until a decline in their health prevented further cruises. Nellie loved and looked forward to cruises which provided a break from cooking and was a great way for her to relax with family and friends while exploring other parts of the Caribbean, including a memorable Alaskan cruise.

Nellie joined the staff of Mosquito Research and Control Unit (MRCU) in 1968, and dedicated over 50 years of her life passionately serving to reduce the mosquito population and to identify and help in the eradication of disease carrying mosquitos in the country. Nellie would often be seen behind the wheel of the MRCU fogging truck in the evenings, determined to make the island a more comfortable place for the locals and visitors. Ms. Nellie was awarded the Cayman Islands Certificate and Badge of Honour in June 2019 for outstanding service to the nation, but her greatest honour was the establishment of the 'Nellie McCoy Long Service Award' by Government which will honour other Civil Servants matching Ms. Nellie's record of service. In this way her legacy will live on to motivate and inspire others.

On Wednesday, July 14, 2021, Ms. Nellie passed away peacefully at Health City after a prolonged illness. In her later years Nellie gave her life to Jesus and was baptized and has now gone to her eternal rest. Our family and our country lost an amazing woman.

Nellie, you are loved and deeply missed, and being remembered as an exemplary wife, mother and "mom" to many, grandmother, sister, aunt, sister-in-law, dear friend, and one who gave your all and more to family, friends and country.

Tribute on Behalf of the Civil Service

This afternoon we pay our last respects to a well loved lady and honour her remarkable contribution of 50 years of dedicated service and commitment to the civil service.

Restmin Elaine McCoy, Cert. Hon., or Ms Nellie as she was known, joined the Mosquito Research and Control Unit in 1968. Working under the guidance of renowned entomologist the late Dr. Marco Giglioli she became involved in both the control and the research functions of his work. She was soon entrusted with the responsibility of recording the number and species of the mosquitoes that had been trapped in the different areas of the islands the previous night. This information was essential to the planning of the Unit's control activities. History was made in 1974 when over seven hundred thousand mosquitoes were trapped in one night. The exact count was 793,103 and that was only from one district.

Ms. Nellie's work was not just about reducing the nuisance of the mosquitoes, her special knowledge and painstaking attention to detail were integral to MRCU's mission to protect the people of the Cayman Islands from mosquito borne diseases. With more than 37 different species to look for, she would give the first alert of the presence of a dangerous mosquito.

Ms Nellie was particularly notable for always being willing to take on duties outside of her job description. Her colleagues at all levels knew they could look to her as a reliable source of help and advice and she was one of the most trusted and best loved members of staff.

In recognition of her immeasurable contribution to the work of Mosquito Research and Control she was awarded the Cayman Islands Certificate and Badge of Honour in 2019.

On the occasion of her retirement, in honour of her remarkable tenure, the Civil Service created the Nellie McCoy Long Service Award for any civil servant who reaches 50 years of service.

Our deepest condolences go to the McCoy family.

Tribute From a Friend

Tribute to my dear friend Nellie

'A sweet friend refreshes the soul'

Nellie was a sweet friend, a true friend and I thank God for the gift of her friendship over the last 53 years. Nellie will be remembered as a kind, generous and considerate woman. It would be an understatement to describe her as a loving mother as her motherly love and concern extended beyond her own children to the children of her family and friends. No work was too hard and no sacrifice too big where her children and family were concerned. In her workplace she became a mother figure to many of her younger colleagues who could not fail to recognize her genuine concern for their wellbeing.

I cherish fond memories of our younger days when we were busy with our jobs and families but still made time to get together. Her home was a happy, bustling and cheerful place where children and adults alike gathered to relax, play, eat and party. She was a most charming hostess and her warm and friendly welcome was always followed by sumptuous refreshments. I always left her home feeling blessed and uplifted, in spite of the guilt about the extra calories that I had been unable to resist.

I had expectations of more leisure time and travel together once Nellie retired. It was hard for me to resign myself to the reality that the life of this Godly woman, who had worked so hard and given so much, was ending before she had a chance to enjoy her retirement. But even in her illness her thoughts were for her family and friends. She expressed a deep faith in God and never questioned His will.

When she was hospitalized at Health City I felt a sense of loss and frustration because I couldn't visit her as often as I would have liked. I was not always able to reach her by phone, and on the morning of my birthday this year I was feeling sad because she had not answered the previous day when I called to wish her happy birthday. Then my phone rang and I heard her sweet 'Happy Birthday Jen Jen'. I felt much happier after hearing her voice until it hit me that that was the last time I would hear those words from her.

There is a light in every soul but some shine stronger and longer than others. Nellie's light was strong and bright and it lit up the lives of many people, it just didn't shine long enough. I will miss her light in my life but I will continue to be inspired by her legacy of love, courage and selflessness.

Franz and Paula join me in saying a sad goodbye to our precious friend, and extending sincere sympathy to her family and friends.

Jenny Manderson

Tribute on Behalf of MRCU

This Tribute is from the staff of The Mosquito Research & Control Unit on the passing of our co-worker and friend Mrs. Nellie, Nellie, or Nel as she was affectionately called.

Nellie was employed on 27th May, 1968 as a Laboratory Assistant under the Directorship of the late Dr. Marco Giglioli who taught her to identify over 30 mosquito species, and to learn to spell them as well. Each day, the daily routine was to chloroform the mosquito trap bags and once the mosquitoes were dead the bags were emptied in trays and then taken to the Laboratory where the different species were sorted in petri dishes and counted by using a handheld counter. Once the counting was finished the amounts were handwritten on a Mosquito Data Sheet which was checked by Dr. Giglioli and the Graduate Research Assistants. The decision was then made indicating which districts the fogging trucks or spray plane would fog or spray that night. At the time of Nellie's employment, MRCU was located at the back of the Adventist Church and across from the old Hospital and Dental Clinic. In those days there were millions of mosquitoes on Grand Cayman and many farmers lost their cattle. The Unit had a few Mini Moke vehicles which had a single fogging machine mounted on the back and every night MRCU staff and Volunteers would fog the various districts; note that this programme started from 1966 until the present, 2021 of which Nellie was the first lady who religiously went fogging at night for long hours especially in the Eastern Districts.

Many years later MRCU was demolished and relocated in the North Sound in the building where the Department of Environment and Environmental Health is located. A few years later the new Marco Giglioli (MRCU) building was built on Red Gate Road next to the Water Authority.

Nellie was a kind, loyal and hard-working Civil Servant and took pride in her work. She was very outspoken, you knew if she liked you or not. She never forgot birthdays and Christmas to give gifts to all staff members; especially when she made her delicious fruit cakes, sorrel drink and the best conch fritters on the Island along with her late husband Rupert's conch chowder and had many parties at her home.

During Nellie's career at MRCU she was promoted various times, e. g. on 1st August, 1984 to Laboratory Assistant 1, and some years later, on 1st October, 1997 her position was renamed as Laboratory Technician 1; later, on 1st October, 2017 she was promoted as an Entomology Laboratory Technician until her retirement on 31st March, 2018. She also acquired certificates for various courses held by Clarke Mosquito Control over the years. Nellie loved and cared for her family and worked long hours to help make their lives comfortable and give her children a good education. Many days she would cry and say how worried she was about her family especially Rupert.

After Nellie's retirement she was awarded the Certificate and Badge of Honour on 6th June, 2019 for long service with the Cayman Islands Government (MRCU) which she was proud to receive.

Shortly after, Nellie's health started to deteriorate and was hospitalized at the Cayman Islands Health Services and at Health City in East End. She was happy to have the MRCU staff and her friends visit her during her illness.

Her passing has saddened the MRCU staff, her very close friends and everyone who knew and loved her. We mourn her loss, but we know she is now resting free from all pain and suffering, and most important she is with her Lord and Saviour and her loved ones.

Nellie was loved by all who knew her, her smile and caring ways will always be remembered.

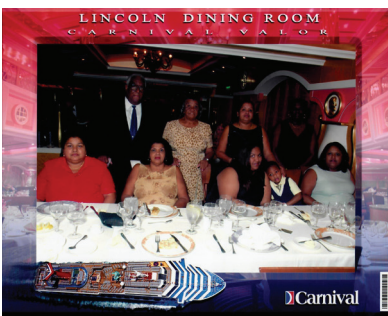
The staff at MRCU have lost a co-worker and friend who will never be forgotten.

Good-bye our friend and may light perpetual shine upon her.



REGAL PRINCESS





Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O 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,
Fill'd with His goodness, lost in His love.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

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 will 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
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

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

One Day At A Time

I'm only human, I'm just a man/woman
Help me believe in what I could be
And all that I am
Show me the stairway I have to climb
Lord for my sake, help me to take
One day at a time

Chorus
One day at a time sweet Jesus
That's all I'm askin' of you
Just give me the strength
To do every day what I have to do
Yesterday's gone sweet Jesus
And tomorrow may never be mine
Lord, help me today, show me the way
One day at a time

Do you remember, when you walked among men
Well Jesus you know
If you're lookin' below, it's worse now than then
Pushin' and shovin' and crowdin' my mind
So for my sake, teach me to take
One day at a time

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.

Graveside Service

Prayer	Pastor Winston Rose, MBE
Floral Tribute	Family
Hymn: <i>Blessed Assurance</i>	Guests
Act of Committal	Pastor Winston Rose, MBE
Hymns: <i>Great is Thy Faithfulness</i>	Guests
<i>In the Sweet Bye and Bye</i>	Guests
<i>One Day at a Time</i>	Guests
<i>When We All Get to Heaven</i>	Guests
Benediction	Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert Hon

Acknowledgement

The family of the late Nellie McCoy would like to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation to family and friends for your prayers, calls, visits and numerous acts of kindness during this difficult time. They would also like to especially acknowledge the care and support provided by Helper Icilda Daley (affectionately known as “Ms. Doll”) and Home Nurse Melissa Hamilton. The family is thankful to the staff of the Dialysis Unit and Drs. Cauderion and Nelson at Cayman Islands Health Services Authority for their years of care, and to the medical team at Health City Cayman Islands for their care over the last few months.

This day was made special by all those who contributed to the Celebration of Life at the church and the graveside service, along with the support of the following:

- Webster’s Tour - transportation
- Party Source - floral arrangements
- Everton Stewart - slideshow
 - Foster’s – catering
- Church of God Chapel George Town; and
 - Bodden Funeral Services.