

Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of
William Carlington Watler
a.k.a. Bill, Billy, and Mr. Watler



December 10, 1950 - April 9, 2023

**Church of God Chapel – George Town
Walkers Road, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands**

Date: Saturday, April 22, 2023

Time: 2:00pm

Officiating Minister: Pastor Alson Ebanks

Pianist: Ms. Cathy Gomez

Interment at: Spotts Cemetery

Order of Service

Musical Prelude.....Ms. Cathy Gomez
Opening Remarks and Prayer..... Pastor Alson Ebanks
Scripture Reading.....Lamentations 3:22-26.....Ms. Jonina Frederick
Opening Hymn....."Because He Lives"..... Congregation

Tributes from:

Grandchildren.....Ms. Petrina Moore
Daughters.....Ms. Danette Watler-Mclaughlin
& Kristen Watler-Miller
Wife.....Ms. Annie Ebanks

Slide Show Presentation

(arranged by Ms. Julie Adam)

Life Story.....Mr. Samuel Rose
Sermon.....Pastor Alson Ebanks
Closing Hymn....."When We All Get To Heaven"..... Congregation
Benediction and Prayer.....Pastor Alson Ebanks

Pallbearers

Mr. Robert Berry
Mr. Tommy O. Ebanks

Mr. Anthony Echenique
Mr. Ivan Forbes

Mr. Christopher Echenique
Mr. Andre Scott

Honorary Pallbearers

Mr. Mike Adam
Mr. Bobby Banks
Mr. Ernie Bodden
Mr. Roland Bodden
Mr. Allan Bush
Mr. Freddy Cayasso
Mr. Claude Ebanks (in memoriam)
Mr. Davie Ebanks
Mr. Chet Gomez
Mr. Kearney Gomez
Mr. Paul Faber
Mr. Dave Hicks

Mr. Lyle Hill
Mr. Patrick McCaslin
Mr. Ben Mclaughlin
Mr. Corey Mclaughlin
Mr. Donald Mclaughlin
Mr. Jerris Miller
Mr. Justin Miller
Mr. Malik Miller
Mr. Joseph Minzett
Mr. Orren Ogilvie
Mr. John Rankin
Mr. Mckenzie Robinson

Mr. Gary Ryder
Mr. Mark Ryder
Mr. Mike Ryder
Mr. Richard Ryder
Mr. Dan Scott
Mr. John Swanson
Mr. Jim Vanloo
Mr. Bob Watler
Mr. Brainard Watler
Mr. Carlton West
Mr. Mackie Whittaker
Mr. Norman Wilson

Funeral Registry Attendants

Ms. Tanya Wright
Ms. Christa Tibbetts-Burgos

Ushers

Ms. Jeannette Watler
Ms. Felicia Deslandes

Life Story of the Late William Carlington Watler

Reliability, honor, dignity and respect: these are all qualities that Mr. Billy not only held in high esteem, but practiced every day during his time with us. He was a humble and disciplined man, with a quiet demeanor, but to those who knew him he was “real” and told it like it was; and was always ready to enjoy a good laugh.

William Carlington Watler – affectionately known as Bill, Billy, or Mr. Watler, was born in the heart of George Town on December 10, 1950 to Desmond Vere Watler and Wilma Margaret Watler (nee Ryder), and was their only child. Born during a Nor’wester, it’s no wonder he enjoyed watching and listening to stormy weather pass by.

In his early years, Bill attended Triple C School, where his mother was a founding missionary and teacher. He also grew up attending Elmslie Memorial Church, where his father was an Elder until his passing.

Bill left Cayman to finish his last few years of high school in Kalamazoo, Michigan, which was where his mother was originally from. He lived with his U.S. family and attended the Kalamazoo Community College. Upon return to Cayman in 1967, he was employed as bookkeeper with Mariculture (now Cayman Turtle Centre) and went on to join the C.I. Public Works Dept, driving heavy equipment and building many of the roads on island.

He met the love of his life, Darene Powery, at the age of 17 but their relationship did not truly start until her return to island from living a short tenure in New York. They were united in marriage November 26, 1977.

From this union, Bill and Darene had two daughters, Danette and Kristen. He was a most loving husband, and the two were practically inseparable in their day to day lives. His love for his girls was everlasting – Bill was proud of them and passed on so many life lessons to ensure their independence in this world.

Bill’s lifelong career within the airline industry took him through Republic Airlines, Northwest Airlines, American Airlines, and of course, Cayman Airways, of which he retired in 1998 as Station Manager. Known throughout this industry, even now, as one of the most “fair” and “honest” bosses around; his girls are still referred to as “Mr. Watler’s daughters” to this day and treasure it each time it is said.

Bill and Darene had a wonderful group of friends, and their home was known to be the social hot spot to hang out. He enjoyed having friends over and they were known to end up playing dominos well into the night.

Bill loved being on the water and fishing. He was so happy to have his boat “Fishful Thinking” and was blessed to have been able to spend a lot of time doing just that.

In 2008, Bill welcomed both of his grandsons, Corey & Malik. He cherished this time and was now a proud and bragging grandparent. In 2013 he was able to welcome his granddaughter Imani. They were his pride and joy and some of his greatest times were picking them up after school.

The seeds of faith that were planted by his parents so long ago blossomed in his later years, and Bill found a relationship with the Lord. Bill and Darene enjoyed their daily devotionals and prayed often together.

In December 2020, Bill’s health started to decline when he was first diagnosed with lung cancer, but his resolute spirit kept him going and he remained his ever independent self.

In early 2022, he faced another cancer diagnosis of a brain tumor, but again defied and challenged the disease in his fight to never give up. Bill underwent another surgery and received treatments to maintain his health.

The ever unfortunate news of the brain tumor returning came in January 2023 and though keeping his positive outlook, this round of surgery and treatments were a harder battle to overcome.

Thankfully, Bill was eventually able to leave the hospitals and return home to recover where he was most comfortable. His wife Darene and family friend, Nadine Willis, were his caregivers until the end, when he passed peacefully in the early morning hours of April 9, 2023.

Left to mourn his passing are his wife Darene. Daughters, Danette & Kristen. Son-in-law, Justin Miller. Grandchildren, Corey, Malik & Imani. Special cousin Brainard Watler. And a host of other relatives and many friends.

William Carlington Watler, is now resting peacefully in the arms our Lord. May he have eternal peace until we meet again.

Precious Memories





Tribute to our friend, Billy

Billy, you have accomplished so many good things in life. You worked hard, set a great example for others to follow, and loved your family and friends unconditionally. The path you have laid down is one thing worth emulating. You might have left us, but I will never forget all we did together.

As I write this, I remember how we always traveled together in a pack to frequent Apollo 11, Galleon Beach, or wherever Ernie and his band, The Tornados, were performing. Berkeley's Theatre was the place to be on a Saturday night on our bicycles. It was said that no matter where we were, as long as we were together, it was always a good time to be had!

Although we drifted apart later in life, we will always have our bond from a young age into adulthood. Even our years at Cayman Airways together was truly an unforgettable experience. Every day at work was always a new adventure. We grew up together, spent careers together, celebrated marriages and raised our children together. We were blessed to have cemented a bond that will never be broken.

One of the last visits of the "original crew" was at Morgan's for lunch. It was You, John Arthur, Ernie and me. (Roland was unable to make it.) We had a wonderful time reminiscing about our escapades as young boys. I am so glad we were able to get a picture of this rare moment.

I am thankful that Ernie and I had a chance to see you and catch up for a bit a few weeks ago. I will never forget you saying "Mike, it's so good to hear your voice". It reminded me of better times.....simpler times. It was not easy to read that message of your passing on Easter Sunday, there is a void. However, you have left me with so many memories to cherish of all the good times we have shared together through life's journey.

You sleep well, my friend, until we meet again. We will take care of Darene, Danette, Kristen and the grandkids.

Love, Mike.



Billy - The loss of a friend like you is something that will be difficult to recover from. You have always been an important part of my life. Now I bid you farewell. I pray that you shall Rest In Peace.

John

From a very early age, Billie and I became very close friends beginning when he would spend time with his Aunt Connie. During his early teenage years, he left home to continue his studies in Kalamazoo, and on his return for the holidays I would be among the first that he contacted. We were often referred to as "The Twins".

Then of course came our careers, marriages and kids, but we still found time to hang out together to enjoy Darene's cooking, Super Bowl, World Series, fishing and the rest of the stuff too much to mention. However, in the later years we seemed to have strayed a bit when he moved to Newlands, but we still touched base occasionally even if it was electronically.

Sitting one day at HCCI, up comes Billie, who relayed his illness to me, I was speechless. After he was hospitalized, Mike and I went to visit him, we left heartbroken and wondering if we would ever see our friend alive again.

I might not remember the exact date, but I will always remember that it was on Easter Sunday Morning that I received the WhatsApp from Darene advising of his passing. Torn apart, I passed my phone to my wife and asked her to reply for me.

RIP, my friend, I will forever cherish the memories.

Ernie

A Tribute to my Cousin Billy

Billy, it's hard to believe that I am penning these few words today.

As the older of the two of us I remember when you were born. A little boy loved and doted on by both parents and who showed the same to them.

We didn't get the joy of growing up together as I was already a teen when you came along and then I left for sea, but as adults and especially after retirement we would go on to share many special moments together mostly on the back porch of my home looking out at the sea. Conversations I will now hold onto as precious memories.

We cannot question God and may not understand why your life ended earlier than we would have wished but gain comfort that you are reunited with your parents and mine in the great beyond.

"Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day... Unseen, Unheard but always near..... Still loved, Still Missed and Very Dear."

Your Cousin, Brainard

Tribute from Billy's close buddies, Bushy, Davy and Mackie :

So many memories over the years, always with that wonderful way of looking at life. Hanging out at Salty's watching NFL football and Billy rooting for his beloved Detroit Lions.

Going fishing on Davy's boat, catching wahoo, and that great party at Macabuca for his 60th birthday with his family and friends.

Thanks for being a great friend and neighbour, we will miss you, Billy, but you will always be a part of us.



Tribute from Freddie (German) Cayasso

I have known Bill most of my life and have known him to always be such a kind, supportive friend at all times. Bill is like a brother and a best friend that I am very fortunate to have had in my life.

Bill and Darene also gave me the great honour of being Godfather to Danette, their eldest child.

I am so lucky to have such wonderful memories of such fun times spear fishing, cooking and generally having a very good time with good friends. I love and will miss you always Bill, your friend Freddie.

God Bless you all

In Memory of a Special Brother-In-Law

Bill although you are no longer physically with us, you will forever remain in our hearts and your spirit will always be felt. Thank you for coming into our lives and enriching all of us. You were an amazing person and a shining example to us all. Bill had such a calmness about him and was such a gentle and kind soul to anyone who met him. Of all the gifts in our lives however great or small, having Bill as our brother- In- Law was surely one of the greatest.

Just to mention one of Bill's outstanding attributes he was such a caring and devoted husband to our sister Darene. One of his last thoughts shared with Gina was to always come by to visit Darene, as she would need us in the days ahead. He was a wonderful Father to our nieces Danette and Kristen & loving Grandfather to his Grandchildren.

God looked around in his garden and found an empty space, then looked down upon this earth and saw your tired face. He put his arms around you and lifted you to rest. God's garden must be beautiful He only takes the best.

Sweet is the sleep that ended your pain. We would not wake you to suffer again. We will miss you greatly!

Rest in eternal peace dear Bill.

Your Brothers and Sisters In law. Donald, John, Monica, Lyle, Launa, McKenzie, Gina and Frances

Tribute to my friend and mentor, Mr. Watler

I first met Mr. Watler at Cayman Airways in 1990, we became close friends and shared a special bond, which evolved into a father - son like relationship.

I have never met a person with such an exceptional personality, high aspirations, and a willingness to extend a helping hand to anyone in need. Most importantly, his family came first and was at the center of his decisions. Which he constantly reminded me of when I sought his advice.

The memories of the good times we shared, our fishing trips, NFL games, pool nights, will forever remain a treasure.

There is so much more which I could say, but for now I want to leave with rest in peace my "Detroit Lions Fan". Although you've left this earthly life to dwell in the heavenly skies, know that friendship never dies.

Rest in eternal peace my friend.

Robert Berry

Tribute from Ms. Nadine

Mr. Bill, For all the years I have known you, you have been a kind, loving, and caring person. You did not consider me as the helper, but a part of your family. As I say my final goodbye to my friend and boss; my thoughts are always with you. Your place, no one can fill.

RIP Mr. Bill,
Nadine

Graveside Service

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| Opening Remarks & Prayer..... | Pastor Alson Ebanks |
| Laying of Family Floral Tributes..... | <i>“Morning Has Broken”</i> Pre-Recorded Music |
| Committal..... | Pastor Alson Ebanks |
| Hymns..... | <i>“Blessed Assurance”</i> Congregation <i>“I’ll Fly Away”</i> |
| Benediction & Prayer..... | Pre-Recorded Music Pastor Alson Ebanks |

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, 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,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

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).

Refrain:

I’ll fly away, Oh Glory
I’ll fly away; (in the morning)
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by,
I’ll fly away (I’ll fly away).

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

Acknowledgements

*The family would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our relatives and friends
for their support offered in our time of need.*

A special thanks to Health City Cayman Islands, Baptist Health Miami, Jasmine Cayman, & Dr. Sook Yin.

*Another special thanks to Ms. Nadine Willis for her unconditional support
and her years of assistance with the entire family.*

God Bless You All.