

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
For The Life Of



John Wesley Ebanks

19 February 1946 -16 June 2025

The Church of God at West Bay
Capt. Reginald Parsons Drive, West Bay
Thursday, July 10, 2025
10:00 am

Officiating Minister
Pastor Garrett Haylock

Interment
Batabano Memorial Cemetery
Willie Farrington Drive

Order of Service

Opening Remarks & Prayer	Pastor Garrett Haylock
Congregational Hymn	“Amazing Grace”
Scripture Reading — Psalm 23	Pastor Garrett Haylock
Life Story / Obituary	Dr. Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, JP
Tributes.....	(By family and friends)
Sermon	Pastor Garrett Haylock
Closing Congregational Hymn	“How Great Thou Art”
Closing Prayer & Benediction	Pastor Garrett Haylock

Pallbearers

Richard W. Ebanks
Rod Ebanks
Maleke Kavir Molina

Richard E. Ebanks
Marco Finelli
Roy Bush

Honorary Pallbearers

Bearl Ebanks
Henry D. Ebanks
Ricky M. Manderson
Alberto Estevanovich
Hon. Rolston M. Anglin JP, MP
Noel Christian
Leonard Hydes
Andrew McLaughlin
Nicolas McLaughlin
Michael Finelli
David J. Ebanks
Randy Manderson
Roger Manderson
Charles A. Bush
Charles C. Bush
Wilbur McLaughlin

Bernie Bush
Luis Molina
Chesley Parson
Earlon Ebanks
Benny Welds
Jonathan Ebanks
Richard N. Ebanks
Kevin Brandon
Steven S. Stewart
Mark Miller
LeBurn Prendergast
Elson Johnson
Avalon Bush
Paul Rivers
Dwayne Ebanks

Robert E. McLaughlin
Oscar Rivers
Donovan Ebanks
Mario M. Ebanks
Greyson McLean
Marcus L. Ebanks II
Jeffrey Parsons
Paul E. Ebanks
Tony Ebanks
Derek Ebanks
Alan Bush
Gillard McLaughlin
Carlton McDoom
Ivan Farrington
Robert Bush
Cadian Ebanks

Left to Mourn

John is deeply missed by his brother Richard, and sisters Gwendolyn, Bessie, Ludivene, Lena, Barbara, and Brenda and wife Maxine.

He is also remembered by his grandson Maleke Kavir, great-granddaughter Malecia, beloved Aunt Jen, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, and many dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents John Erskin Ebanks and Julia Gwendolyn Ebanks, his sister Jenny Joy Ebanks, nephew Marcus Leon Ebanks and his beloved daughter Debbie Ann Ebanks-Molina.

A Life Well-Lived: John Wesley Ebanks

John Wesley Ebanks entered the world on February 19th, 1946, at his parents' home in North West Point, West Bay, Grand Cayman. His arrival was guided with loving hands by his cousin, Grammy Annie, a local mid-wife known for bringing many West Bayers into the world. He was the firstborn child of the proud John Erskin Ebanks and Julia Gwendolyn Ebanks, two pillars of the community and loving parents who were overjoyed at the birth of their son.

As a young boy, John was full of curiosity and energy. But it wasn't long before his siblings came along, and John slipped into his role as "big brother" like he was born for it. Protective, loyal, and kind, John watched over them with a seriousness that belied his age. Childhood memories were painted with sunny afternoons of bat and ball, playing marbles, spinning gigs, mangoes fresh off the tree, fishing and laughter echoing through the West Bay breeze.

At age eight, John began his schooling at the Town Hall School. His classmates fondly nicknamed him "Short John," not for lack of strength or presence, but for his stature, and yet, despite the name, he was the fastest runner at the school. Quick on his feet and quicker with his wit, John was never one to back down. He might've been small in height, but never in heart. He stood his ground when it mattered, especially when it came to his family.

From a young age, John knew the value of hard work. He helped his parents with household chores and could often be seen by his father's side. Not many know this, but John and his father, Erskin, lent their hands to Dalmain "D.D." Ebanks and Mr. McDoom in constructing the Blue Horizon, just across from their home. That place would later become a beloved hangout spot, filled with music, dancing, and memories. John, ever the protector, often took his siblings there so they could join in the fun under his watchful eye.

At 19, like many young Caymanian men of that era, John followed the call of the sea. He joined the merchant marine with a heart full of dreams and a deep sense of purpose. I remember him saying mama was fixing his tie with tears in her eyes, begging him not to go. But he looked at her and said, "Mama, I have to go. I need to build you and Papa a new house." And he did just that.

Years of sailing took him to faraway lands, and with every return, he came bearing gifts, stories, and that same generous heart. With the help of his siblings, John fulfilled his promise and built his parents a home brick by brick, dream by dream.

At the age of 22, John had his first and only child Debbie Ann Ebanks. After a few years of dating, John married his first wife Brenda. But they would later divorce. He then met and married Maxine in 1986.

When his seafaring days came to an end, John found his footing in construction, later settling into a role at the Colonial Club as a gardener and maintenance man. He worked there faithfully until shortly after Hurricane Ivan shook the island in 2004.

Throughout his life, John made countless friends. He had a gift for storytelling his tales were the kind that made you laugh until your belly hurt. He loved to tease, to joke, and to lift spirits. Beneath the laughter was a man of deep kindness, unwavering loyalty, and simple joys. He didn't care for extravagance; his treasure was his family, and his wealth was measured in love and laughter.

John Wesley Ebanks, a man once called "Short John" stood tall in all the ways that mattered. In love. In loyalty. In legacy. And those who knew him were better for it. His life was a beautiful chapter in Cayman's story, and his memory will forever echo in the hearts of those who had the honor of knowing him.

Graveside Service

Opening Remarks

Hymns Congregation

"In the Sweet By and By"

"I'll Fly Away"

Committal.....Pastor Garrett Haylock

Benediction & Closing PrayerPastor Garrett Haylock

In the Sweet By and By

There's a land that is fairer than day,
And by faith we can see it afar;
For the Father waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there.

*Refrain: In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;
In the sweet by and by,*

We shall meet on that beautiful shore.
We shall sing on that beautiful shore
The melodious songs of the blessed;
And our spirits shall sorrow no more,

Not a sigh for the blessing of rest.
To our bountiful Father above,
We will offer our tribute of praise
For the glorious gift of His love
And the blessings that hallow our days.

I'll Fly Away

Some bright morning when this life is over
I'll fly away
To that home on God's celestial shore
I'll fly away

*Refrain: I'll fly away oh glory
I'll fly away (in the morning)
When I die hallelujah by and by
I'll fly away*

When the shadows of this life have gone
I'll fly away
Like a bird from these prison walls I'll fly
I'll fly away

Just a few more weary days and then
I'll fly away
To a land where joys will never end
I'll fly away

Acknowledgement

The family of the late John Wesley Ebanks wishes to extend heartfelt thanks for your prayers, visits, kind words, phone calls, and every expression of sympathy and love.

Your support has brought comfort during this time of sorrow.