

# Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of



*William Richard Jones*

November 28, 1978 - June 6, 2023.

Garden of Reflections  
Thursday June 29, 2023  
4:00-5:00 p.m.

Grand Old House Gathering to follow

Officiating Minister  
Pastor Randy Von Kanel

# Order of Service

Opening Remarks and Pray ..... Pastor Randy Von Kanel

Tributes:

Wife  
Brothers

Eulogy (Life Story)

A Word of Comfort ..... Pastor Randy Von Kanel.

Floral Tribute ..... Family

The Committal ..... Pastor Randy Von Kanel

Benediction ..... Pastor Randy Von Kanel

*Grand Old House Gathering to follow*

## Pallbearers

Mr. Robert Jones  
Mr. Nicholas Jones  
Mr. Jonathan Ebanks

Mr. Emil Terry  
Mr. Johnny Doak  
Mr. Ben Tresidder

### Robert Jones – A tribute to Will

Son. Brother. Uncle. Husband. Father. Legend.

These are all big roles to fill and I watched Will fill them all with ease and honour. Will was not only loved by family and close friends, but he was greatly respected by our community, especially in his profession.

Will was a true role model and someone to look up to, and I was lucky enough to have him as my big brother and Godfather to my oldest son, Jonny.

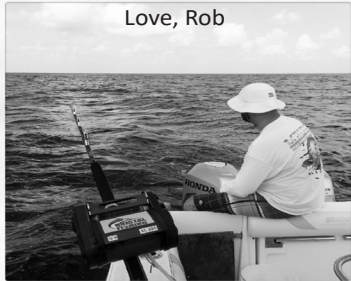
Will, you were in my life from day one, and the 41 years we spent together, certainly weren't enough. From our days at boarding school together, fishing trips, watching football, domino games and family gatherings; which in recent years included our children who we would get to watch grow up together, as we did.

We will continue to do all of these things, but it will never be the same. Your legacy will always live on through the memories we share. We will keep telling the stories and one day we will laugh again. There will always be a seat for you at the domino table.

Watch over us and send us some big fish for the next tournament.

You will be missed and forever loved.

Love, Rob



### Joyce Jones – A tribute “To my husband”

To my love,

Wow we had an amazing 7 years... I'm glad we filled it with so much fun and love and ordinary goodness. You were an amazing man - loving, intelligent, pure, joyful, loyal, and grateful for life. Typing these words in past tense seems like such a shame for the world, it's people like you that make the world such a pleasure to live in.

We made alot of great memories, picking one to tell people about is very hard. There was the time you realized, about 3 months into dating, that I actually could cook.... You were shocked and laughed so hard that I never told you, because I just let you cook for me for 3 months. Or when we travelled to New Zealand together for vacation, I didn't know, but you had my engagement ring in your pocket through the airport and on the plane, I kept trying to cuddle and rub your leg and you would get all weird and stand offish, I was sure something was wrong.... Little did I know, we went up to the top of a mountain in New Zealand and you were looking for the most beautiful view for a selfie of us... I was like, um who are you and what did you do with Will Jones (he never liked selfies), and before I knew it you were on your knee on the top of this beautiful mountain in New Zealand, asking if I would make you the happiest man and marry you... it was just so special, the kind of special where time stops, and you're just so happy that nothing else around you matters.

Then we had our babies, I had never seen you so happy before in our whole life together, you were smiling ear to ear, glowing everyone said, for months and months. It was an absolute pleasure watching you become their daddy. I could talk about all the fishing trips and family gatherings and beach walks and just lazy sundays in our house together enjoying our kids... I could go on for hours. You were an outstanding husband and the best daddy these kids could have ever imagined.

I promise to carry on the deep unconditional love you showed us and I promise to live our lives lightheartedly and joyfully no matter what. You worked so hard for what we have now and we thank you for everything, we just wish we had more time. Maddy and Rory have grown to become your twins, they were your best friends, and we will always miss you more than anything.

Your wife,

Joyce

### Nicholas Jones – A tribute to Will

As the 3rd of 4 Jones boys I consider myself lucky to have grown up with Will as our big brother. Will was always a protector and role model who I always aspired to be like. From his calm demeanor, his smart and dry sense of humor to his drive and work ethic. He was truly someone who you could look up to and not just because he was 6'3".

Will was an avid fisherman who like Rob and myself became obsessed with broadbill swordfish. So much so that he would name his boat "Chasin' Broads". One of our most memorable catches to date was in April 2014. Will and I went out to "soak some baits" as we often referred to swordfishing, because most days that's just what you did... Soaked the baits and stared at the rod tip waiting for a knock which never came. On this particular day we set up for our first drift off 7 Mile Beach and not long into the drift I noticed the line was totally slack, which meant 1 of 2 things... either something had cut us off and we'd lost all of our gear, or a swordfish had taken the bait and was swimming up towards the surface with it. I had a good feeling we were on, so I shouted to Will "we're hooked up! Switch the reel on". As Will switched the electric reel on I put the motors into gear and drove the boat away from the fish to get tight. Sure enough, we were very very tight and within a couple of minutes the fish started peeling line. Then it changed directions and proceeded to swim up to the surface from 1700ft and jumped out of the water. We both looked at each other in disbelief as neither of us had seen a swordfish this size before. After the fish breached it went back down to around 500ft and parked itself in a thermocline. It was then a game of inches, we would gain a few and the fish would take it right back. At one point the old electric reel we were using lost power and we thought we would lose the fish. I started pounding on the side of the reel and thankfully it came back on. Will was able to get the fish boat side after about an hour and I ran over from the helm with the gaff and sunk it into the fish. Only then did the fish get mad! It went berserk and began thrashing its 4ft long bill around like a double-edged sword. I shouted to Will get another gaff and I grabbed onto the bill. I held on for dear life while being thrown around like a rag doll as Will put a second gaff in the fish and we both held on for a few minutes before the fish would settle down. Once we had the fish under control we both were celebrating like madmen, we had finally landed the beast that we had spent many years looking for! We dragged the fish into the boat and headed back to the dock to be greeted by the family. I could tell Rob was a little jealous that he'd missed the trip, but he was also very proud of us for landing the beast. The fish measured 84" from the fork in the tail to the lower jaw (excluding the bill) and we estimated it to be over 250 pounds. This is just one of many amazing memories on Chasin' Broads that I will cherish forever.

More recently Will had found and married the love of his life, Joyce. Will and Joyce bought their dream home where they began raising their family. Will truly had it all, a lovely wife, two beautiful children Maddy and Rory, and he had made Partner at his law firm. He had worked extremely hard to get to where he was, but the fruits of his labor were amazing to see. You honestly couldn't find a happier or prouder dad. Now that he is gone, I will do whatever I can to see that his two babies are looked after as I know he would do the same for me.

Rest in Peace Bro and give our little brother Jonny a big hug from me. **Love Nick**

## Life Story for William Richard Jones

William Richard Jones was born in Manchester UK, on 28th November 1978, the first born child of Richard and Linda (Sally) Jones.

Richard, Sally and baby William arrived in Grand Cayman in April 1980 as Richard had secured employment here on a one year work permit as a Chartered Quantity Surveyor.

Forty three years later Grand Cayman is still the family home. William was joined by three brothers, Robert James born in August 1981, Nicholas John born in April 1984 and Jonathan Michael born in May 1989. Something is to be said for the fact that there was no TV in Cayman in those days. The boys grew up happily together in South Sound at their parents home, which is still the family home today. Cayman was a much different place back then and the boys grew up here enjoying fishing, surfing and generally hanging out at the beach with their many friends, the "South Sound Crabs" Will used to call them.

William went to Mr. Bud's preschool before attending Cayman Prep School. In those days there was no Prep High School and a huge decision was reached when it was decided that William should go to boarding school in England at age 11. William being William took to boarding at Rossall School in Fleetwood, Lancashire and spent 7 happy years there. His grandmother Pamela Davidson was a wonderful help during this time. Although she may have disapproved of her grandson being sent to boarding school, Pamela was most supportive to the family during this time. William loved his Nan.

After finishing sixth form at Rossall, William attended Manchester University where he studied law. Whilst at university William was able to follow his and his father's passion in supporting his football team Manchester United, following them throughout the UK and Europe. Come on you Reds!

After graduating with his law degree, William completed his legal practice course, and then returned home to Grand Cayman. William commenced working here in the legal profession at Boxall & Co in 2003 (now called Ogier), and was still there almost 20 years later, he loved his work family.

William's love of football continued throughout his life. A couple of highlights were attending the Champions League final in Barcelona in 1999 with his Dad and Uncle Garry, when his beloved United won the Treble! A trip to Moscow in 2008 with his Dad was another great trip winning the Champions League again after extra time and a penalty shootout.

William loved fishing and enjoyed nothing more than going out in his boat with brothers and friends, fishing in all the tournaments. He named his boat "Chasin' Broads" referring to their love of swordfishing.

Will was always a family man, in his 40s he was still calling his mom, "mama". He looked just like his mama and loved her deeply. He used to come home and tell detailed stories about his day, just like she did. Will idolized his dad so much, sometimes they would be caught wearing the same outfit or saying the same sentences even when they were apart. They recently started golfing together and they always shared their love for the same books and football news articles. Will was such a great Uncle to his nephew Jonny Jones, niece Emma Jones, nephew Robbie Jones, and his newest niece Violet Fitzgerald. Playing with his children, nephews, and nieces in the pool or on the boat was one of his favorite ways to spend the weekend.

Will and Joyce were set up by a mutual friend in 2016 and went on their first date that summer. Will and Joyce bonded over their love for date nights, beach walks, boat days, and their families. They married in 2020, with a beautiful wedding in Little Cayman (their favorite vacation spot). They then hopped on a plane and went to Bora Bora for their honeymoon, another dream come true. Very soon after the wedding, they became pregnant. Will always wanted the sex of the baby to be a surprise at birth and their little girl! Madeline Jones was born in February 2021. Will's face when he saw she was a girl was priceless. His jaw dropped in a perfect mix of shock and happiness. Since Madeline was so cute and loved, soon to follow was their little boy, Rory Jones, born in November 2022. Will's family was now complete. He was the happiest and most proud Dad you could ever meet. It was an incredible joy to watch him grow as a father. He was often referred to as "Super Dad" by those who watched him on his daily morning walks in South Sound.

A significant accomplishment was when Will was appointed as partner in Ogier's Cayman Islands Dispute Resolution team in 2020, a very long-standing career goal. He was referred to as a "Caymanian litigation expert" and "industrious and meticulous - a litigation heavyweight". Will worked on many of the most important cases in Cayman, with a practice covering commercial litigation, trusts disputes and contentious insolvency matters. Will always said, "2020 wasn't a great year for everyone with covid and lockdowns, but it was the best year of my life - I got married, went to Bora Bora, we got pregnant, and then I made partner!!", with his huge glowing smile.

We didn't get enough time with Will. He was taken way too early, and the loss is too vast and devastating for words. Will was an incredible man. He was loyal, extremely intelligent, and had a kind, gentle soul. He was an amazing husband, father, son, brother, uncle, friend, colleague, and father.

*His love for life will stay with us all forever.*