

Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of



Kenton Guy Tibbetts

December 17th, 1932 – January 26th, 2024

Church of God Holiness,
Watering Place, Cayman Brac
Saturday, February 10th, 2024,
11:00 AM

Interment at The Creek Cemetery Cayman Brac

Officiating Minister
Pastor Gayle Woods

Pianist: Mr. Nickolas DaCosta

Order of Service

Opening Remarks	Mr. B. L. (Mark) Tibbetts Cert.Hon, JP,DC
Prayer	Pastor Gayle Woods
Opening Hymn - "How Great Thou Art"	Congregation
Scripture Reading "Psalms 46"	Ms. Levonne Ryan
Obituary and Seafarers Tribute	Mr. Denniston Tibbetts
Tribute from Wife Mrs. Ivanilda Tibbetts.....	Mr. B. L. (Mark) Tibbetts Cert.Hon, JP, DC
Tribute from Son Kenton Guy Tibbetts Jr.....	Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts OBE, JP
Tribute from Granddaughter Bianca Tibbetts.....	Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts OBE, JP
Song Tribute and Slide Show from Son and Family	
Tribute from Granddaughter Carolyn Tibbetts	Ms. Tessa Suckoo
Tribute from Daughter Kelly Tibbetts-Franca	Ms. Tessa Suckoo
Tribute from Grandson Nicholas Tibbetts-Franca.....	Ms. Tessa Suckoo
Sermon	Pastor Gayle Woods
Prayer for Family	Premier, The Hon. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, MP, JP
Closing Remarks & Benediction.....	Pastor Gayle woods
Closing Hymn - "Amazing Grace"	Congregation

Pallbearers

Kenton Guy Tibbetts Jr
Kenton Guy Tibbetts III
Leslie Kemuel Tibbetts

Marcelo Franca
Garth Ricardo Tibbetts
Hon. Johany S. Ebanks

Honourary Pallbearers

Charles Tibbetts
Leslie Elmer Tibbetts
Denniston Tibbetts
Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts OBE, JP
Jared Tibbetts
B. L (Mark) Tibbetts Jr. Cert. Hon, JP, DC
Barry Algene Tibbetts

Steve Elmer Tibbetts
Dave Selkirk Tibbetts
Dalmain Reid
Albert Hinsley Hurlston
George Attlee Bodden
Adrien Briggs

Usher

Felisiana Ebanks

Funeral Registry Attendant

Karina Tibbetts

Service Hymns

How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder,
consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars; I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joys shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come,
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

The Life Story of Captain Kenton Guy Tibbetts

Kenton Guy Tibbetts was the fourth of seven children and second of four boys born to Leslie Tibbetts and Anita Tibbetts (Nee Bodden). He was born on December 17th 1932, right here in Cayman Brac, mere weeks after the dreadful storm which ravaged the island. More than 100 people had lost their lives during that event. He was preceded in death by his parents, older sisters Linna and Myrna, brother Darwin and beloved nephew Garth.

Times were hard growing up here in the 30's but his family like most in those times was close knit, and all worked together to survive. He had to leave school at an early age to help his parents in raising his younger siblings. He and his older brother Darwin worked alongside their father to feed the family, while his mother kept the home. They fished, and farmed the ground up on the bluff to make two ends meet. One of his favourite times was bringing down a whole basket of mangoes from off the bluff, sharing with his siblings, and them all going into the sea to gorge on the lovely round mangoes, long mangoes and the number 11's.

Kenton left Cayman Brac at the tender age of sixteen following in the footsteps of older brother Darwin, to begin his working life as a seafarer. He, like all his brothers eventually did, shipped out with National Bulk Carriers, or "Southwell" as most referred to the company in those days. Sea life was one of the hardest jobs, but there were very few opportunities otherwise in those days. He was ambitious, and worked hard helping the family, at the same time seeking to better his lot in life.

He ploughed the seas for several years, visiting many ports of call all over the world, always having stories to tell of his travels abroad. Eventually he began working closer to home with the Kirkconnell family on their ships which sailed to ports in the region. He grew close to the family and Captained their boats for several years. Captains Charles, Dillon and Eldon referred to him either as Tibby or Kenny.

He was always very close to his siblings and their families especially his brother Darwin, and was like a second father to Darwin's children.

Mexi, the oldest always remained in the Brac. But Darwin sent his family to live in Jamaica for the boys to get better educational opportunities while he sailed the seas as a Master Mariner, and this was during the time Kenton worked with the Kirkconnell's. Kingston was a regular stop for his ship, so the boys got to see him often. They retained a strong family bond, especially since all this time he had not yet had a family of his own. Denniston, Buzza and Kurt were just like his boys.

Eventually he got the opportunity to broaden his horizons and in the 70's began working as Captain on one of the supply boats for the oil rigs off the coast of Brazil. There he met Ivanilda, who would become his wife. He later went on to adopt her three children, George, Magali and Kelly. In 1976 he fathered his first child and they welcomed his son, Kenton Guy Tibbetts, Jr. into the family.

He continued the life at sea and was excited while the family remained in Brazil to acquire a farm where he lived in Aracaju. They enjoyed life on the farm, raising cattle and horses, and planting and harvesting many local varieties of fruits and vegetables. "Ranch Tibbetts", as it was called, was the family's happy place. All the better when Kenton came home on vacation. They had good times.

Eventually, he grew tired of life at sea, being away from the family for long periods, and besides, he was missing home, where he came from. While it took two attempts at it, Kenton eventually prepared to come back to Grand Cayman with the family. He was still quite able to work and provide for the family so for several years he captained one of the Tenders used by Caribbean Marine Services to ferry the cruise ship passengers back and forth when the ships were anchored in George Town on their regular visits. Owners of the company Attlee Bodden and Adrien Briggs were his good friends and Kenton even had his son Junior working with him on the Carib Princess for a while.

By this time he was a grandfather 5 times over, and he doted on Carolyn, Bianca, Nicholas, Kenton III and Mathias. They each had a special bond with Grand Pa. His sweet tooth meant they could get some too, and they were always excited to watch WWE wrestling with him, just to witness his antics as the wrestlers beat up on each other.

Over the years, he developed many lifelong friendships. One of his dearest friends was Captain Fred Scott, and they visited each other often after coming back to Grand Cayman. He was very sad when Capt. Scott passed.

He grew up in a God fearing family, and had many examples of strong faith in God surrounding him. He grew up reading the Bible. In later years, along with his brother Darwin, they became members of the Red Bay Church of God Holiness and was baptized by the resident Pastor at the time, Pastor Bob Thompson, a dear friend of blessed memory. He attended services regularly, and was well known in the church. Eventually his health prevented him from regular attendance. It was always a heartwarming experience attending church with the two brothers, especially Father's Day Services.

He would always reminisce and relate stories of his part to the family, emphasizing his great love for his Tibbetts family and the home of his birth, Cayman Brac. He wanted his family to do well in life, and worked hard to give them opportunities he didn't get. Truth is we would not be here today without his guidance and many sacrifices. He was a hard working honest, humble and simple man. He was a good provider, mentor and role model. He had a level of love and care for his immediate and extended family which surpassed ordinary understanding. We will always look up to those qualities and try to emulate him.

As the years went by, time got a little sadder as Kenton began to age and lose his memory. He was diagnosed with Diabetes and Dementia. His son Junior would visit him and always ensured that he was well taken care of. The children would help with doctor appointments and would spend time with him. The grandkids made sure that he knew how much they loved him. Approximately 2 weeks ago after a fall at home he passed in the early hours in his son's arms on the 26th of January 2024.

We are all so very proud to have called him Daddy, Granddaddy, Father-In-Law, Uncle, Brother and Brother-in-Law. He was a strong man up until the very end. To his wife Ivanilda, his son Junior and Daughter-in-Law Tatiane, daughter Kelly and Son-in-Law Marcelo, Step daughter Magali and Step Son George, and finally, all the grandchildren, brothers, Charles, Leslie (Elmer) and wife Alma Jane, Sister Levonne, Nieces, Nephews, Denniston, and Hon. Kurt, and a host of other relatives and friends, we would like to take this opportunity to say special Thanks. I'm sure Daddy appreciated the Love and understanding you all gave to him.

May God Bless and keep you all. We will miss your presence Daddy. You will forever remain in our Hearts and we will treasure all the beautiful memories we shared together.

*May your soul rest in perfect eternal peace
and may the good Lord Bless and keep you.*

Tribute to Husband

You are gone and you left and are sorely missed. I remember every moment we spent together. These moments are unforgettable, and I miss them! I wish I could have given you one last hug, or have a last conversation. The truth is, we never know when our last day will be and we are never prepared to lose someone who is so important to us, someone we love very much.

You are gone, and I still can't believe it. I keep remembering everything, the laughter, the jokes and your hugs and kisses.

I will be eternally grateful for you; you now shine like a star in the sky, and I know you are happy up there and don't feel any pain any longer. I am happy that you are no longer suffering, and this was God's wish however, my pain for losing you will never go away, just remembering it makes me cry.

I will love you forever, your sweetheart Ivanilda.

Rest in eternal peace.

Tribute to Dad from Son

Daddy,

It's been over two weeks since you left us, and not a day goes by that I don't think about you. Losing you has been one of the hardest things I've ever had to go through. I miss your laugh, your advice, and your presence more than words can express. There are so many things I wish I could tell you, so many moments I wish I could share with you, but I know that you are no longer suffering, and for that, I am grateful.

The memories I have of you are precious and hold a special place in my heart. I remember how you used to try to take me fishing, and how you taught me how to be a lineman on the boat. I remember the way you would always make me laugh, even when I was feeling down. Your love and kindness were unwavering, and I am thankful for every moment I got to spend with you.

I have so many questions that I wish I could ask you. I want to hear more about your childhood, your dreams, and your experiences. I want to know more about you as a person, not just as my Daddy. It's difficult not having you here to provide guidance and wisdom, but I am trying to carry on in the best way I can.

I am trying to live my life in a way that would make you proud. I am determined to carry on your legacy and honor your memory. I often find myself asking for your guidance, hoping that you are watching over me and guiding me in the right direction. I hope that you are proud of the person I am becoming and the choices I am making.

As time passes, I am learning to cope with the pain of your absence. I hold on to the love and memories we shared, finding comfort in the moments we had together. I am learning to cherish the time I had with you and to embrace the lessons and values that you taught me. You will always be a part of who I am, and your legacy will live on through me.

Daddy, I miss you more than words can describe. I wish I could have one more day with you, to tell you how much I love you and how much I appreciate everything you did for me. I hope that wherever you are, you are at peace and free from pain. I will always cherish the memories we shared and hold you close to my heart.

I love you, Daddy, and I will carry your love with me always.

Your loving son,

Junior

Tribute to Dad from Daughter-in-law

When I think of the word "Cayman Islands", your resemblance is what comes to my mind.

When I hear the Cayman Islands' National Anthem, your resemblance is what comes to my mind.

A simple drive to Bodden Town and North Side immediately remind me of you.

During gatherings, a delicious pot of Conch Stew and Turtle Meat, reminds me of you.

Being here in Cayman Brac, it's all about you.

You are the reason why I've learnt to love all things Cayman.

It was easy to understand why you loved your Tibbetts family so much.

It was easy to understand the love you had for your country.

It was easy to witness how you became such a loving Grandpa to our children.

So many memories, so many laughs, words of wisdom, stern talks, from a man with values, kindness, and forgiveness.

You taught me that.

I am so thankful that I got to experience all this Caymankind.

I am forever thankful and as I said before, what comforts me is that I get to take care of your legacy.

Your son Junior and your grandchildren.

Rest in peace my dearest Dad.

You are with us in our memories, in our hearts as long as we live.

With love,

Taty

Tribute to Grandpa from Granddaughter

He always had stories to tell.
From his days at sea
To his memories about me.
The memories I have of you are irreplaceable and I will cherish them forever.
For in my heart, we will always be together.
I remember when you'd pick me and Junie up from school.
You were always listening to that same gospel CD by Jim Reeves.
I remember we would laugh together as I'd say, "Grandpa, did you listen to anything else today?".
It's funny how life goes by you see.
We would sing gospel songs together with glee.
You were loved by so many, it's easy to see.
You touched so many lives, you loved so easily.
I think about you often, and oh so many tears have fallen.
And although these times are sad, I want to thank you Grandpa, for my Dad.
Thank you for the love you've given.
It will not be forgotten.
What I wouldn't give for one more of your tight hugs, one more "I love you too Bibi."
I know the pain does not go away, and I miss you everyday.
But until then, I will hold your memory till we meet again.
To the sweetest granddaughter in the whole world, he'd say, but today, I say: Here's to the sweetest grandpa in the whole world.
I love you Grandpa, forever and always.
Your ever-loving granddaughter,
Bibi

Tribute to Grandpa from Grandson

My Dearest Grandpa,
It feels surreal to acknowledge that you are no longer physically with us. Your departure has created an irreplaceable void in our lives. You embodied strength, wisdom, and love, and the memories of your warm smile and comforting hugs will forever be etched in my heart.
Your life was a testament to kindness, generosity, and grace. The unwavering support and encouragement you provided served as the bedrock of our family. Your words and actions guided us through life's trials with patience and understanding, leaving an enduring impact.
One of the most cherished memories I hold dear is the car rides home from school. The soothing tunes of gospel music filling the air created a unique and comforting atmosphere. Your choice of music not only brought us together but also left an indelible mark on my appreciation for the uplifting power of melody.
Stopping at the gas station every day after school remains a fond memory. The routine of picking out candies with my cousin created a sense of joy and anticipation. Those simple yet precious moments added an extra layer of warmth and happiness to our lives.
Your passion for storytelling intertwined with these daily rituals, as you shared anecdotes from your youth during those rides. The life lessons embedded in your tales have become guiding lights, shaping my perspective on the world.
You were more than just a grandpa; you were a mentor, a friend, and a constant source of inspiration. Your presence was a blessing, and although your absence is deeply felt, we find solace in the belief that you are now at peace, watching over us from above.
Rest in peace, dear Grandpa. Your legacy, filled with love, music, and sweet moments, will forever resonate in our hearts and memories.
With love and gratitude,
Your forever grandson, Kenton III

Tribute to Dad from Daughter

Father,
You are gone without a proper farewell, without the possibility of a last goodbye, a hug, or a wipe away of tears.
You left continued your journey, and on your last journey I now have these eternal longings.
Father, I love you.
From your daughter, Kelly.

Tribute to Grandpa from Grandson

Rest in peace, let the Lord bless you Grandfather.
From your Grandson, Mathias

Tribute to Grandpa from Grandson

I will always love you Grandpa, and I will miss you dearly.
I apologize that I cannot be there in person, but I am still thinking about you.
You had a long and fruitful life, which gave you knowledge and experience which you used, to tell stories and teach.
You for sure had a very sweet tooth.
I have never seen anyone love a dessert more than you.
Thank you for being present in my life whilst you were able to.
I will always cherish my memories with you and hope you may now rest in peace.
Love from your Grandson, Nico

Tribute to Grandpa from Granddaughter

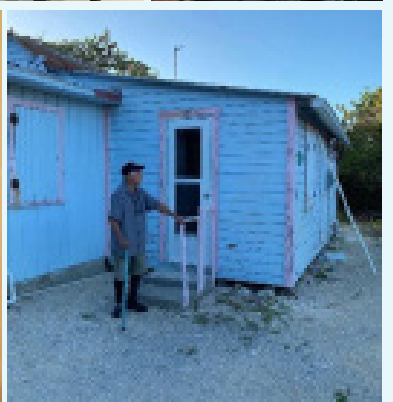
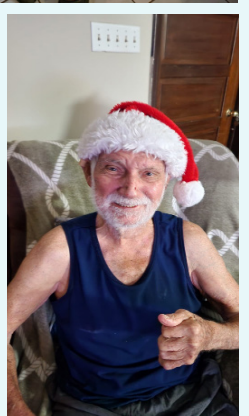
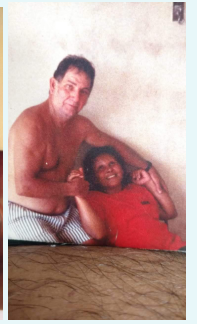
Dear Grandpa
I am, because you were.
You were my grandfather and my father, you raised me to be the woman I am today. You loved me from the day I was born, until your last. I remember you telling me that you were in Cayman Brac when you found out that my mother gave birth to me. You, without hesitation, booked a flight that same day to Brazil to come meet me.
When we met, it was love at first sight. I was always in your arms. In the 30 years I have known you, I experienced nothing but the purest love and affection, and I would choose you to be my grandpa again and again in every lifetime.
When I received the news that you passed away, my heart dropped into my stomach. I have never felt pain that intense before, I'm not sure I will ever get over it. I could describe it as if a dump truck ran over me, reversed, and ran over me again...but still, somehow, even more painful than that. My only consolation is knowing that our souls will reunite one day in heaven. When my time comes, I hope that you are waiting for me at the pearly gates. I can hear you now, "Grand-daddy missed you so much 'Callinee'!", as you embrace me in your open arms.
Grandpa, you are no longer in pain or suffering and you are free from all illness. I want you to know that you will always have a place in my heart, as you meant so much to me. I would do anything to be able to see you and hold your feeble hands one more time, even if just for a moment, to tell you that I always have and always will love you.
Farewell and rest in peace, my grandpa. It has been an honor being your grandchild.
Love, grand-daddy's sweetheart, Carolyn

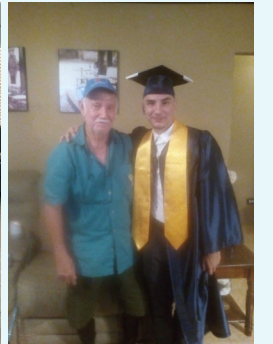
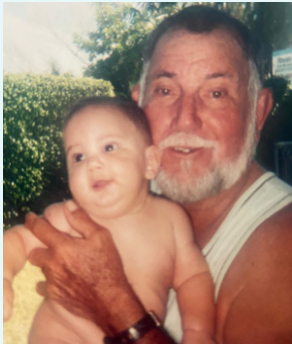
Tribute to Dad from Stepdaughter

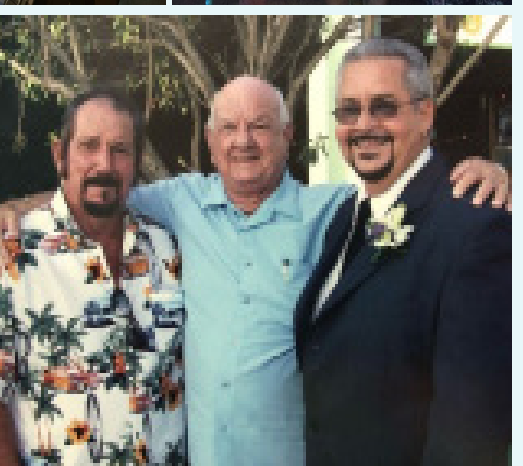
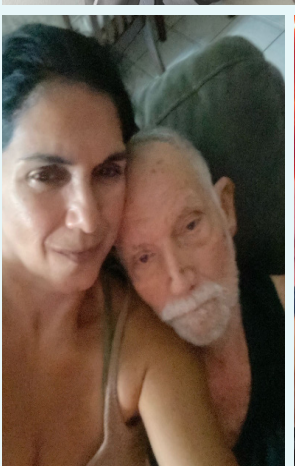
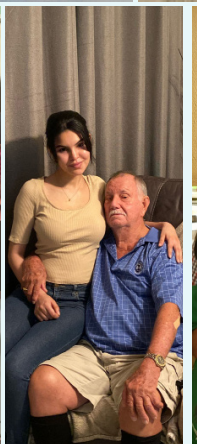
Dear Dad

When I was 4 years old, you came into my life. You adopted me and raised me as if I were your own. You showed me that love is thicker than blood.
I want to thank you for loving my daughter and being her father figure, you were always there for us. I am so proud to get to call you my father, I am honored to be your daughter.
On January 26th 2024, my mother called me and told me that you were not well. I did not want to believe anything bad was happening and I prayed and asked God for you to be okay. Unfortunately, she called me a short while after and broke the news to me that you had passed.
I was in shock and in disbelief, I immediately broke down crying.
I will miss coming over to your house and seeing you in your recliner watching those old cowboy movies. Even after you lost your memory, you never once forgot who I was. I always asked you "what's my name?" and you always replied with "last time I spoke to you, it was Magali!".
You are with God now. You are no longer in pain, no longer suffering. I want you to know that I miss you so much and will always love you, dad. Thank you for everything you have done for me and my daughter. You will always be in my heart.
Go with peace.

Magali







Service at the Cemetery Creek, Cayman Brac

Hymn - "What a Friend We have in Jesus" Congregation
Scripture Reading and Prayer Pastor Gayle Woods
Committal Pastor Gayle Woods
Cayman Brac Veterans and Seamans Association - 8 Bells for His Final Watch
Hymn - "When We see Christ" Congregation
Hymn - " Because He Lives" Congregation
Benediction and Prayer Pastor Gayle Woods

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; Take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there.

When We see Christ

Oft times the day seems long, our trials hard to bear,
We're tempted to complain, to murmur and despair;
But Christ will soon appear to catch His Bride away,
All tears forever over in God's eternal day.

Refrain:

It will be worth it all when we see Jesus,
Life's trials will seem so small when we see Christ;
One glimpse of His dear face all sorrow will erase,
So bravely run the race till we see Christ.

Sometimes the sky looks dark with not a ray of light,
We're tossed and driven on, no human help in sight;
But there is one in heav'n who knows our deepest care,
Let Jesus solve your problem – just go to Him in pray'r.

Life's day will soon be o'er, all storms forever past,
We'll cross the great divide, to glory, safe at last;
We'll share the joys of heav'n – a harp, a home, a crown,
The tempter will be banished, we'll lay our burden down.

Because He Lives

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He bled and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove my Saviour lives.

Refrain: Because He lives; I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives; All fear is gone
Because I know, I know, He holds the future.
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby
And feel the pride and joy He gives,
But greater still that calm assurance
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.

And then one day I'll cross that river
I'll fight life's final war with pain,
And then as death gives way to victory
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns.

Thanks, and Acknowledgements

The family of the late Kenton Guy Tibbetts would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our family and friends for the support and for being here ensuring that we have had a chance to say a meaningful goodbye full of happy and heartfelt memories. We take this opportunity to also thank the Doctors and Nurses of the Health Services Authority throughout the years. A special thanks for Bodden Funeral Home for assisting us in ensuring that our final farewell is special.

May God bless you all.