

*Service of Thanksgiving
For the Life of*



*But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings
as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

Isaiah 40:31

Riley Erneston Ebanks

22 January 1921 – 17 July 2024

Seafarers Hall
Victory Ave, Prospect
31 July 2024
At 2:00 pm

Officiating Minister
Pastor Martin Royer

Interment
Boatswain Bay Cemetery

Order of Service

Opening Remarks.....Pastor Martin Royer
Opening Prayer.....Pastor Martin Royer
Scripture Reading: Revelations 21: Verses 1-4.....Mario Ebanks
Opening Song:Pre-Recorded-Amazing Grace
Life Story.....Katherine Ebanks-Wilks - MP
Tributes
Children.....Shena Toyloy
Grand-Children.....Shena Toyloy
Song: Jealous of the Angels
Seafarers:.....Mr. Denniston Tibbetts
Sermon.....Pastor Martin Royer
Closing Song.....Pre-Recorded- It Is Well With My Soul
Closing Prayer.....Pastor Martin Royer

Pallbearers

Mr. Derrick Blair	Mr. Kyle Miller
Mr. Michael Ebanks	Mr. Kenric Whittaker
Mr. Vince Kelly	Mr. Eric Zelaya

Honorary Pallbearers

Mr. Asley Ebanks	Mr. John Ebanks	Mr Ernest Reynolds
Mr. Brian Ebanks	Mr. Mario Ebanks	Mr. Raully Reynolds
Mr. Eddie Carter	Mr. Machado Ebanks	Mr. Robert Toyloy
Capt. Eugene Ebanks	Mr. Sharon Ebanks	Mr.Cecil Walton
Mr. Iverston Ebanks	Mr. Bruce Reynolds	Mr. Benny Zelaya

Guest Book Attendants

Mrs. Rinamae Bodden
Mrs. Judy Watler

The Life Story of Riley Erneston Ebanks

Riley Erneston Ebanks was a beloved husband, father, brother, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, and friend. He was a humble and respectable centenarian and well respected in the community.

Riley was born in Boatswain Bay, West Bay, Grand Cayman on 22 nd January 1921 to John and Arvis Ebanks; the second child and first son of seven children. He was raised with his parents and siblings in their home, which was just a few feet away from the seashore. Like most of the other children in West Bay back in those years, he attended school under the tutelage of Miss Emily Redley Powery, affectionately known as Teacher Redley.

The fondest memories of his childhood were going swimming with his friends and his siblings every chance he got. His love for the ocean continued during his adult life, up to until his early nineties, as he loved fishing and any adventure which involved the ocean. He kept active and rode his bicycle for many years, even until his old age, as his main mode of transportation. Fishing and swimming also continued to be among his favourite activities.

Riley was well known for his great sense of humor and for being quite proud of his age. Whenever he was asked how old he was he would reply, "Can you guess my age?" Another favorite answer to that question was, "Another day older." He always told everyone that they couldn't catch up with him in age. He would also joke with the elderly folks when it was their birthday, telling them, "If you keep having so many birthdays you gonna get old." This was always followed by a hearty laugh. Riley had a very loving relationship with his siblings and always took the time to visit them, especially his two sisters, Coriel and Mabel, who lived across from each other. Whenever they saw him coming, they would both callout to him saying, "Brother, come here and see me first." He continued his close bond with his sisters throughout their lives. Like many Caymanian men, his skills as a mariner were established during his many trips to the Mosquito Keys to catch turtles, which helped to support his family.

At the start of World War II in 1939, Riley left Cayman for Jacksonville, Florida. He worked as a fireman on freighter ships and oil tankers, which carried food and oil, respectively, during the war. He always spoke with such pride whenever he said that he was told that he was one of the best firemen on the ship. He also helped in the engine room on the ships and was encouraged by the engineers to pursue his Engineering licence because they saw that he knew very well what he was doing and that he had great potential in that discipline. However, for personal reasons, he chose not to take that path. At the end of the war, after the bombing of Hiroshima, he went to Japan. He said that one of his saddest memories in his lifetime was seeing what the bombing had done to the women and children. In 1945, Riley also spent a short time in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, just before coming back home. Upon returning to Cayman, he met and married the love of his life, Julia Lucilla Ebanks nee Bodden, whom he affectionately called Lucille. They were united in marriage on 17 th January 1946. To this union were born 7 children: Jane, Lenon (Ern), Machado, Dean, Darlene, James and Jeannie.

After getting married, Riley joined the National Bulk Carrier shipping company and continued going to sea until August 1958. He was a hard-working and ambitious family man. He always ensured his family was very well taken care of by working a variety of jobs after coming home from sea. In the 1970's he worked as a watch man at some of the hotels on Seven Mile Beach. He also worked as a taxi driver up until he retired.

In addition to being a great father, Riley was also a wonderful grandfather. He taught most of his grandchildren how to swim and how to ride their bikes. Some of them were even fortunate enough to have gone along with him for rides in his taxi. He was also an active member of the Jehovah's Witnesses Church, where he attended and was baptised.

On 9 th February 2011, he lost his loving and devoted wife of 65 years, Julia, leaving a void in his heart and in the family home. Riley was blessed with a long life, which he lived to the fullest. We are ever so grateful to God for blessing him with over 103 years of life. Sadly, on Wednesday, 17 th July 2024 at 9:22 pm, Riley peacefully left his earthly home. At the time of his passing, he was surrounded by his family at his bedside.

Riley was preceded in death by parents: John and Arvis Ebanks; wife: Julia Ebanks nee Bodden; daughter: Jane Reynolds; son: Lenon (Ern) Ebanks; [son, James Orville Ebanks has been missing since 29 th December 2017 and is presumed deceased]; grandchildren: Kevin Kelly and Annie Ebanks; brothers: Lloyd, Calvard, and Elwert; sisters: Coriel and Mabel.

Left to mourn his passing are daughters and their spouses: Dean Carter (Eddie), Darlene Zelaya (Benny), Jeannie Ebanks (Cecil); son and spouse: Machado Ebanks (Marjorie); 21 Grandchildren and their families; 33 Great-grandchildren; brother: Asley Ebanks and his family; daughters-in-law: Millie Ebanks and Deyci Ebanks; nieces, nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends.

May his precious Soul Rest in Peace and Perpetual light shine upon him.

Tributes

TO OUR DADDY

Of all the special gifts in life, however great or small, to have had you as our Daddy was the greatest gift of all. May the winds of love blow softly and whisper in your ear

“We love and miss you Daddy and wish that you were here”

Deep in our hearts your life is kept to love and cherish. No more tomorrows we can share, but yesterdays are always there Your love, your patience, your understanding, your wisdom and your amazing sense of humour will live on inside us.

You have given us gifts that are more precious than anything in this world.

We will look up at the sky each night, and see your star shining so bright.

We will hold you in our hearts forever.

Loving you always, Your children
Dean, Darlene, Jeannie and Machado

From your Grandchildren

Heaven has received another angel, The night sky another star.

Your life has become a loving memory.

We know you will never be far.

We know you are watching over us. As our lives go on.

We will treasure the memories we have of you.

We can't believe you're gone.

You were a loving, caring granddad. You were there for us a lot.

You will always hold a place in our hearts,

A loving, treasured spot.

You were really one in a million, A cut above the rest.

All who knew you would agree.

You simply were the best.

So, Grandfather/Pops we will say goodbye.

We love and miss you with all our hearts,

But as long as we have our loving memories,

We will never be too far apart

Forever Loved
Your Grandchildren

Tributes

To My Wonderful Brother

Of all the gifts in life however great or small,
To have you as my Brother was the greatest gift of all.

A special time, a special place,
A special Brother I can't replace
With an aching heart I whisper low,

I miss you Brother

And love you so.

From: Your Brother Asley

Tribute to Uncle Riley from Mable's children: Iverston, Sharon, Curlon, Sandramae, Ritchey, Jessie & Lincoln

Uncle Riley, you were a great uncle, a mentor, and a blessing to us and many other people. You were a good brother to our Mom and we will forever be grateful for that. The wonderful moments and stories of the family history you shared with us will forever be remembered. Even if we know it's part of life; we are never ready to say goodbye forever. On this day, our hearts are saddened for losing someone so dear to our hearts. We are not only mourning your death but also celebrating your life. God richly blessed you with 103 years and you lived a good life! You will forever be missed. Rest in peace Uncle and may God's perpetual light shine upon you.

Tributes

Memories of Uncle Riley

We remember coming to Birch Tree Hill from the time we were kids.
It was either to bring something that mother made or picking up/dropping
off Aunt Celie from her many adventures with us.

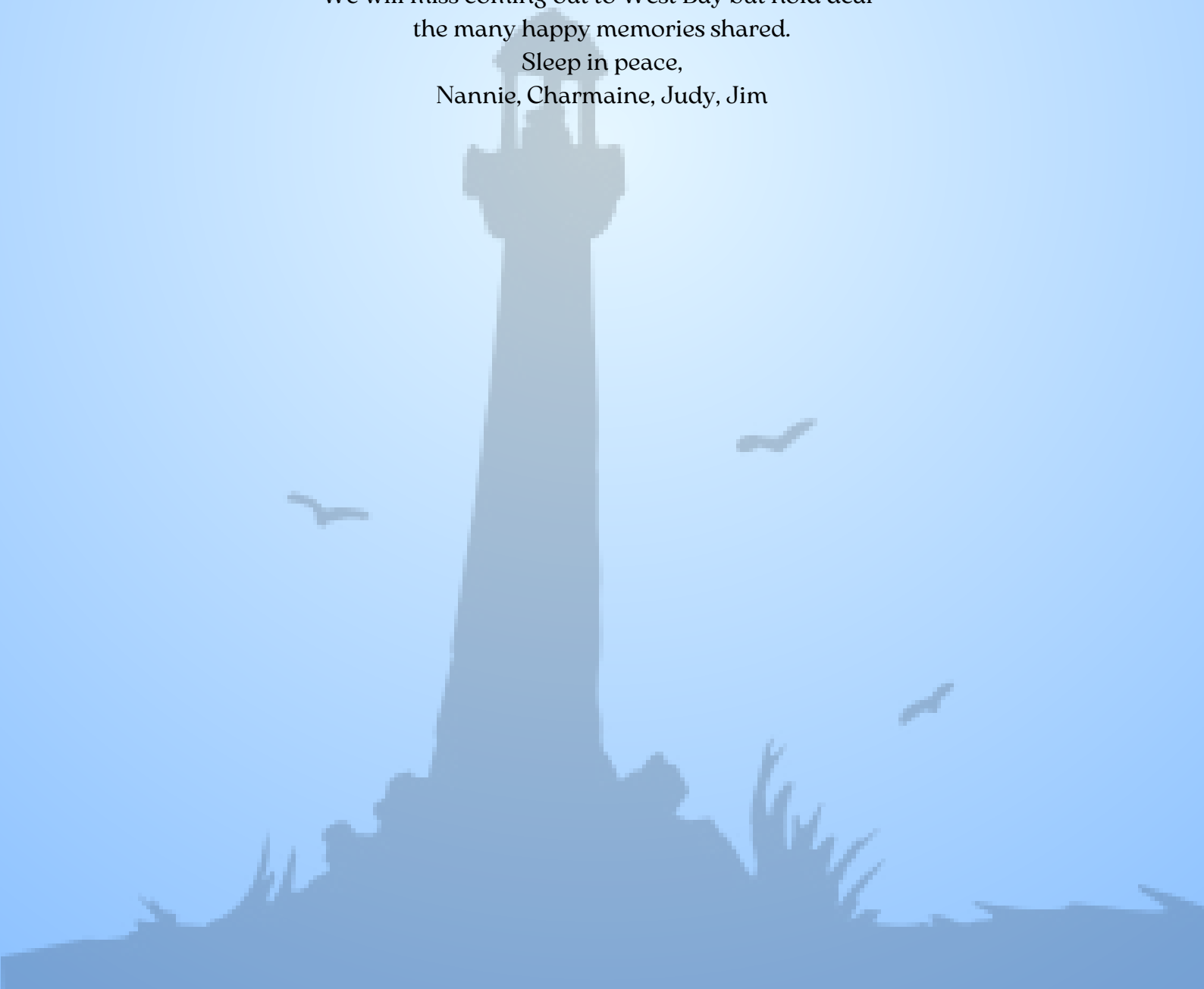
While you were a bit on the quiet side, at times, you were always
jovial and met us with a big smile.

During our visits you loved to talk politics and enjoy your favorite
(besides turtle meat), a RedStripe.

Towards the end you asked for Elverine's daughters and we rushed down for our last visit with
you. You were able to recognize us and tell us that you did,
with a smile of course; and that is how
we have chosen to remember you.

We will miss coming out to West Bay but hold dear
the many happy memories shared.

Sleep in peace,
Nannie, Charmaine, Judy, Jim



Committal Songs

Wings Of A Dove

When troubles surround us, when evils come
The body grows weak
The spirit grows numb
When these things beset us, God doesn't forget us
He sends us His love

On the wings of a snow-white dove
He sends His pure sweet love
A sign from above
On the wings of a dove

When Jesus went down through the river that day
Well, he was baptised in the usual way
And when it was done
God blessed His son
He sent him His love
On the wings of a dove

On the wings of a snow-white dove
He sends His pure sweet love
A sign from above
On the wings of a dove
(2x)

I Want To Stroll Over Heaven With You

If I survey all the good things that come to me from above
If I count all the blessings from the storehouse of love
I'd simply ask for the favor of him beyond mortal king
And I'm sure he would grant it again.

I want to stroll over Heaven with you some glad day
When all our troubles and heartaches are vanished away
Then we'll enjoy the beauty where all things are new
I want to stroll over Heaven with you.

So many places of beauty we long to see here below
But time and treasures have kept us from making plans as you know
But come the morning of rapture together we'll stand a new
While I stroll over Heaven with you.

I want to stroll over Heaven with you some glad day
When all our troubles and heartaches are vanished away
Then we'll enjoy the beauty where all things are new
I want to stroll over Heaven with you...

God On The Mountain

[Verse 1]

Life is easy, when you're up on the mountain
And you've got peace of mind,
like you've never known
But when things change and you're
down in the valley
Don't lose faith, for you're never alone

[Chorus]

And the God on the mountain is still
God in the valley
When things go wrong, He'll make them right
And the God of the good times is still
God in the bad times
The God of the day is still God in the night

[Verse 2]

We talk of faith when we're up on the mountain
But talk comes so easy when life's at its best
But in the valley of trials and temptations
That's when faith is really put to the test

[Chorus]

And the God on the mountain is still
God in the valley
When things go wrong, He'll make them right
And the God of the good times is still
God in the bad times
The God of the day is still God in the night
The God of the day, is still God in the night

How Great Thou Art

Verse 1

O Lord my God
When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works
Thy hands have made,
I see the stars,
I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout
The universe displayed!

Verse 2

When thru 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,

Chorus

Then sings my soul,
My Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art,
How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul,
My Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art,
How great Thou art!

Verse 3

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!

Verse 4

When Christ shall come
With shout of acclamation
And take me home,
What joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow
In humble adoration
And there proclaim,
My God, how great Thou art!

Graveside Service

Opening Remarks:.....Pastor Martin Royer

Prayer.....Pastor Martin Royer

Floral Tributes.....The Family

Song: You Raise Me Up

Committal.....Pastor Martin Royer

Songs:

Wings of A Dove

I Want To Stroll Over Heaven With You

God of The Mountain

How Great Thou Art

Benediction.....Pastor Martin Royer

I AM FREE

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call,
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day, to laugh,
To love, to work or play.
Tasks undone must stay that way
I've found that peace at the close of the day.
If parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah, yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savoured much
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and share with me,
God wants me now, He set me free.

Thanks and Acknowledgements

The family of the late Riley Erneston Ebanks would like to thank everyone who assisted and provided comfort during this sad time and for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers.

Special thanks to his caregivers Michelle, Yvette, Marica , Uonie and Tameka.
Doctors and staff from the West Bay Clinic and Jasmine staff for their loving support during the last few months.

Thanks to Boddan Funeral Service and the Seafarers Association.

May God bless you all.