

Thanksgiving Service for the Life of



ALTHIA (ALTHEA) MARICE POWELL

JANUARY 31ST 1923 - MAY 14TH 2023

*“There are some who bring a light so great to the world,
That even after they have gone, the light remains.”*

**John Gray Memorial Church
24 West Church Street, West Bay**

Friday, 26th May 2023 @ 3:30pm

Officiating Minister:

REV. DONOVAN MYERS

ORGANIST

MS. KATHERINE JACKSON, Cert. Hon.

INTERMENT AT WEST BAY CEMETERY

Order of Service

Pre-service music - Katherine Jackson

Minister's Opening Comments Rev. Donovan Myers

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Life of Althia Marice Powell Bryan Bothwell

Song- "Amazing Grace" Congregation

Life Story Alice Mae Coe

Solo- "His Eye is on the Sparrow" Rupert Ackerman

Scripture Reading- Genesis 2: 8-15 Ora Hollebbon/ Loxley Banks

Sermon Rev. Donovan Myers

Prayer Rev. Donovan Myers

Closing Hymn "Blessed Assurance" Congregation

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Althea Powell

Pallbearers

Recognised for participating in the 1957 petition to allow women the right to vote.
A defining moment in the history of the Cayman Islands.

Mitchell Welds
Richard Welds
Michael Hydes

Clarence Bothwell
Rolando Hydes
Louie Hydes, Sr.
Mark Hydes



Betty Ebanks

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton, Jr. MP
Minister for Sustainability & Climate Resilience

CELEBRATE
CAYMAN

Ushers

Arthurlynn Pedley

Andrea Bothwell

Date

Guest Book Attendant
Pamela Watler



Cayman Islands
Government

The Life Story of ALTHIA (ALTHEA) MARICE POWELL

On 31st January 1923 a baby girl was born to Adullah Powell nee Hydes and her husband Charles Powell. She was a beautiful baby, and her parents gave her a beautiful name Althia Marice, "Althea". Her father returned to his work overseas and never established a relationship with Althea. However, her mother had the support of the small neighbourhood of close family and friends who played a significant role in Althea's upbringing. Althea grew up in a charming cottage by the sea on Boggy Sand Road and thrived under the loving care and guidance of her mother and devoted grandmother and the watchful eye of the friends and family.

Althea was a bright and loving child, and she enjoyed helping her mother with her housework and crafts. She was a fast learner, and she quickly became adept at plaiting and other crafts. She sold the usual practical thatch work like hats and baskets, but her creative and entrepreneurial spirit led her to start making colourful slippers made of dyed sisal. These lovely slippers were a refreshing change from the more utilitarian thatch items, and they soon gained popularity in the community as novelty items and gifts.

At age 7 Althea was enrolled in the nearby Government school where she proved to be an enthusiastic learner. She was especially good at arithmetic and after she left school, she had no difficulty using this skill to help her get a job in one of the many small shops that dotted the West Bay business centre at that time. The custom in West Bay then was for shops to open in the morning from around 8 am till noon. Between noon and 3pm everything was quiet as it was siesta time. Since Althea lived only a short walk from work, she was able to enjoy this time with her mother and continue her craft work. She would return to work by 3 o'clock and be back home before dark when the shops closed.

As Cayman began to emerge from its reputation as The Islands Time Forgot, jobs became available in Government, banks, and small hotels and other businesses in George Town. With the advent of large supermarkets in Town some of the smaller shops in West Bay closed and Althea realized it was time for her to spread her wings. Before long she found a job at Seaview Hotel, a small but busy resort in South Sound which was owned by Dorothy and Frank Roulstone. This was not an easy decision for her because she had never been far away from her mother, and since the tourism business involved long and irregular working hours transportation between West Bay and South Sound would be difficult. However, Althea wanted her aging mother to cut back on her work and this job was, at that time, her best option. In that era there were only a few cars in West Bay that took passengers to and from George Town, but Althea solved the transportation gap by renting a room from a friend who lived in Town and using her days off to come home to her mother. Sometimes she rode to and from work on her bicycle.

At work she became very popular and was well respected by staff, local customers, and overseas guests. She was one of our early, but unsung, tourism ambassadors. A good example of her influence on visitors is found in a 2012 ERA publication. "We were so charmed. Miss Althea was our first experience of true Caymanian hospitality, off the beaten track if you will, and a key factor in our deciding to live here."

After a while the old family home where Althea and her mother lived became unsafe. Althea decided to embark on her first construction project – a new home with modern conveniences where they would be safe and comfortable. She completed this successfully and the home stands at 72 Boggy Sands Road.

When it became necessary for Althea to be closer on hand for her mother, she left the job in the tourism industry and returned to the retail business working as a salesclerk and cashier in Comart (then one of the big grocery stores in Town) and later at Cayman Drug Store. Now working regular business hours, Althea could return home to her mother every evening.

Althea enjoyed her jobs and, always striving to do better, she took advantage of every opportunity to learn and move up the ladder. During her early career her duties ranged from menial tasks to customer service and sales, but she had a dream of something bigger and better. She did not have an idle dream; she had a plan. Confident in her ability to achieve, she boldly embarked on the construction of two small cottages on the beach near her home. She delighted in being the owner and manager of a thriving tourism accommodation and bicycle rental business, aptly named "Althea's Cottages". The business was well supported by friends from her previous tourism job, some of whom continued to visit her in her home during her retirement. Unfortunately, the cottages were destroyed by a hurricane in 2004. This was a major disappointment to Althea. She wasn't ready to stop working but realized that starting over was not feasible. Having started her career as a store clerk, and reaching the position of developer, owner and manager of tourist resort, retirement at age 81 was not a bad idea at all!

In her limited spare time and in retirement Althea enjoyed travelling and socializing with family and her wide circle of friends. She took a keen interest in politics and was one of the West Bay women who, in 1957, signed the petition for women to be given the right to vote. In 2017, at the age of 94, she bluntly refused to vote by postal ballot, and with the help of friends she proudly went to the polling station to cast her vote. Reflecting on Althea's life we see a strong, ambitious woman with an indomitable spirit. We see a loving daughter who made sacrifices to ensure her mother's wellbeing and to secure her own independence. We can admire her ingenuity, and her determination not to be defined by her humble start in life. Her life was a true success story.

Althea passed away peacefully at her home on Boggy Sand Road on Sunday 14th May 2023 at the age of 100 years.

May her soul rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon her.

Graveside Service

Opening Remarks: Rev. Donovan Myers
Prayer Rev. Donovan Myers
Song- "Blessed Assurance" Pre-Recorded
Act of Committal Rev. Donovan Myers
Lords Prayer & Benediction Rev. Donovan Myers
Pre-Recorded music

Acknowledgement

A warm Thank You to all friends, family, caregivers and guardians
who so lovingly and diligently cared for
Althia over the years.

Donations accepted at Jasmine in lieu of flowers.