

# **Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of**



## **Andrew Brent Bush**

**Sunrise 1 March 1931 – Sunset 30 December 2023**

**COMMUNITY OF CHRIST, PEACE CHAPEL**

**Elgin Ave**

**George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands**

**OFFICIATING MINISTERS**

**Pastor Vernon Webb and Cory Anderson**

**INTERMENT**

**South Sound Cemetery**

## Order of Service

Opening Remarks .....	Pastor Vernon Webb
Call to Worship .....	Pastor Vernon Webb
Hymn .....	He Leadeth Me Oh Blessed Thought- Congregation
Opening Prayer.....	Pastor Vernon Webb
Life Story .....	A.L. Thompson Jr.
Solo .....	Roy Bodden
Tribute .....	C.I. Seafarers Association
Hymn .....	These Are the Days of Elijah- Congregation
Tribute .....	Port Authority of the Cayman Islands
Other Tributes	
Hymn .....	Ancient Words-Congregation
Scripture Reading and Message .....	Pastor Vernon Webb
Photo Tribute	
Closing Hymn.....	There's an Old, Old Path-Congregation
Benediction .....	Pastor Vernon Webb

## Pallbearers

Corey Anderson  
Sanjay Brown  
Jared Ebanks

Jonathan Ebanks  
Adam Milburn  
Larry Thompson

## Honorary Pallbearers

Roy Bodden  
Errol Bush  
Matthew Bush  
Phillippe Bush  
Phillip Ebanks  
Autry Foster

Joshua Grizzel  
Andrew Hudgins  
Capt. Paul Hurlston  
Booth Hurlstone  
Johnny Johnson  
Dr. Marc Lockhart

Connor Meekins  
Zachary Meekins  
Harold Paramlall  
A.L. Thompson Jr.

## Guest Book Attendant

Heidi Lawrence

## THE LIFE OF ANDREW BRENT BUSH

Andrew Brent Bush was born on 1st March 1931 to dear parents Andrew and Alda Bush. He was the eldest of seven children.

Growing up in South Sound with his siblings, Brent used to play with his brother Buddy in the savannah. That was what they called across the street from their father's house.

While his father worked in Colon, Panama, Brent at aged 11, became especially close to his grandfather. He said 'Grandfather Leighton was a very interesting person, and he liked going around with him talking to people. If he found someone interesting in George Town to talk with, he would spend time with them talking, but he always found time to buy candies which he brought us when he returned'. During that time, there was an old ice factory in George Town. Grandfather Leighton knew how much we like ice and when it was available, he would always bring us some.

Brent told us, 'My Grandfather had a Horse & Buggy carriage, and one of our greatest joys was to ride with him into town to buy supplies and treats'.

As has been said many times before, the apple never falls very far from the tree. Like his grandfather, Brent was also a very good talker. He was known as a great Historian of Cayman history, and he took great delight in passing this information on to whoever had an interest in it. He knew a lot of people and could tell them who was related to who. Brent was described by many as a 'sweet gentleman' who loved to talk.

Brent's formal education began at Mr. Hill's school in George Town, and then later at Triple C School from 1945 to early 1948. Instead of finishing school, he got a job with Mr. Elroy Arch, building Clayton Merren's pressing shop. He also assisted with salvage of the wreck of the Balboa.

In 1949, KNSM, Royal Netherland Steamship Company visited Cayman. Brent got a job with them as a member of the Coast Crew, who would go with the ship and help the main crew work the cargo. The ship had regular runs from the Gulf ports to French Guyana, and in other islands with their home port being in Curaçao. When the vessel arrived back in Cayman, they signed Brent off as he did not have a visa for the United States. Brent also learnt an important lesson which he learned on his first trip...bring two pairs of shoes. He only brought one pair of dressy shoes and he did not want them to get messed up when he was working. So, he worked barefoot on the deck, until one day his supervisor concocted something like a 'whompa' (homemade slippers) to wear until he reached port.

Brent was determined to go back to sea and got his passport. For months he tried to get a job on a ship. Then one day, Mr. Desmond Watler said 'I am sick of seeing you around here, you're leaving Thursday when the ship sails'. Brent got his things together and left that Thursday. As a seaman, he travelled around the world working from ship to ship. His ships included the S.N. Matron and Pygmalios, as well as National Bulk Carriers vessels, the SS Bulk Oceanic and the SS Phoenix. He left in 1949 and did not return home until 1955. Interestingly, one of his senior officers noted 'in all my life I never seen two boys that could eat as much as the two of you, especially you, Bush'.

Brent joined as an able-bodied seaman and rose to the rank of third mate, although not officially licensed.

Shortly after Brent stopped going to sea, he met Lida Groves of West Bay. On May 19th, 1956, just six months after meeting, Brent and Lida got married in Jamaica. Not long after that Brent built his house in South Sound close to his parents and his brother Buddy.

The day after Brent returned home from sea, he went to work with his brother Buddy, and "Mr. Lawrence", undertaking plumbing jobs. His grandfather and father were carpenters, so he was raised around carpentry, and that is why he had so many cuts and scars on his fingers. Uncle Lawrence, as he called him, was his mentor. Wherever he went, so did Brent and Buddy.

In the late 1950s, Brent went to work as a foreman on a road widening project from West Bay to East End. This was followed by working on the Galleon Beach Hotel and for REEMA construction. With REEMA and Government, Brent worked on various construction projects such as the primary schools, the hospital, the Catholic Church and The Beach Club.

However, Brent never lost his love for the sea and ships. In 1976, he was building the Pagoda Restaurant when Mr. Sammy Jackson, the new Port Director, stuck his head out the window of his truck and said, "You know, something is coming up down at the Port. You need to be down there with me, I need an assistant." Brent applied and was first appointed to Customs and was seconded to the Port where he stayed 18 years (1976-1994). It was a post which he enjoyed very much.

Brent became the Assistant Port Director. His main duty was operations. He oversaw the docking of the ships and made sure all the necessary documentation was completed and in compliance. Also, ensuring the health and safety of all staff by making sure the equipment was ready and in good proper working condition.

During his tenure as the Assistant Port Director, Brent enjoyed an official trip he took to Amsterdam. It was a dream trip come true. Unfortunately, it was during this trip and his last years at the Port that his wife Lida fell seriously ill. After a short, but tough battle with cancer, she passed away in 1989. Brent took this loss extremely hard. However, six years after her passing, he was blessed to find love again, with Marcia Bodden, whom he married in 1995. Regretfully, this union was shortened as Marcia departed this life unexpectedly in 1997.

Retirement for Brent was filled with activity and being with family. He always had to be busy. Whether it was fixing the house, visiting friends and family, entertaining company with tales of the past, or the latest news. He also loved reading, especially historical biographies.

Later, he also looked forward to attending the Men's Full Gospel - Saturday Breakfast and had much fellowshiping there.

After being so active for such a long time, his health started to decline. He was a fighter and with the help of the Lord he came back from several illnesses. Brent's faith was important to him. From birth, Brent was blessed by his grandfather Leighton Bush on the 10th November 1931, and was later baptized on 23rd June 1946 by his uncle Theo Bush. Brent was ordained to the order of a Priest on 31st October 1965, and later ordained to the order of Elder on 9th April 1967. He was suspended from his duties on 30th June 2003.

In mid-December of last year, Brent was admitted to the hospital where he passed away quietly and went to be with his Lord on the 30th December 2023.

He is preceded in death by his parents Andrew and Alda, wives Lida and Marcia, brother Buddy and sisters Erlene, Cherry, Kaye and Cheryl. Also, by his niece Martha and nephews Sebastian and Andy.

Left to mourn is his sister Virginia Hydes and Sister-in-Law Ethel Bush.

Nieces and nephews - Tammi Selzer, Miriam Ebanks, Phillipe Bush, Matthew Bush, Ruth Grizzel, Roberta Baca, Andrew Hudgins, Sandra-Kay Clyatt-Meekins, Earl Hydes Jr., Desiree Hydes, Thomas Hydes Jr.

Grandnieces and Grandnephews- Earl Hydes III, Brent Hydes, Jared Ebanks, Jonathan Ebanks, Adam Milburn, Joshua Grizzel, Amy Grizzel, Adriana Bush, Alexandra Bush, Leighton Bush, Christopher Bush, Christine Adams, Erika Hooft, Zachary Meekins, Connor Meekins, and Kayleigh Warner.

Grand nieces-in-law- Brenda Bush, Michelle Bush, Laurie Ebanks, Janelle Milburn and Donna Grizzel.

And great grandnephews, Lucas and Jeremy Ebanks, Marcus and Kanen Milburn, Mateus Grizzel. And great grandniece Maisyn Grizzel.

Also extended family and friends, as well as loyal caregivers Elaine Bennett, Phyllis Douglas and Sanjay Brown.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.







EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE  
Kingston, Jamaica

29 June 1994

Mr. A. Brent Bush

Subj: Letter of Appreciation

1. On the occasion of your retirement from the Port Authority of the Cayman Islands, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the absolutely superior support and assistance you have provided over the years to this office and to the myriad U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard ships who visited your beautiful island.

2. Your dedication to providing the best service possible made each and every port visit a most pleasurable experience. Due to your personal involvement in arranging all logistical requirements, each ship received all requested support in a prompt and professional manner. Your efforts alone contributed immeasurably towards these ships accomplishing their assigned missions.

3. Your professionalism, dedication, and friendly, outgoing personality will be sorely missed. However, your legacy will live on for many years to come in all these people's lives that you have positively touched.

4. On behalf of myself, LT Dave Bechard, and IS1 Gordon McClure, we wish you success in all future endeavors and may you always have fair winds and following seas.

*H. N. Wiggins*

H. N. WIGGINS

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Defense and Naval Attache

## Graveside Service

Opening remarks.....	Pastor Vernon Webb
Hymn.....	I come to the Garden Alone
Prayer.....	Pastor Vernon Webb
Scripture.....	Pastor Vernon Webb
Committal	
Hymn.....	'Till the Storm Passes By
Hymn.....	Take My Hand Precious Lord
Benediction	

### I Come To The Garden Alone

I come to the garden alone, While the dew is still on the roses  
And the voice I hear falling on my ear, The Son of God discloses

Refrain: And He walks with me and He talks with me  
And He tells me I am His own  
And the Joy we share as we tarry there,  
None other has ever know

He speaks and the sound of His voice,  
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing  
And the melody that He gave to me within my heart is ringing

I'd stay in the garden with Him,  
though the night around me be falling,  
But He bids me go, through the voice of woe,  
His voice to me is calling.

### 'Til the Storm Passes By

In the dark of the midnight have I oft hid my face  
While the storm howls above me, and there's no hiding place  
'Mid the crash of the thunder, Precious Lord, hear my cry  
Keep me safe till the storm passes by

Till the storm passes over, till the thunder sounds no more  
Till the clouds roll forever from the sky  
Hold me fast, let me stand in the hollow of Thy hand  
Keep me safe till the storm passes by

Many times Satan whispered  
There is no use to try  
For there's no end of sorrow, there's no hope by and by  
But I know Thou art with me, and tomorrow I'll rise  
Where the storms never darken the skies

Till the storm passes over, till the thunder sounds no more  
Till the clouds roll forever from the sky  
Hold me fast, let me stand in the hollow of Thy hand  
Keep me safe till the storm passes by

### Take My Hand, Precious Lord

Precious Lord, take my hand  
Lead me on, let me stand  
I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm lone  
Through the storm, through the night  
Lead me on to the light  
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

When my way grows drear, precious Lord linger near  
When my light is almost gone  
Hear my cry, hear my call  
Hold my hand lest I fall  
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

When the darkness appears and the night draws near  
And the day is past and gone  
At the river I stand  
Guide my feet, hold my hand  
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

Precious Lord, take my hand  
Lead me on, let me stand  
I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm lone  
Through the storm, through the night  
Lead me on to the light  
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

### Thanks and Acknowledgement

*The family of the late Andrew Brent Bush wishes to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone for their acts of kindness during this difficult time. The loyal, patient and loving care provided by all caregivers especially, Ms. Elaine Bennett, Ms. Phyllis Douglas and Mr. Sanjay Brown. Special appreciation to all doctors, nurses at the Health Services Authority, staff at Bodden's Funeral Services Ltd, The Thompson family, and the C.I. Seafarers Association.*