

CELEBRATING

THE *Life* OF



*Hedy Nadine Grant*

12 August 1941 — 8 October 2023

## Order of Service

### Opening Remarks and Prayer

Pastor Joel Scott

### Opening song

*In The Garden*

Myron Ryan

### Scripture Reading

*Psalm 23*

Pastor Joel Scott

### The Life Journey of Hedy Nadine Grant née Rivers

Anthony Scott

### Slideshow of Memories

### Sermon

Pastor Shakier Khan

### Closing Song

*Blessed Assurance*

Congregation

### Benediction

Pastor Shakier Khan

### Recessional

*How Great Thou Art*

Pre-recorded song



### Pallbearers

Johnny Moore

Bazil Moore

Neville Scott

Tanner Scott

Ian Parrish

Kline Ebanks

### Usherettes

Mitzie Tomlinson

Shelly Miller

### Guestbook Attendants

Karen Ebanks

Lisa Bodden

### Honorary Pallbearers

Jack A. Rivers

Charlie C. McLaughlin

Jeremy Jackson

Anthony Scott

J. Dylan Jackson

Garner Rivers

Anthony McLaughlin

Izrael Jackson

Jonathan Jackson

Axel Grant Ramos

Carlos McLaughlin

Joshua McLaughlin

Dervin Scott

J. Reno Jackson

Jordan Grant

# The *Life* Journey of Hedy Nadine Grant née Rivers

## Early Life

Hedy Nadine Rivers was born in Utila Bay Islands on August 12th, 1941 to Lois Nadine Rivers. Hedy was the second child of Nadine and joined her older brother Jack. Later she would be joined by sisters Anzienetta and Rose and her younger brother Carlos.

Growing up in the Utila was a simple life, similar to life the Cayman Islands. Many of the residents were of Caymanian descent, including Hedy whose maternal grandparents, Ernest and Louise Rivers (nee Bodden) had migrated from Grand Cayman in the early 1900's seeking a better life. Hedy had a simple childhood and grew up playing among her siblings and cousins. Although not close with her biological father, she had a special relationship with her paternal grandmother Lupe whom she spent a great deal of time with her during her early childhood years. Hedy was educated in what was then the private English speaking schools of Utila.



As children, Hedy and her little sister Anzie used to visit Grandmother Lupe. She had large guava trees in her yard, which Hedy used to love to climb. One day, she fell out of the tree and broke her arm. The local doctor was able to reset it and she healed nicely. Her climbing days settled down after that.

In 1948 Nadine married Charlie McLaughlin. Some years after their marriage they moved the family from Utila Bay Islands to mainland Honduras where the family remained for some years. During this time Hedy learned to speak Spanish.



## Family Life

In 1960 at the age of 19, Hedy moved to Cayman Brac to work with Ms. Hulda Foster, she worked with them for about six months. During her time in Cayman Brac she met Garston Grant and they began courtship. Garston went back to sea, during this time she went to Grand Cayman to spend some time with her Aunt Anzieteneta Panton (nee Rivers) who was her mother's first cousin. When Garston returned, Hedy also went back to Cayman Brac. They resumed their courtship and were eventually married on February 2, 1962.

Shortly after their marriage and prior to building their own home, Garston and Hedy lived with his brother Geddes and sister-in-law Mexi-Ann for a brief period. Selvin and Louise Scott lived in the house next door, and during these early years, Hedy developed a special bond with Mr. Selly and Mrs. Louise, they became like second parents to her and their daughter Patsy

became like another sister. This special bond would last the rest of her life.

Hedy & Garston had three children, Todd born in 1964, Troy in 1965 and Torri in 1967. With Todd being her first child as was custom in those days, she traveled to Jamaica to give birth. Being that Garston was at sea, Hedy took the opportunity to visit Honduras with her young son. She was already pregnant with Troy and ended up staying so long that Troy was born in Utila. When Torri came along, she was back at home in Cayman Brac. With Hedy's lifelong love of travel and adventure, it's not surprising that all three of her children were born in different countries.

She became a proud grandmother for the first time in 1985, welcoming her first granddaughter Monique. Followed by Nikita, Krystal, Jordan, Hedio, Jenna, Daniel & Athena. Later, she would become a great grandmother to Izrael, Sabia and Axel.

In addition to her cherished family, she held a special connection with her son-in-law Jeremy, and her daughters-in-law Lori and Gay.

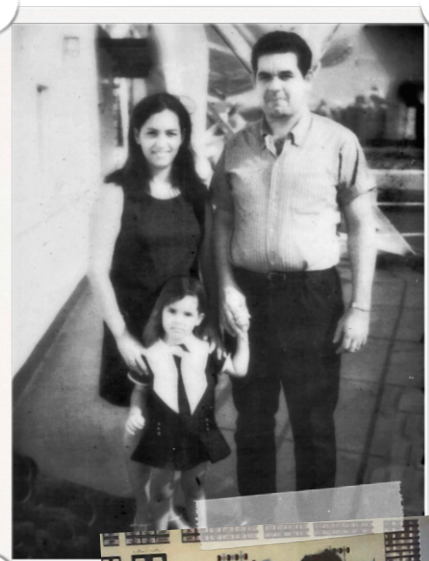
She was also an amazing aunt to all of her nieces and nephews. Her ability to be a great aunt even extended to the children of her nieces and nephews and she never missed an opportunity to attend their events and provide support.



## A Life of Travel

Garston would spend the first 20 years of their marriage as a seafarer. During these years, Hedy would spend her time between their home in Cayman Brac and traveling the world to join Garston at sea or spend time with family overseas.

Hedy travelled the world probably more than any other woman on Cayman Brac. She has been to the Middle East, the Far East, Europe, Korea, Singapore, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Norway, The United States and Canada to name only a few. She and Garston captured many memories on these travels. One particular memory shared by Garston was the first time she ever saw snow, which was north of the Arctic Circle in Narvik, Norway. Other than Cayman Brac, her most favorite place was Cable Mountain in Cape Town South Africa.



In the early 1970's Hedy's mother, step-father, sisters Anzie & Rose and her brother Carlos migrated to Texas. With Garston being away at sea for many months at a time, Hedy and her children started to travel to Texas on a regular basis. Beginning in the mid-70's, Hedy and the kids would spend mostly every other summer in Texas up until the early 1980's. Many times, it would be so hard for Hedy to leave her family that she would actually enroll the kids in school for the first few months of the school term.

Hedy would also bring some of the ingredients her mother loved that were hard to get in the USA on those trips, even to the point of bringing frozen "old wife" fish so that the family could make coconut dinner in Texas. These dinners were thoroughly enjoyed and carefully rationed by the entire family.

Always the adventurer, Hedy also enjoyed several cruises and never missed an opportunity for a trip. She was so easy going and seemed to especially love spur of the moment travel. On at least two occasions, she spontaneously joined niece Laverne and her family for road trips from Miami to East Texas. She was always curious about the towns they passed through and filled those drives with so much fun and laughter.

During a trip to Honduras in 2017 with her sister Anzie, Hedy started to experience difficulties with her health. She was diagnosed with having a stroke and the effects started a chain of events that changed her life. Hedy remained strong through the love and support of her devoted husband and children. Hedy was admitted to Health City Cayman on 1 October 2023 where the team cared for her in hopes for the best outcome. Hedy passed peacefully at the age of 82 on Sunday, 8 October 2023 with her daughter Torri, granddaughter Nikita and Torri's friend Mitzie by her side. Hedy was preceded in death by her parents, older brother and sister. Left to mourn her passing are her husband Garston, children Todd, Troy and Torri, 8 grandchildren, 3 great-grand children, sisters and brother, nieces and nephews, and many other relatives and friends.



# Tributes

## Tribute for my wife, Hedy



My wife Hedy and I spent 62 years together.

Hedy came to Cayman Brac on the Foster Trader from Honduras. We met almost immediately after her arrival, in 1960. She moved to

the Brac without any family, however, Ms. Lousie and Mr. Selly quickly became a very important of her life as Godmother and Godfather, taking her like a daughter, while Patsy-Ann took her as a sister.

Even though I went away to serve on a ship in Japan for six months, we were married on the 2nd of February of 1962 and eventually had three children: Todd, Troy and Torri. Shortly after marriage I started construction on our house which I managed to complete enough for us to live in.

In 1967 we moved to Mobile, Alabama with our two children because the frequency of the ship I was stationed on, the Ore Convey, from Venezuela meant I was in port approximately every two weeks. She stayed there for 7 months but longed to return to Cayman Brac, where she would then give birth to our daughter Torri. While I went to sea to provide for the family, she spent many years on Cayman Brac raising the children, occasionally traveling to Honduras to visit her family there.

When I became an officer, she was able to join me aboard the tankers I worked on. This was something she very much enjoyed. She considered the Universe Kuwait a second home. We sailed together on six ships: the David P Reynolds first, our daughter Torri with us, after which I became Chief Engineer of the Universe Daphne, followed by the Universe Portugal, the Ore Neptune, and the Peconic. Her last voyage with me was on the Arcadia.

Every night before we retired while at sea, we went to the engine room to check everything before returning to our quarters. On one night a photo was taken of her in the engine control room which is still displayed in our home.

The nature of my work ensured times were always interesting and at one point we considered moving to Cape Town, South Africa as my ship was running from the Middle East to Europe every six weeks. That didn't materialize, and Cayman Brac always remained our home.

I retired from sea and came home in 1982 and shortly thereafter bought the gas station and operated it for many years before selling it. I then went into the rental car business which I continue to this day.

Hedy was involved in each of these businesses, and we supported ourselves by them. She enjoyed her life with me on Cayman Brac and on the ships while at sea.

I thank God for giving her to me for 62 years. We lived a full and good life together.



## Tribute from son Todd

Like most mothers who lived in the Cayman Islands in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, our mom was the head of the house, while Dad was shipped out for 12 months halfway around the world to make a living. She taught us to make our beds, clean the furniture, and rake the yard. On school days she got us out of bed to get ready for school.

During the years that her children were in school, every morning Mom had to drive us to the north side to West End Primary or to the bus stop when we were in high school. My mother believed in ghosts and did not like the dark and of all the places to live, we lived on the south side where there were no street lights and only two permanent residents, us and Mr Otley. But she lived there happily without complaint. My Mother was a hardworking woman.

I remember her waking up every morning to make breakfast doing laundry and cleaning around the home, then going to work from 8.30 am to 8.30 pm Mondays through Saturdays at the Gas station they bought in 1983. Mommy loved and saw the best in people when others did not. She would say "there is still hope for him or her". She always tried to give good advice and support to people in need. She loved her plants and a Parrot she raised as a pet, she even tried to teach it to talk, if my memory is correct the bird could only say "Pretty Polly". She loved spending time with her closest friends, getting caught up with the latest news and enjoying each others company.

My mom was fun, she liked a good laugh, Mommy loved to dance especially to Spanish music, and she always tried to get one of us to

dance with her. She loved to travel and was fortunate enough that our dad, her husband was a chief engineer of one of the world's largest supertankers the Universe Kuwait, she would join him on the ship mostly in the summer when we were out of school. Torri, Troy, and I would vacation in Honduras or Texas with our Aunts, Uncle, and Grandmother while she got to see the world, places like Canada, Holland, Ireland, Portugal, Kuwait, Korea, and Singapore just to name a few countries she visited. We all had so much fun back then. She raised us with a stern hand making us follow the rules teaching us good manners and respecting others but also showered us with love and made our lives safe, happy, pleasant, and comfortable. In my memories, you are forever young.

**Love you deeply Mommy, Todd.**



## Tribute from son Troy

I am here to honor the life and work of my mother - Hedy Grant.

I want to thank her for all she did for us, mainly when my father was at sea and she had double duties to raise us. She was mother and father.

If you are a Bracker, you understand what I mean.

She was very tough and at the same time very gentle like only a mother can be.

I cannot forget her yelling my name to make me come home from fishing on the Ironshore. "Troy, where are you? Come home now!"

It is still a mystery to me how well she understood my problems. Not always she had a solution to them but just her being there for me, made my life much better.

We were her life purpose. Always worrying always protecting and always looking after us.

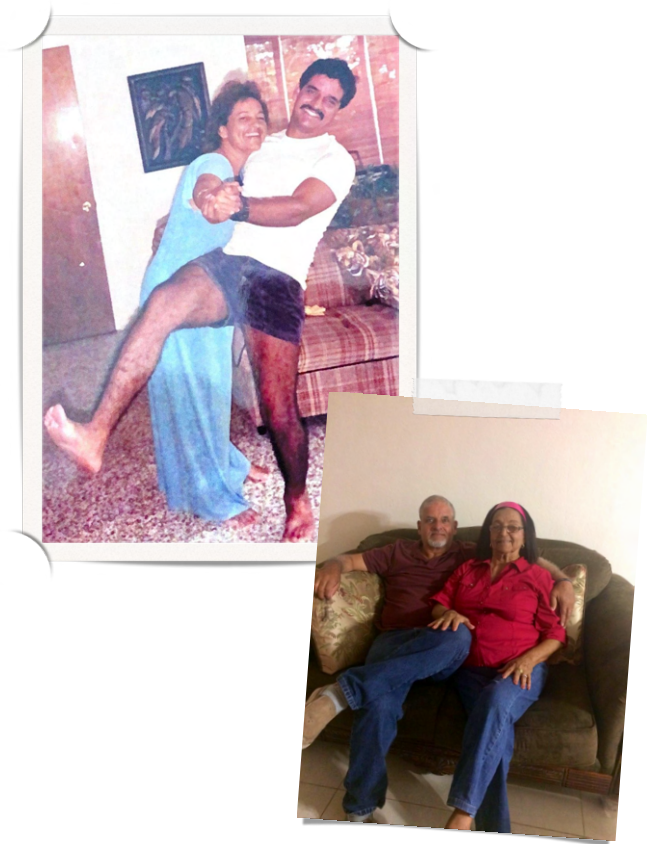
The lights in our home never went out until all of us were safely back inside.

And how can my kids ever forget when she would mispronounce (extinct) and said it as ( is stink ) when referring to dinosaurs?

The three of us, my brother Todd, my sister Torri and I were the center of her life. She never missed an opportunity to brag about her three children. To strangers when referring to us, her face would light up like she was on stage.

We know that she did not want to leave us. She had a life worth living.

After the illness struck her, she didn't demand much but I enjoyed the opportunity to visit her.



This was not the same anymore but I could still hold her hand and kiss her.

She had earned our unconditional love, our respect, and our attention.

She was enjoying the fruit of her labor, surrounded by family, friends.

I want to thank you, Mommy, for all you have done to raise the three of us,

I cannot speak for my father, my brother, or my sister who are present here, but I know they feeling is the same love and respect I have for her.

She will be greatly missed. And until I see you again please leave a light on for me.

**Love, Troy**



## Tribute from daughter Torri

Dear mummy, thank you for bringing us into this world, loving us, protecting us, and teaching us good values. Although you have gone to heaven, I know you are still watching over and guiding us. Mummy, I am sure that your efforts here on earth have built up many rewards in Heaven, and Heaven is celebrating your homecoming.

I often reflect on growing up in the South Side and reminiscing how wonderful our childhood was. We were so blessed to have South Side all to ourselves for many years.

Mummy, you taught us how to swim in a natural iron shore pool by our house before we were two years old. The whole Grant family children swam and dove in this pool, having the time of their life. If you see it today, it is no bigger than two feet by four feet in size.

Our mummy was the most fantastic supermother on this Earth, and we were so blessed to have the BEST mother in the world.

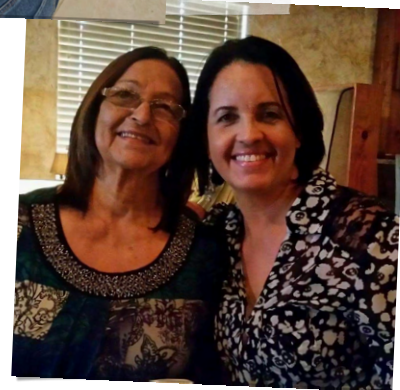
Mummy practically raised us by herself because Daddy, like all dads from these Islands, went to sea a minimum of 10 months out of the year. Our daddy began sea life in 1955 and sailed until 1983.

There was never an idle moment with mummy; she always had to be doing something. Each year, we went to either Utila, Honduras or Nacogdoches, Texas for our annual vacation trip. Mummy always made sure we had a great time. Before heading back to the Brac, she would leave us with our grandmother, either in Honduras or Texas, to join Daddy on the ship for a short while. Mummy had the opportunity to

travel worldwide, and sometimes, she would carry me because I was her baby and did not like leaving me.

I will miss you so much Mummy, but what eases my pain a little is knowing you are with your Lord and Savior, your precious mother, brother Jack, little sister Althea Laverne, grandmother Lupe, Mrs. Louise and Mr. Selly, Mrs. Milly - I am so jealous. Still, I know you are so happy and you are watching over Daddy, Todd, Troy and me.

**Love you mummy, Torri (and as you refer to me at times, Gennifer)**





## Tribute from Grandchildren

Our hearts are torn by your passing, but we believe you are now at peace, walking with the angels, and your suffering has ceased.

We find comfort in knowing that you lived a great life here on earth, we appreciate the moments we were gifted to enjoy with you since our births.

We recall all the things you did and the gentleness of your touch, you had a talent for letting us know, that you loved us ever so much.

We love and miss you dearly, and we thank you for your lessons and love throughout the years, we understand the time has come now for you to walk towards heaven's stairs.

We will cherish the times we spent together with you and remember you as happy, until the day we meet again, we will continue to love and take care of Granddaddy.

Your memory is our keepsake with which we'll never part, God has you in his keeping, and we have you in our hearts.

We will always remember you as the loving, caring, funny, and sweet Mama/Grandmama/Memaw and devoted wife you were.

May your beautiful soul rest peacefully.

Grandchildren Monique, Hedie, Daniel, Athena

Mama, you were an Angel sent down from heaven.

You were the perfect definition of what a Grandmother should be. You were loving, affectionate, caring and funny. Notable attribute was being inquisitive of everyone around you, just to be in the "know".

Vacations in Cayman Brac were always such a joy. Fishing on the bay, roaming at the gas station and night time treats at Blackie's - which you always made sure to tell us that "the Doctor said" we shouldn't eat too much fast food. Even asking Ms Rosalie to not "cook the fries in too much oil", then proceed to ask for "one fry" to taste.

As a devoted servant you made sure to instill the importance of having God in our lives, always checking to make sure we were going to Sunday School or church while in Cayman.

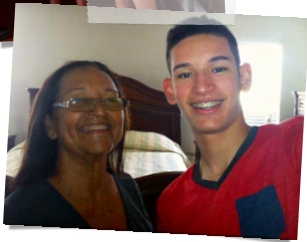
We were saddened when illness took over your body. We knew that one day your Lord would call upon you to take you home where you would suffer no more, however, we were not ready.

Mama, while it does not take our hurt away completely, we find some comfort to know you are no longer in pain, you are walking and talking again and you are at peace looking after us from above. We only hope to make you proud.

Love you forever,  
Nikita & Krystal



Our earliest memories with Memaw are at the gas station, the rent-a-car, and at Cross Road United Baptist Church where she was our Sunday school teacher. She often walked from her house to ours to spend time with us, also joining us on bay walks back to her house when we were small.



For Jordan, it would be many years later, during his employment at CB Motors, that he would get to know and understand her. She was, and to this day still is, the person he was closest to in the family. In those days, most of our time was spent at Granddaddy's house or at the office with her.

When Granddaddy would travel, we would spend the night at their house because she didn't like being alone. Those times were our favorites because we would wake up early to start cooking, watch Jeopardy, and sing while playing songs on the piano before leaving for work. She was always a happy person, which influenced us to develop and maintain our outlook in the same fashion. We could laugh and have a good time in any situation, some of which we were able to capture and remember. We love you dearly.

**Rest peacefully Memaw,  
Jordan & Jenna**

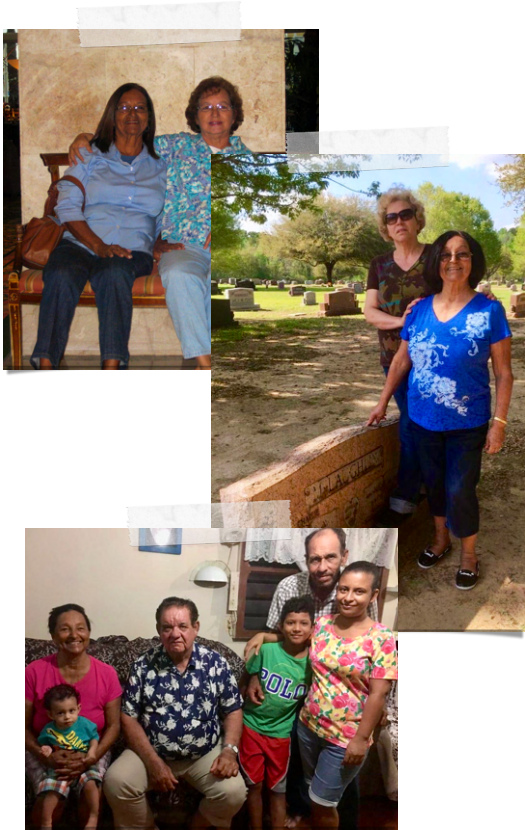


## Tribute from Great-Grand Children

"If flowers grow in heaven,  
Lord, then pick a bunch for me.  
Then place them in my grandmother's  
arms and tell her they're from me.  
Tell her that I love and miss her and  
when she turns to smile,  
Place a kiss upon her cheek and hold  
her for awhile."  
We will never forget you Memaw, we  
love and miss you so much.

**Your broken hearted great-grands,  
Izrael, Sabia and Axel**

## Tribute from Sisters and Brother



I write this tribute for our eldest sister Hedy. From my earliest childhood memories are of Hedy being my big sister and going with her to her Grandmother's house who was a kind and loving Grandmother, she enjoyed us kids coming to see her.

Hedy being the eldest would tell me how to behave when we went out or went to people's houses to visit. She would tell me to mind my manners as she did not want me to embarrass her. When our brother Carlos and sister Rose joined she was much bigger and would help our Mother with them until she moved to Cayman and got married Garston. As everyone knows, Garston was a seaman and was gone most of the year, so Hedy made her first trip to back to Honduras to show us her handsome son. Needless to say we all fell in love with him right away. Rose loves babies so she would play and keep him entertained.

On her second trip while expecting Troy she decided to take a trip to Utila to see our Aunt Louise, on this particular trip she decided to stay a little longer and Troy decided he was ready to come into the world. He was such a mild mannered child and we were all so happy that we were able to experiment him as a newborn. On her next trip she would come with yet another baby, her beautiful daughter Torri. Her trips to Honduras and later to Texas are full of beautiful memories that we treasure.

On one of her earlier trips to Texas, our brother Carlos was going to the airport to pick them up and on the way he was stopped by the police for speeding. The officer asked why he was going so fast and he said his speedometer was not working and he was so excited to see his family who was arriving from overseas that the officer told him to watch his speed and let him by without a ticket. Our sister Rose loved when Hedy would visit, they would stay up till late in the night talking and laughing till sleep would overtake them. Hedy loved to shop and always wanted us to help her choose what to wear. I will miss her laughter most of all. She loved to laugh and we always had a good time when we were together. We never missed an opportunity to get up to adventures, too numerous to list. We enjoyed many extended visits and trips together. Our final trip to Utila together was as recent as 2017, just before Hedy's health began to decline.

We miss her tremendously and we will miss her always. We take comfort knowing she is at now at rest.

**Anzie, Carlos and Rose**



## Tribute From Son and Daughter In-Laws



You don't get to choose your mother in law when you marry. One thing we tend to forget is that a mother in law is such an important part of our lives because she did raise the woman I love and got married to. So when a mother in law

dies, a part of our family is broken. We are never ready to say goodbye to a loved one forever. Hedy was a special lady and was indeed a mother in-law that was truly more than a mother to my lovely and beautiful wife Torri. She will be missed dearly. Torri, Nikita, Krystal, Izrael and I are thankful that she was a part of our life and we look forward to seeing her again one day.

### Son-In-Law Jeremy

Today, we gather to celebrate the life of Mrs. Hedy, a life well lived. Some of my fondest memories were the birth of your first grandson, Jordan Thor. Oh, you were so thrilled! As Jordan & Jenna grew, you were a devoted Memaw and they adored you! Family meant everything and your love for your grandchildren was so evident. They enjoyed the times you would spend with them reading books, bay walks, jumping on the trampoline, playing with their dogs, and on vacations. You were always present at birthdays, holidays and enjoyed our family gatherings.

Over the years, we've shared fun times attending Bible studies, ladies' sunset dinners, tea parties, BBQs and the annual Barefoot and Breaking Free Women's Retreats. Oh, you were a real sport at the princess parties, fashion shows, the cooking & baking

demonstrations and playing the banana game. You loved Troy's dogs, birds, plants and Spanish food.

The latter years of your life, I watched your health decline, to the point where you didn't recognize us anymore. That was especially hard for us all. I'll never forget, when you underwent quintuple heart surgery at Health City. It was amazing to see you fight for your life and recover from this major surgery. You've fought a good fight and ran a good race!

There are many attributes that I could share today, but the most important one I would like to highlight, was your love for the Lord! You faithfully attended Crossroad United Baptist Church, taught Sunday School and assisted with Vacation Bible School for years. Today, we claim the following scriptures:

2 Corinthians 5: 6-8 and 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-14

### From your daughter-in-law, Lori

Throughout my years as her caregiver, I had the privilege of witnessing her strength, resilience and the incredible person that she was.

Her courage in the face of adversity was truly inspiring, and I am grateful to have been a part of her life journey. As she embarks on her final journey, I hope she finds peace and TRANQUILITY.

May her soul find solace in the eternal embrace of love and sincerity, her spirit will live on through the memories we shared and lives you touched, thank you, Mrs. Hedy for allowing me to be part of your life it was an honor and privilege to care for you.

Rest assured that your legacy will live on and you will forever be remembered..... this was one of my happy moments in June 2017.

### Caregiver Rodina





My dear friend,

I can't believe you are gone; you have been a part of my life for so long. I met you when I was about 12 years old.

After you got married and Garston went back to sea, you came to live next door to us. You became a part of our small family. Mama and

Daddy took you as another daughter and you became my sister. I know in your heart we were your family too. After you had Todd and went to live in a rented house, I used to stay with you. Todd became my first baby.

Years went by and we remained close. Eventually I got married, then Mama and Daddy used to sleep with you, you didn't want to sleep all the way Southside, just you and your small children.

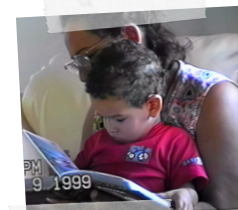
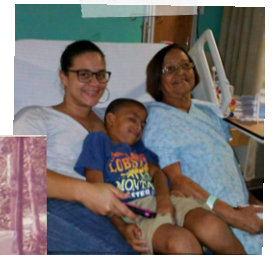
My husband and I then moved to Grand Cayman, and I depended on you to take care of Mama and Daddy. You used to visit them and take them wherever they needed to go. I am so grateful to you for that, you really stepped up as their daughter. After Daddy died, I took Mama to live with me in Grand Cayman. We didn't see each other as often as would've liked to, but the love had remained with us.

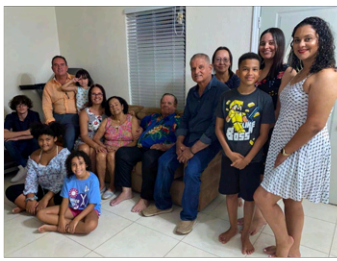
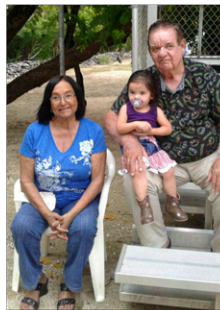
One of my favorite memories of the times we had together was in 1995 when you, Anzie, Mama and I went on a cruise. We had so much fun! One joke we had was when we were on an island tour of one of the islands. The taxi driver stopped by a little roadside bar for us to get something cool to drink. You turned your head on the side, looked at the bartender and asked him "do you go to church?" Always witnessing.

After you got sick and didn't talk on the phone anymore, I missed you so much, because we used to talk so often! I will miss you even more now, but I know you are wit your heavenly Father whom you served so faithfully.

I will always love you so much Hedy, rest in peace. Until we meet again, my precious sister/friend.

**Forever Patsy**





# Graveside Service

<b>Prayer</b>		Pastor Joel Scott
<b>Committal</b>		Pastor Joel Scott
<b>Songs</b>	<i>Go Rest High On That Mountain</i>	Congregation
	<i>When We All Get To Heaven</i>	
<b>Benediction</b>		Pastor Joel Scott

## Acknowledgements

The family of the late Hedy Nadine Grant nee Rivers would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have shared in our sorrow, offered their support, and joined us in celebrating the life of our beloved Hedy. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the medical professionals at Health City Cayman Islands and the Health Services Authority who provided compassionate care to her. The crews of the RCIPS Air Operations Unit and Cayman Airways Express pilots R. Reagan McLean and Jessica Ebanks, for providing swift action and care during her final medical evacuations from Cayman Brac. The family would also like to extend thank you to the members of the church she adored, Crossroads United Baptist Church, Cayman Brac, Pastor Randy Von Kanel of the Cayman Islands Baptist Church, Grand Cayman and the Cayman Brac community for their constant prayers during her illness and in her final days. We wish to thank Boddens Funeral Home and Grenda Daniels-Solomon, for their special attention and assistance in the preparations for her homecoming.

We are also immensely grateful to her caregivers, Rodina Ranosa and Susan Petito, who selflessly assisted us by providing exceptional care of her and always treating her like a member of their own family in many ways.

**The family of Hedy Nadine Grant nee Rivers wishes to inform you that there will be no gathering or repass following the celebration of her life. Your understanding of their need for privacy and quiet time during this difficult time is greatly appreciated.**

