

THE LIFE STORY OF FLORIENT VICTORINE RANKINE

Florient, affectionately called, Sis Flo, Flo, Old Hen, Florento and Naw Naw depending on who you spoke with; was born in East End on the 18th March 1933 to Florence Jervis and Alcot Pearson. She was the second of nine children. At a tender age, Florient went to live with her grandmother, Martell Pearson and remained with her until her passing and Florient then remained at the same location until her passing as well.

She attended the all age school in East End under the tutelage of Mr. Allen McLaughlin and upon completion of school, went into the working world.

Her first employment was with Mr. Lee at his residence at Peace Bay, Bodden Town. She remained there for a few years and moved on to work at the then Tortuga Club.

As can be seen from a photo, she worked in the kitchen. She was an excellent cook. She enjoyed working there and was very fond of the Bergstrom's.

After many years at Tortuga, she moved to Treasure Island where she worked for many years until she decided to call it quits and retired

She was hardworking and dedicated and was the recipient of awards and recognition for her dedication to tourism over the years.

After retiring she loved to lie and watch television but never forgot to read her Bible and Sunday school lesson. She was the proud mother of two daughters, Sandra and Karen and worked single handedly to ensure they were well taken care of, even after they became adults.

She was united in marriage to Cardinal Rankine on the 12 December 1968 and he preceded her in death on the 23 February 1996.

Florient was a very kindhearted, caring and personable individual. She loved her siblings and would periodically check in on them until she started to experience short term memory problems. She loved her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great- great grandchildren. Always providing them with gifts, especially at Christmas or from one of her many trips overseas.

Many years ago, she brought Janice Dixon, her niece to live with her as she was unwell, cared and nurtured her, assisted by her two daughters, until she could care for herself. Janice always had a great respect for her.

She played a vital role in her granddaughter, Lenecia's life as well. Her great grandchildren, Jevon, Renee (RIP) and Jehnique were very loved and cared for by her from a very young age and would always take them on vacation trips overseas and places locally. Even in her later years, if she bought a plate of food, she would always buy one for Jehnique, even without checking if she wanted one.

Great-great grandson, Jaxon came along later and she looked forward to him visiting on weekends. She loved him and he could always be seen with her in bed or in the backyard, and he loved her in return.

She loved to travel and travelled to the Holy Land on 2 occasions, convention in Hagerstown, Jamaica and Honduras. Oh, how she loved Honduras. She would always hint, 'I wish I could go back one more time'. Her last being in 2017. She also travelled to Panama. Cuba, Miami, Orlando, Tampa, New York and Canada. Went on cruises and visited some other Caribbean Islands as well.

Florient loved Church and after attending for many years became a member and remained until her passing. Her daughter, Karen referred to her as the Treasurer, Technician and Gatekeeper.

Florient always endeavored to be part of the annual conventions hosted by the George Town Church of God (Universal) and played an integral part in our annual all-day services; cooking and baking (and in particular her yam cake). There were times when Sis Reba (may her soul rest in peace), had to travel overseas or spend time by her daughter and she would entrust Florient with the money and keys until her return. She loved taking on these duties.

On Tuesday 18th January 2022 she went to check if the Church was open for night service and attended Church that night. Sometimes she was accompanied by her cousin Sis Glenda and there were times when she called for her, 'Flo lets go' she would reply, 'Glenda you think I don't know where the Church is?'. Although Sis Glenda probably never heard her response.

Every Sunday after service, she would go to get the offering to put in order for Sis Veta, this she did until Sunday, 15th January. Sometimes she was assisted by her great granddaughter Nashae.

She was a great reader and would always read in Sunday School and mind you, no one could make a mispronunciation; she was there to correct them. Be it the Pastor or someone else in the class. On many occasions she was the narrator for the Plays during concerts.

She was feisty at times. Told her daughter, Karen when she said to her that she does not recall her being this way early in life, her response was 'I was always like this'. She was a precious soul, loved by so many, had a good sense of humor and never failed to let you know how she felt about anything.

She started to experience short term memory issues in 2013 (it was noticed by her granddaughter, Shawna on a trip to Canada) and became very stubborn over the years. When she said no, it was no. Her children felt sad that they could not do the things for her that they would have loved to do but nonetheless, continued to do their best.

On the 19th of January she told her children she was not feeling well over her body and on the evening of the 20th January, she quietly took her departure. When Karen visited her and called out to her, she gasped and took her last breath. Oh, the shock and pain; it was surreal. Neither Sandra nor Karen could understand how she was there talking one minute and the other she was gone. We were reminded of the scripture found in James 4:14 "whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is life? It is even a Vapor, that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away".

Her passing left a void in our hearts and will surely be missed, especially by her immediate family, close friends and Church family.

Florient was preceded in death by her husband, Cardinal Rankine, mother, Florence Jervis and father Alcot Pearson. Sister, Marie Forbes and brother Reginald Jervis and great granddaughter, Renee Watler that she mourned for, for many months, even keeping her program under her pillow.

She is survived by children, Sandra and Karen.
Sisters, Gaynell Dixon, Udell Scott and Janilee Dixon.

Brothers, Stancial, Lenard and Sidney Jervis.

Son-in-law, Harvard Gourzong

Stepson, Sidney Moore

Sisters-in-law, Sharon and Moveta Jervis

Grandchildren, Lenecia, Shakira and Shawna

Great Grandchildren, Jevon, Jehnique, Nashae and Navaeah

Great great great grandchildren, Jaxon and J'Aliyah

Cousins, (especially Sis Glenda Elliott), nephews, nieces, (in particular Janice Dixon) and Church family.

The son she did not have, Dwayne McLaughlin. A host of other relatives and friends, especially, Sis Joan Ebanks and David Rankine (who was always checking for her on Sunday nights).

MAY HER BEAUTIFUL SOUL FIND PEACE, AND LIGHT PERPETUAL SHINE UPON HER.