

Service of Thanksgiving

FOR THE LIFE OF



PATSY RUTH PHILLIPS
(nee MERREN)

October 31, 1935 to August 2, 2023

Church Of God Chapel
22 Academy Way and Walker's Road
George Town, Grand Cayman

Sunday, September 3rd, 2023
Service at 3:00 pm

ORDER OF SERVICE

Musical Prelude	Worship Team
Welcome and Prayer	Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert. Hon.
Scripture Reading: Proverbs 3:1-4	Hunter Perez (Granddaughter)
Song:.....	<i>Goodness of God</i> - Worship Team
Special.....	Pastor Ellen Peguero
Song.....	<i>Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus</i> - Sonia Clayton (Grant)
Message.....	Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert. Hon.
Instrumental Music.....	Worship Team
Obituary.....	Marjorie Ebanks
Video Montage.....	50th Anniversary
Tributes.....	by Loved Ones
Song.....	<i>Bless The Lord Oh My Soul</i> - Worship Team
Closing Prayer and Benediction	Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert. Hon.
Recessional	<i>Amazing Grace</i> - Worship Team

Officiating Ministers

Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert. Hon.

Pastor Ellen Peguero

Church Of God Chapel George Town Worship Team

Jacie Mascarenhas (Leader), Justin Hernandez, Chad Hernandez, Irving Hernandez,
Ivy Anglin, Fay Jackson, Jamie Ebanks, Norma Ebanks, Marcia Fredrick

Order of Recession

Pastor, Casket / Pallbearers, Honorary Pallbearers
Immediate Family followed by the Congregation

*Interment will follow at the
Garden of Reflections Cemetery, Prospect Point*

PALLBEARERS

Ethan Perez

Mark Gaus

Orren Merren

Richard Charron

Zachary Ingram

George Thompson

HONOURARY PALLBEARERS

Atlee Bodden

Burns Rutty

Dale Crighton

Daniel Harden

Gerry Kirkconnell

Gregory Merren

Jean Paul Charron

Jerry Frazier

Julio Medina

Kel Thompson

Ken Hall

Merrill Wood

Norman Bodden

Owen Farrington

Robert Thompson Sr.

Wilson Forbes

USHERS

Chuck Thompson

Edwin Prendergast

Orrie Merren

Robert Thompson, Jr

ATTENDANTS

Debbie Guyton

Kimberly Wood

Mary Rose Sison

Tammy Crighton-Buck

Suzan Merren

TRIBUTE FROM DAUGHTERS

Dear Mommy, you are such an amazing person. You loved being a mother, and we realize how blessed and privileged we were to have you as our mother. You gave us an enormous amount of unconditional love, and continually showered us with kindness. Everyday you had a cheerful, pleasant disposition. You were the bright, joyful, center of our home. Your attitude was to always be thankful and grateful, to really appreciate life. Your strength was your strong faith and deep prayer life. Your outgoing personality, beautiful looks and smile made you so attractive. You loved to talk often to your family, cousins, and friends. You lived your life to the fullest, all the way up to when the Lord called you home. We love you so much and miss you. A part of you will always be in our hearts.

Your loving daughters, Donna and Bonnie



LIFE STORY OF PAT PHILLIPS

Patsy Ruth Phillips (nee Merren) was born on October 31, 1935, in George Town, Grand Cayman, the only child to Edgar Ducan Merren and Mona Gwendolyn Merren (nee Coe). She was born in the upstairs bedroom of her family home on South Church Street, the same room her mother was born in in 1903. Her maternal grandparents William Mearns Coe, a visionary pioneer in what became the Church of God Reformation Movement and Marion Coe (nee Bodden) had nine children and her paternal grandparents, H.O. Merren, Sr., and Catherine Merren (nee McCoy) had eleven. Even though she was an only child she was surrounded by many cousins.

Patsy Ruth had beautiful blue eyes and blonde curls and was doted on by her parents. As an only child, some would say she was privileged since she did not have many household chores. Her childhood days were spent playing games outside with her many cousins. Since her birthday was on Halloween, they used to have parties playing games like bobbing for apples or turning the lights out upstairs where someone would be waiting to scare them. Pat recalled that her family was one of the first to have a car on the island. When she would hear her daddy's car coming down the street, she would run to meet him, and she would stand on the sideboard of the car with her father's loving arm around her until they reached home together.

From a young child, church was always an important part of Pat's life. She worshipped at Church of God Chapel where her Aunt Ena Merren taught the Sunday School lessons. She became a Christian at a young age. She enjoyed church conventions and would sometimes play the organ during Sunday Service. In Miami she attended Kendall Church of God and sang in the choir.

In 1947 when Pat was twelve her cousin from Cayman Brac, Patricia Kirkconnell (nee Rutty), came to live with her to attend Triple C School. She finally had someone as close as a sister. Together they would ride their bikes to school and learn their school lessons in typing, shorthand, bookkeeping, geography, history, English and math, and shared many secrets. Their only disagreement was on who would be called Pat. Neither got the title and they continued to refer to each other only by their given names Patsy Ruth and Patricia.

In 1952 a young man named Ducan Olson Phillips arrived by boat from Honduras to meet the man he was named after. His aunt had come to Cayman before he was born and met a businessman named Ducan Merren and a minister named Brother Olson, another historical figure in the Church of God Reformation Movement. When she went back to Honduras, her brother Leon, and his wife Emily, were expecting their first child. She told them about these two gentlemen and asked them to name their child Ducan Olson after them. Ducan Merren brought his namesake to the house to meet his wife, Mona and daughter, Patsy Ruth. Their union may have been predestined. Pat and Ducan would write letters to each other when he left the island.

Pat graduated from Triple C in 1953 along with her five classmates, cousin Patricia Kirkconnell (nee Rutty), cousin Coralie Humphrey (nee Coe), cousin Zelma Lee Watler (nee Merren), Norman Bodden, and Alan Thompson. Ducan came back to Cayman to escort Pat to the graduation banquet. Upon graduation she worked with her father, in the family business of H.O. Merren & Co. Ltd., as his secretary, along with Grace Hurst (nee McTaggart).

Correspondence continued between Pat and Ducan for several years, and he would come to the island when he could. When he came back in 1956, he had with him an engagement ring. Unfortunately, he was never on island long enough for them to plan a wedding. In 1957 Ducan was in Texas and registered for the Draft. In January 1958 Pat and her mother, went to Miami for medical treatment. She notified Ducan and he told her he'd be on the next bus to come see her. He knew that he only had days before being drafted and asked her to marry him, as he feared he wouldn't find her single when he got out of the service. She knew her parents wouldn't be happy if she quickly got married, but she knew she didn't love anyone else, so she agreed. They went to the Miami Dade County Courthouse and got married on Valentines Day, February 14, 1958. Ten days after they married, he headed back to Texas and was inducted into the U.S. Army on March 10, 1958. After he finished his basic training in Fort Carson, Colorado he went for medic training at Fort Sam Houston in Texas. Pat was allowed to join him before he headed to Korea. Then she returned home to Cayman, and they wouldn't see each other for fourteen months. When he returned from overseas, he was stationed in Killeen, Texas where they would begin their married life.

On July 27, 1960, they welcomed their first child, Donna. Ducan completed his time in the Army in March 1961. They returned to Cayman, but after a short while Ducan returned to the United States to work on ships going to the Far East. Pat and Donna would remain in Cayman for a few more years. In 1965 Ducan began working with Texaco Oil sailing to U.S. ports, so they decided to settle down in Miami. On April 11, 1966, their second



LIFE STORY CONTINUED



child Bonnie was born. Pat loved being a stay-at-home mother and enjoyed the daily chores of keeping her home in order and preparing delicious meals. This also allowed her the flexibility to drive to nearby towns to meet Duncan on the ship when he would be in port for a few days. She enjoyed it when relatives would come from Cayman to Miami. She would happily take them around to places and invite them over for homecooked meals.

Shortly after Duncan retired from sea they began spending more time in Cayman managing their rental properties. He took care of the maintenance, and she oversaw leasing and administration. They enjoyed splitting their time between their homes in Cayman and Miami.

In 1993, her daughter Donna and husband Richard Charron, moved from West Palm Beach to live in Cayman, and raise their two-year-old daughter Christy Mona, and newborn daughter, Carey Emily. As first-time grandparents, it brought so much joy to Pat and Duncan, having them live right next door and share many good times. Duncan's mother Emily also lived with them, after moving from her home in the Bay Islands, Honduras.

After Donna's daughters graduated from college and got married in Florida, Pat was very happy when she and Richard, with Christy and her husband Mark Gaus, moved back to Cayman. She once again enjoyed making the family meals and helping in any way she could. She was overjoyed when her two great-grandchildren, Collynn Grace, and Reece William, were born here in Cayman.

Bonnie continued to live in their home in Miami, raising her two children Hunter Alexzandrea, and Ethan Maxwell Phillips Perez. Very often Pat and Duncan would go to Miami to spend time with them and attend the grandchildren's school and sports events.

Pat was a very loyal, caring, loving, faithful wife and mother. She prayed daily for her family and others. It was in this spirit that she continued to pray for years for her darling husband, to give his heart to the Lord. He did so during Covid lockdown, when they were at home watching their favorite evangelist, Jimmy Swaggart. The next year Duncan suffered a life-threatening tragedy which incapacitated him. Pat prayed relentlessly for his many miraculous recoveries that spared his life, until his passing at their home in Miami, on October 26, 2022.

Pat missed her husband of 64 years so much, but tried to handle it as well as she could. Her two daughters, Donna and Bonnie, shared time living with her, and loved taking care of her. She was also given exceptional care by her sweet, loving, Nurse Rachell.

On August 2, 2023, Pat peacefully passed away with her family at her side in Miami, nine months after Duncan's death. Pat is survived by her daughters Donna Charron (son-in-law Richard), Bonnie Phillips, stepdaughter Emily Vallecillo, grandchildren Christy Gaus (husband Mark), Carey Ingram (husband Zach), Hunter and Ethan Perez, step-grandchildren, Art Vallecillo (wife Michelle), Gina Mulvey (husband Mike), Tanya Vallecillo, and great-grandchildren Collynn and Reece Gaus.



TRIBUTES

Patsy Ruth and I, although we were first cousins, we grew up like sisters from the ages of 12 and 13. At age 13 I moved from Cayman Brac to Grand Cayman to live with Patsy Ruth and her parents so that I could attend Triple C School.

Patsy Ruth and I sat at the same table for the last four years of our high school. There was only 6 of us in our 1953 graduating class, me Patricia, Patsy Ruth, Coralie, ZelmaLee, Alan, and Norman the class clown. We both took our studies seriously and we would always test each other before our exams.

Patsy Ruth and I attended Sunday School and church services together, and we also attended Thursday night youth meetings. Growing up we were basically inseparable, and at times it was quite confusing as we both had the name, Pat. Therefore, we decided to call each other by our full names, mine being Patricia, and hers Patsy Ruth.

Growing up together with Patsy Ruth was the era when Seven Mile Beach had no hotels, or condos, only lots and lots of beautiful white sand and plenty of cocoplum trees. Our teenage years were enjoyable with our other numerous Merren cousins, and with Patsy Ruth's, Panton and Coe cousins. We were all like one big family, especially Marion, Theda, and Coralie. We enjoyed playing volleyball, taking moonlight beach walks especially on Northwester nights. One of our friends mother started a "teenage club," to entertain all of the young teenage boys and girls. The teenage club would meet every Saturday night at the George Town, Town Hall. We also enjoyed having beach parties, watermelon cuts, water skiing, and picnics with our friends and cousins on the beach. Needless to say our favorite outdoor sports involved the beach and the sea.

Once we graduated from high school we were unable to be together as much because I moved back to Cayman Brac and then to Jamaica. Eventually Patsy Ruth moved to Miami, and after marrying the love of her life Ducan Phillips they moved to Texas. Once we both returned home to Grand Cayman we were able to keep in touch again and see each other from time to time. We both shared joy telling stories of our grandkids and great grandkids.

The sudden passing of my dear cousin Patsy Ruth was a shock to me as we had just spoken a few nights before. Patsy Ruth will always hold a special place in my heart. May her soul rest in peace with her Lord and Savior.

Lovingly your cousin, Patricia (Pat)

My wonderful cousin Pat was so dear to me - we had a close relationship and were more like sisters throughout our lives.

Pat was such a kind, thoughtful and caring person - I admired her strong Christian values and her faith that was evident through her loving nature and her generosity. We shared many wonderful memories over the years along with my sister Cecile, both in Cayman and in Miami. We loved shopping together and sharing meals with our families - Pat was an excellent cook and I'll never forget her delicious peach cobbler as one of the many excellent dishes she prepared for all to enjoy!

A very special time for me with Pat was when my children were born, and I stayed with her in Miami - on one occasion she took me to the hospital and once we arrived, we realized we had forgotten my suitcase. We used to reminisce about this often and share a good laugh! I am so thankful I had the privilege to have Pat in my life and I will miss her tremendously.

Until we meet again my dear Pat. With all my love, Your cousin Pauline

Pat was one of the most precious cousins we had. She was hospitable, thoughtful, and kind. Pat was a good Christian and was solid in her faith. We would often talk and reflect on the Lord and his kindness and generosity, particularly towards those who had taken ill. Through Pat's commitment to the Lord, Ducan was also able to find his way to Him. We loved to host each other in Miami and in Cayman. When our parents purchased a condo in Miami, we only had to call Pat and she would come over to visit for a while. We also enjoyed going to the malls together. Pat also provided transportation for us to go to church services. For she and Ducan's 50th Wedding Anniversary, Pat called Maxine to come give input on what plans she had in mind. We sat down and planned out their event program.

Those persons who attended know it was truly a memorable occasion. It is Pat's hospitality and kindness that we look forward to sharing with the world as these days move on. We will miss her calls, laughter, and friendship. To Donna and Bonnie, please remember that your Mom's strengths live on through you. And we will be here to help and remind you along the way.

Your loving cousins, Maxine, Maureen and Pansy



TRIBUTES

With Patsy Ruth being Orren's first cousin and like a big sister to him through the years, we have always had a special bond of love and kinship between our families. She was indeed a lovely, sweet and outgoing woman, as well as being a devoted Christian wife, mother and grandmother.

When residing just a few houses down the street from Patsy Ruth and her parents, Orren recalls spending many of his early days at her home on South Church Street. Some special treat often accompanied each such visit. And it was always fun and pleasant to spend time with Patsy Ruth.

After Orren and Joy got married, we would visit Patsy Ruth and Ducan in Miami. Again, always good fellowship!

Kadi remembers her Aunt Pat Phillips as being so beautiful and always well-dressed, with stunning blue eyes! Orrie remembers her as being very kind and caring. We loved Patsy Ruth dearly, and we will miss her. May her soul rest in peace. **Love, Orren, Joy, Orrie and Kadi**



Being the youngest of the H. O. Merren, Sr grandchildren, my memories of Patsy Ruth go hand in hand with her beloved husband, Ducan, because they got married when I was just a year old. Therefore, a few years later when Donna was born, Donna and I are closer in age than Pat and I.

Being the close-knit family that we are, Donna, Bonnie, and I spent much of our childhood together. In fact, in the 60's and early 70's, all of us cousins could be found up and down South Church Street, day and night! Our bond has grown closer as we grew older.

I remember one night in particular, we were all congregated in front of Aunt Mona's house and a passing car accidentally hit a young man who was riding by. The person was thrown into the air and landed on the street. Pat, Ducan, and Aunt Mona heard the impact, came flying out the front door and Pat immediately attended to the young man. I don't remember who he was, but I remember how quickly she attended to him. Debbie (Kirkconnell) Guyton was so sure it was her brother, Gerry, she almost had a panic attack. Pat reassured her "its not Gerry, its not Gerry!" We had no 911 in those days, so Ducan quickly transported the young man to the hospital where he was treated and released.

Pat was a fantastic cook and to me, she made the absolute BEST stuffed pasta shells with Marinara sauce! Her beauty and grace in the kitchen, topped with her delicious meals, was something I'll never forget. She was also one who always encouraged exercise and healthy eating, which I'm sure is what helped her stay so healthy for so long.

Pat's sudden passing has been a shock, yet, there is no doubt that she was ready to meet her Lord and Savior at any time. She lived an exemplary Christian life and her legacy will live on through her children, grandchildren, and hopefully, great grandchildren.

May her beautiful soul Rest in Eternal Peace. **Love always, Cathy**



Pat and I shared some good times and special memories together and looking back also some similarities:

We acted as chauffeur and chaperone for each other while dating. And that's all I'll share about that!

I will say when she met Ducan, he became the love of her life and she his and that's the way it remained throughout their lifetimes!

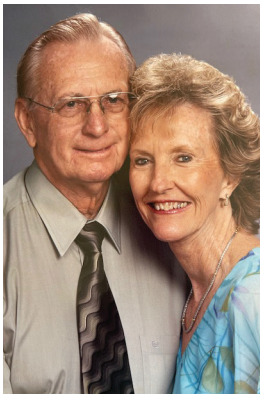
- We both were married in the same year, she and Ducan in Feb of 1958 and Vance and I in Dec of 1958.
- Our husbands left for military service 10 days after we were married.
- We both had all girls, I got ahead of her there, I had 3 and she had 2.

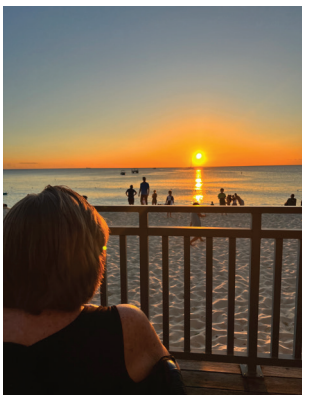
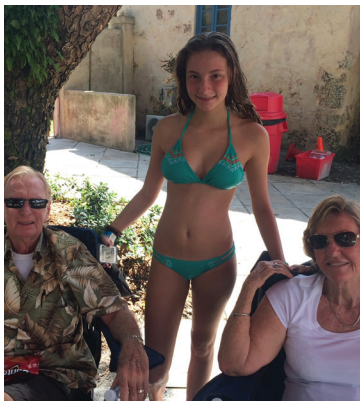
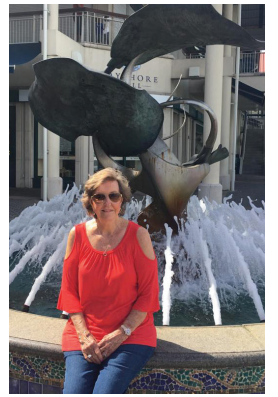
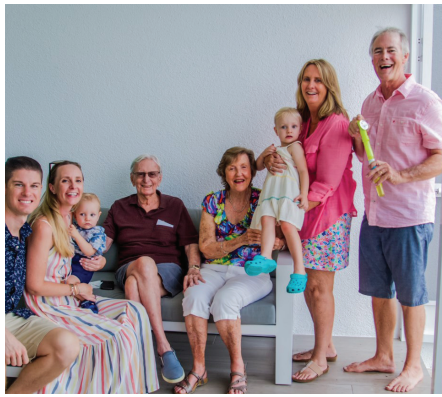
Our paths separated after marriage, but we kept in touch by phone through the years and whenever we returned for a visit to the Island Pat and Ducan were always at the airport to greet us and also there when we departed. And of course we enjoyed spending time together while there.

She was a beautiful, kind and thoughtful cousin and friend and I will miss her greatly and look forward to reuniting with she and Ducan and my beloved husband Vance In Heaven some day. **Lovingly, Theda**









GRAVESIDE SERVICE

Welcome	Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert. Hon.
Seafarers Widow Tribute.....	Pres. Denniston Tibbets
Song Track.....	<i>Goodness Of God</i>
Committal	Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert. Hon.
Closing.....	Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert. Hon.
Hymns.....	<i>Amazing Grace, Blessed Assurance, When the Roll is Called Up Yonder, When We All Get to Heaven</i>

SALVATION SCRIPTURES

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 3:5-7 ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You[c] must be born again.

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me

Titus 2:11-14 ¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, I repent of my sin. Come into my heart. I make you my Lord and Savior. Amen*

PAT'S FAVORITE VERSES

Proverbs 3:1-4 My child, never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart. ² If you do this, you will live many years, and your life will be satisfying. ³ Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart. ⁴ Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation.

Proverbs 3:5-6 ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Ephesians 3:20-21 ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Family Chain

We little knew that day 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 pleasant 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, we will link again in Heaven.



We are eternally grateful for your lives and the enormous amount of love you gave us. Thanks for instilling in us a godly way of life and leaving us with so many fond memories. We will love and miss you forever.



Thanks and Acknowledgement

Thanks to our church family, cousins, and friends, for your love, prayers, and support. Thank you, US and CI Healthcare providers, throughout the years. Special thanks to caregiver Nurse Rachell, for your excellent care.
Funeral Services provided by Bodden Funeral Home and Stanfill Funeral Home
Audio Video assistance by The Freelancer