

Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of



Donald James Watler, CPM

September 22nd 1951 – April 4th 2024

First Assembly of God Church
Wednesday, April 10, 2024
3 p.m.

OFFICIATING MINISTER
Pastor: Pastor Bobb

Interment: Prospect Cemetery

*Say not in grief, he is no more-
But live in thankfulness that he was.*

Order of Service

Opening remarks and Prayer	Pastor Bobb
Opening Hymn	Above All (recording Michael W. Smith)
Scripture Reading – Psalms 91	Anita Fausett-Khan
Song : Wind Beneath my Wings	Derri Lee
Tribute from Wife Agnes Watler.....	Roshenara Khan
Tribute from Daughter Sophia Watler	Roshenara Khan
Tribute from Son Joseph Rod Watler	Roshenara Khan
Tribute from Grandson Michael Watler.....	Roshenara Khan
Tribute from Granddaughter Nevaeh Watler	Video
Tribute from Domonique Watler, Nevaeh Watler and Jahrion Chantilope.....	Roshenara Khan
Tribute from Royal Cayman Islands Poilce Service	Commissioner Kurt Walton
Song: When we all get to Heaven.....	Congregation
Eulogy.....	Pastor James Arch Cert. Hon., JP (Ret.)
Sermon	Pastor Bobb
Closing Song: Days of Elijah.....	(recording Judy Jacobs)
Benediction	Pastor Bobb

Pallbearers

Michael Watler
Blake Watler
Joseph Watler

Geoffrey Grizzel
Daniel Lee
Dominic R. Jackson

Honourary Pallbearers

Joseph 'Rod' Watler
Ladner Watler. Cert. Hon
Heber Arch
Roland Bodden
Gene Bodden
Bud Bodden
MacArther Bodden
Gregory Merren
Reginald Delapena
Larry Cayasso
Shervin Wood
Alan 'Al Al' Bush

Dexter Ebanks
Charles Peter Khan - Deceased
Claricy Bodden - Deceased
Mervin 'Dust' Connor – Deceased
Papie Conolly - Deceased
Victor Parsons
Vernon 'Nookoo' Whittaker
Mike Adams
Thomas Guyton
James Merren
Ronnie Arch



**The Obituary of Donald James Watler, C.P.M.
September 22, 1951 – April 4, 2024**

Donald James Watler was born on September 22, 1951 at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Florida. He was the second, and last child of his parents – Mrs Sheila Aileen Arch Watler, and Mr Joseph Theodore Watler of George Town, Grand Cayman.

Donnie, as he was called, grew up on North Church Street in George Town.

His Maternal grandparents were: Mr Henry James Arch, Sr., and Mrs Emily Annette Henderson Arch.
His Maternal great grandparents were: Mr Carol Henderson, and Mrs (Nettie) Antoinette Bodden Henderson.
His Paternal grandparents were: Major Joseph Rodriguez Watler and Mrs Blanche Lee Bodden Watler
His Paternal great grandparents were: Mr Rayal Bodden and Mrs Elizabeth Hurlstone Bodden.

From childhood Donnie attended Triple 'C' School until he was given the opportunity to go to California where he attended the Rio Americano High School and graduated in June 1969.

Upon Donnie's return home, he assisted his brother Ladner with the family businesses, which taught him how to operate heavy equipment and specifically draglines, and Donnie worked for their cousin, Mr Selkirk Watler operating Mr Selkirk's heavy equipment.

His brother Ladner always bragged that his brother Donnie was an excellent dragline operator, and it was he who dug all the lakes, and canals in Red Bay Estates, on Selkirk Drive.

In his leisure time, Donnie loved spearfishing, and he was second to none at this sport. He also loved water-skiing, line fishing and boating in general.

In 1975 Donnie met Agnes Khan as she was a neighbour living next door to their family home on what was then Watler's Square, North Church Street. Donnie and Agnes were married on 29th February 1976, and later became the parents of a daughter Sophia Aileen, and a son Joseph Donald Rodriguez (Rod).

Also in 1975, Donnie applied to, and was accepted by the Cayman Islands Police Department, as it was then called, to become a Recruit. He was then sent to Barbados for 6 months for Police Constable training. Donnie, Agnes, and their 2 young children settled in one of the family houses which they renovated beautifully, and they were later joined by his brother Ladner and his family who lived next door, all in Watler's Square. These brothers enjoyed family life to the fullest!

Donnie also like music and was a Neil Diamond fan.

Everyone enjoyed weekends, and special holidays together: boating, camping, fishing, Easter Monday speed boat races, and Disney World vacations when all the Watler's children were young. All of us attended Elmslie Memorial (Presbyterian) Church and Sunday School (the children).

Many years later Donnie built his 'dream home' in South Sound's Bel Air Drive on other family property. There he dug his own Bel Air Lake, and created a famous wildlife attraction, which he devoted his spare time to up-keeping and managing. He so loved his gardens!

When Sophie grew up, she presented Donnie with his first grandchild – a son named Michael whom Donnie cherished from the very beginning of Michael's life. He took Michael everywhere with him, raising him as his own son, and teaching him the important life skills which he had been taught as a youngster.

His son Rod gave Donnie his next three grandchildren: Blake, Sariah, and Nevaeh Watler. These grandchildren gave Donnie immense joy, and they will miss him for the rest of their lives.

Donnie was a very friendly, jovial person, and loved helping others in need. He was always a sharp, well groomed, meticulous individual.

In recent years Donnie committed his life to The Lord and was often telling others of his personal relationship with Him. Even almost until his last breath(s).

Our precious, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, brother-in-law, Donald James Watler passed peacefully at home on Thursday, April 4, 2024 at approximately 12:15pm, to be with his Lord. At his bedside were his devoted wife of 48 years, Agnes, their Children Sophie and Rod, brother Ladner, and Ladner's daughter Sheila.

Left to mourn their loss, and carry on are:

Wife: Agnes Watler

Children: Sophia and Rod Watler

Grandchildren: Michael, Blake, Sariah, Naveah Watler Brother: Ladner Watler

Nephews and Nieces: Joseph L. Watler Jr. & Sheila Jennifer Leigh Watler, Stephanie Watler, Geoffrey Joseph Grizzel and Hayley Nicole Grizzel

Grand Nephew and Niece: Seth Andrew Rivers & Sage Amelie Rivers

Sisters-in-laws: Pamela Watler, Carol Delapenha, Anita Fausett-Khan, Esther Lamble, Margaret Phillips, Sandra Khan Derri Lee, Theresa Khan, Elizabeth Behrmann

Brothers-in-laws: Daniel Lee, Charles Khan, David Khan, Peter Lamble, Kenneth Phillips, Jimmy Khan, Gary Behrmann, Reginald Delapenha

Aunts: Mrs Margaret Rose Arch Ebanks, Mrs. Helen Watler Merren, Mrs Joan Watler Wilson, and Mrs Elsie Arch Chisholm

Uncles: Mr Richard Arch, Mr Ronnie Arch, and Mr Heber Arch

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Anita Fausett-Khan

Roshenara Khan

Susan Fausett

Ladner Watler & Pamela Watler

Sheila Watler

Joseph Watler

Heber Arch

Janet & Ronnie Arch

The staff at the Jasmine Hospice

Sister Marie Eden

Pastor Bobb

Pastor James Arch

Derri Lee

Scottt Ruby of Bodden's Funderal Home

Suzan Merren

Greg and Terry Merren

Yvonne Saunders

Buel Braggs

The Commissioner of Police Mr. Kurt Walton and the RCIP Force

And a host of family and friends

Tribute from Wife

I thank God for giving you to me. We fell in love, got married and had two beautiful children, Sophia and Rod. You have shown us many wonderful and good times and took the best care of us. I am very sad, and heart-broken that you are gone, but I know that you are with our Heavenly Father. I will always love you and have you in my heart forever. I love you Don and will always be your loving wife Agnes (Nes).

Tribute from Daughter, Sophia.

Dad my heart is broken into a million pieces. You gave me Life, you gave me Love, you made me feel safe and secure. You picked me up every time I fell, whether it was as a kid running and playing or as an adult, when I sometimes felt like the world was caving in on me. You were there to help me up. You always called me 'My First Born' and always joked that you couldn't get rid of me as I ended up with you and Mom for my 47 years! However, Dad, I am so Happy for the gift of being by your side for those 47 years, although sometimes it set you crazy LOL. I could not have asked for a better Father.

I remember when I first found out I was having my son Michael, you were the last person to know as we all feared how you would react. Everyone knew before you, even Ena, my Aunt Anita's sister up in Florida knew before you! My Uncle Daniel had even said to call him if needed and he would help fend him off, if it came to that! So finally, Mom broke the news to him, as she walked past him quickly and left the room, leaving him speechless with his mouth wide open.

But, as God would have it, Dad welcomed the news and was there for us 100%. He was there when Michael drew his first breath and was there for him every step of the way, until God took Dad home. He loved Michael so much and thanked God for him daily, calling him 'his Gift from God'. He took him fishing, boating, driving, and everything in between.

He even went off on a parent whose child had bit Michael on the arm at pre-school and threatened to report the parents to the Family Support Unit! On another occasion, the teacher had to put Michael on time out, but she was afraid to tell Dad, so she whispered it to me, instead! He sure made for an authoritative figure when walking into the classroom in his Police uniform whenever picking up Michael, thus the fear. He was his defender, his Father figure, his everything. Dad and Mom, I thank you so much for helping me to raise Michael, I could never have done it without God and you both.

Dad, you loved to sleep, you even slept through my birth, through Hurricane Ivan and through the Earthquake we had back in 2020. Well Dad, you sleep on, we will meet again someday, until then, I love you and miss you so much, my Dad, my Hero.

Love from your first born, Soph.

Tribute from Son Joseph 'Rod' Watler.

Donald James Watler, my father, my Mentor my All. He was a man full of Principles and he moulded me and raised me into the man I am. It is beyond disbelief that he has passed and left us. My Dad was a Soldier and an Icon to his Family and Cayman. He helped me get into aviation where I stayed for 27 years.

Diving, fishing, and boating were his passions, which he taught me as well. He had a white Suzuki jeep which was a standard drive, and he taught me how to drive it.

Dad, you were the Best Dad in the world, and you will be greatly missed.

Until we meet again,

Your Son, Joseph 'Rod' Watler

My Baby Brother Don,

We were born to the best parents who ever lived. Unfortunately, their lives were cut short, but we still had each other.

We've been through a lot of traumatic times together having both survived near death experiences. Through it all I am glad that I had you as my Baby Brother and only sibling.

I am heartbroken that you are no longer here with us physically, but I am glad that you are no longer suffering and that you're in a better place.

Your dying wish to me was to promise that I take care of Nessie, Sophie, Rod and the grandchildren and I will do just that. I love you and miss you tremendously.

Until we meet again, safe sailing.

Your loving Big Brother and BoBo - Lad

**Tribute To My Brother-in-Law
Donald James Watler, C.P.M.**

I became acquainted with Donnie in 1965 when I began my High School term at Triple C High School. Even though both of our families were already close friends, it was not until 1965 that I personally met Donnie. He was a very friendly, jovial person, easy to talk to, and 'full of jokes. Donnie and I remained close friends for these past 59 years, and I will always remember 'my little brother.' I called Donnie my little brother because I never had any brothers of my own. He remained a good friend to me and a great uncle to my children, Joseph and Sheila Watler. He was also blessed to know my grandchildren: Seth Andrew, and Sage Amelie, the children of my daughter Sheila.

When Chief Inspector Donnie Watler became the Officer-in-Charge of RCIPS, Administration Section, Tower Building we had a chance to work directly together.

Chief Inspector Watler was ever the professional officer as he was always fair, and polite in his dealings with his staff, and the public whom we all served.

I have much love and respect for (Donnie) Chief Inspector Watler, and I will always remember and cherish the many wonderful family times we had together.

My thanks to God for placing you in our lives.

Pamela Watler

Tribute to our dear Uncle Donnie

Our Uncle Donnie was the best uncle ever and we loved him dearly. We have so many loving memories of our family spending time with Uncle Donnie and his family. He was like a second father to us as he was my dad's (Ladner) baby brother and only sibling.

Fondly known as the 'Watler Brothers', our families did everything together as 'Lad' and 'Don' were very close. That being said, our families lived next door to each other in the 80's in our family neighborhood, in George Town, formerly known as Watler's Square, now Wahoo Close.

He was a good policeman, father, uncle and grandfather. We miss him so much already. The fresh aroma of cologne, with a hint of cigarettes will forever remind us of him.

We'll always remember his jovial laugh, the excellent diver and spearfisherman that he was. He also loved his plants and was very meticulous when it came to maintaining his house and garden.

We had so many good times camping, boating, watching movies and vacationing with Uncle Donnie, Nessie, Sophie and Rod. We even went on a family trip to Disney World, in 1987, and spent countless annual Pirates Week celebrations, Christmases and Easter Holidays together.

It's hard to fathom that Uncle Donnie is no longer here with us. Since his passing on 4th April 2024, a piece of our family's puzzle is now missing, but he will be forever in our hearts and memories. Rest in peace dear uncle.

Love, your nephew and niece, Joe and Sheila Watler

Tribute from Domonique Watler, Nevaeh Watler and Jahriion Chantilope

To my Dear Father and Papa Donald, thank you for the laughter, the lessons, and the love. You were more than a Father-in-law; you were a role model, a friend, and an Integral part of our lives. Your memory will forever be a Beacon of light in our hearts.

Rest in peace, dear Papa Donald. You may have left our side, but you will never leave our hearts.

Tribute From Lorna

Tribute to the later Donald Walter known as Dinne he has loving and caring person knowing Mr Donald he work every hard for his family then i leave Jamaica to come to cayman work with the family's Mr Donald thread me very good i work fifyteenyear with family is cooked some of his most delicious food roast beef bake chicken and most all lobster and stew beef walk good Mr Donald we will meet some day lorna.

Graveside Service

Prayer for Family Pastor Bobb
Scripture Pastor Bobb
Committal Pastor Bobb
Songs Congregation

Amazing Grace

When we all get to Heaven

I come to the garden along

Benediction Pastor Bobb

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.

When We All Get To Heaven

Sing the wondrous love of Jesus, Sing His mercy and His grace
In the mansions bright and blessed, He'll prepare for us a place.

Refrain: When we all get to Heaven, What a day of rejoicing that will be
When we all see Jesus, We'll sing and shout the victory!

While we walk the pilgrim pathway, clouds will over-spread the sky
But when traveling days are over, not a shadow, not a sigh.

Let us then be true and faithful, trusting, serving every day
Just one glimpse of Him in glory, will the toils of life repay.

Onward to the prize before us! Soon His beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open; We shall tread the streets of gold.

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.