



A GATHA
BEAT **RICE**
1935-2021 **JONES**



AGATHA BEATRICE LONES

SUNRISE: 27TH MAY, 1935 - SUNSET: 17TH JUNE, 2021

FUNERAL SERVICE:
Saturday 10th July, 2021 at 10am

Church of God of Prophecy
Bottle Creek • North Caicos

OFFICIATING:
Sr. Pastor Rev. Ronald Gardiner
Rev. Dr. Gladstone Williams

ORGANIST:
Tarek Fulford

BURIAL:
William's Private Cemetery
Richmond • Bottle Creek

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS:
A&S Funeral Services



Who can find a more virtuous woman? Agatha's price is far above rubies, as she was a woman of impeccable character.

Agatha Beatrice Jones, a seamstress and life-long resident of Bottle Creek North Caicos was born on 27th May, 1935, to the late Ralph and Irene Williams. Her parents welcomed her - their second child with exhilaration. She was the epitome of near perfection and she grew up to be a honest, kindhearted and loving individual who always maintained a bubbly personality.

She attended the Bottle Creek Primary School, and had a short enrollment in the Grand Turk Primary School, after her father was drafted in the World War II gun crew. She later transitioned to high school in Grand Turk where she left at the tender age of fourteen. During her time at school, she enjoyed and excelled in Mathematics, but the elusive reading was a sore point for her, as she did not like it very much. Nonetheless, Agatha was never daunted by life challenges, and she remained unstoppable.

Agatha met and fell in love with the late James Jones, Jr. and after a few months of courtship, they got married on 30th of March 1959. This union produced four children Andrew, Delton, Hyacinth and Karen.

Following their marriage, Agatha moved to the Bahamas to find a better life, as she was very skillful with her hands. She crochet-made cushions and sewed as a means of employment, prior to being employed with the Labour Union, Bahamian Club and Nassau Beach Hotel, where she worked until she returned to North Caicos, Turks and Caicos Islands in 1974.

During that same year in 1974, she took up employment at the Prospect of Whitby Hotel in the laundry department until the hotel's closure. She also engaged in odd jobs such as sewing for weddings, as well as school uniforms. She was regarded as one of the best seamstresses during that era.

She loved her family deeply and had a special and distinct relationship with each child - always warning them about 'not saying anything about persons behind their backs that they can't say to their faces.' This deep love extended to her siblings, she regarding each sibling in a special way and they looked to her as a tower of strength and their confidante. This was evident by the care and attention that was showered on her, when she would visit Provo and stay with her two sisters Elena and Challis.

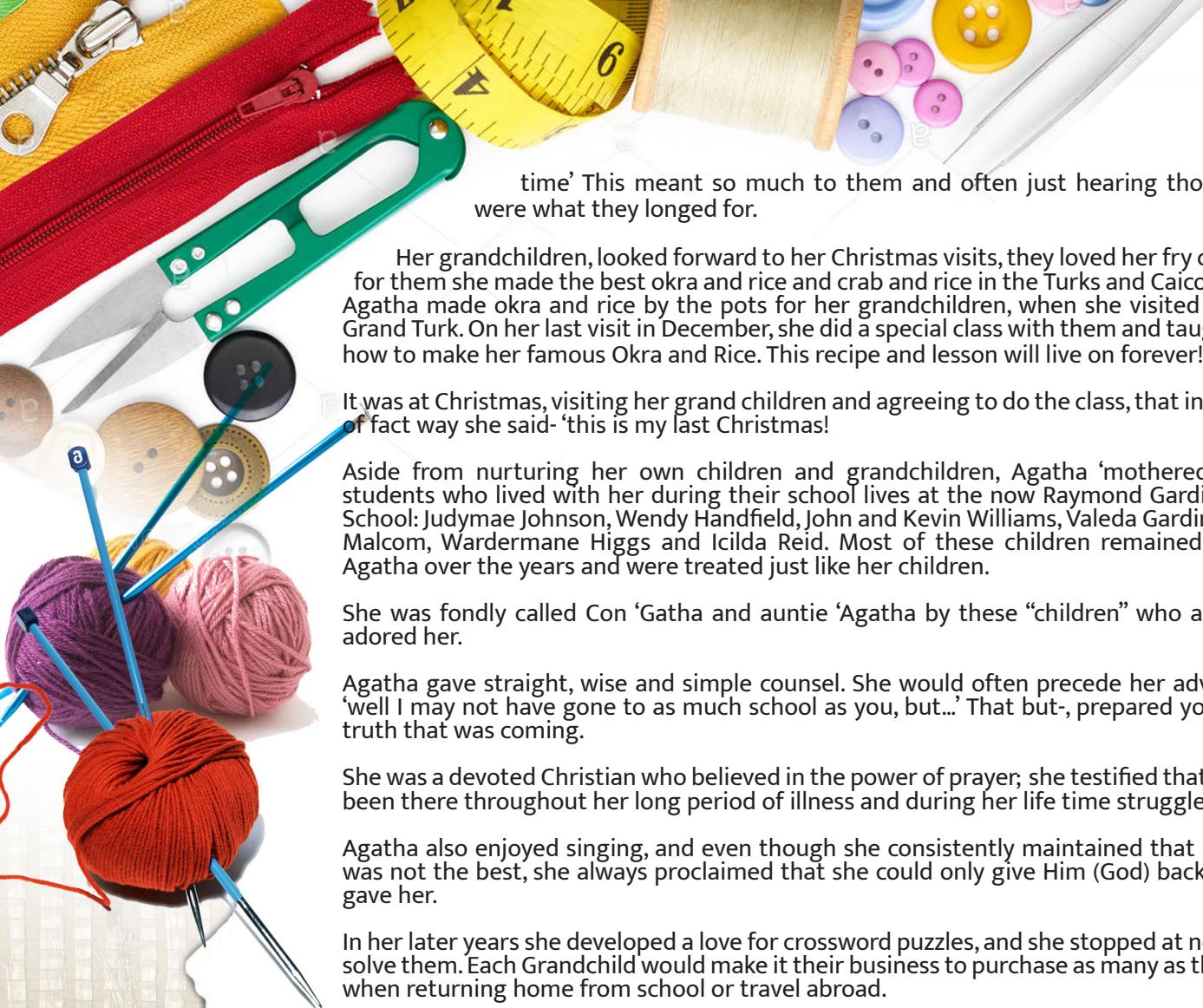
She was a people's person - always giving wise counsel and numerous jokes which I am sure everyone who came in contact with her can attest to. Her story telling skills were famous in the family and it is one of the things we will all miss.

She was also very close to her grandchildren and it is well known that she was both mother and grandmother to Ahmed (Sekou) and Rahjime. Both boys were in her care from as early as a few weeks old. She happily took over care of her granddaughter Nia for almost one year, when her mother was challenged with health issues. This was the same for her grandson Neo. Agatha nurtured and cared for him at age four, when his mother had extensive eye surgery.

Agatha spoilt and passionately loved her Grand Children and would always encourage them, saying 'I can't give you much more than my prayers.' Whenever she spoke to her children and Grand Children she would end with 'Love you long

O B I T U A R Y





time' This meant so much to them and often just hearing those words were what they longed for.

Her grandchildren, looked forward to her Christmas visits, they loved her fry cakes and for them she made the best okra and rice and crab and rice in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Agatha made okra and rice by the pots for her grandchildren, when she visited them on Grand Turk. On her last visit in December, she did a special class with them and taught them how to make her famous Okra and Rice. This recipe and lesson will live on forever!

It was at Christmas, visiting her grand children and agreeing to do the class, that in a matter of fact way she said- 'this is my last Christmas!

Aside from nurturing her own children and grandchildren, Agatha 'mothered' several students who lived with her during their school lives at the now Raymond Gardiner High School: Judymae Johnson, Wendy Handfield, John and Kevin Williams, Valeda Gardiner, Tessa Malcom, Wardermane Higgs and Icilda Reid. Most of these children remained close to Agatha over the years and were treated just like her children.

She was fondly called Con 'Gatha and auntie 'Agatha by these "children" who absolutely adored her.

Agatha gave straight, wise and simple counsel. She would often precede her advice with, 'well I may not have gone to as much school as you, but...' That but-, prepared you for the truth that was coming.

She was a devoted Christian who believed in the power of prayer; she testified that God had been there throughout her long period of illness and during her life time struggles.

Agatha also enjoyed singing, and even though she consistently maintained that her voice was not the best, she always proclaimed that she could only give Him (God) back what he gave her.

In her later years she developed a love for crossword puzzles, and she stopped at nothing to solve them. Each Grandchild would make it their business to purchase as many as they could when returning home from school or travel abroad.

Agatha also continued crocheting/knitting until she became ill and her hands would not allow her to do so. We all have reminders of the knitting and crochet days we have them, in the knitted suitcase tags, mittens, socks, scarves, even the knitted tops she made for her granddaughters.

In 2001, Agatha began experiencing bouts of illnesses, and as the years went by, she underwent numerous surgeries. She also began her battle with cancer around the same time.

As she approached her 86th birthday and celebrated with her family and friends; her health took a drastic turn for the worse. During this time her dear family, friends and the community of North Caicos made certain that she did not suffer alone.

Agatha made her transition on 19th June, 2021, in the very early hours of the morning, at her home in Bottle Creek North Caicos surrounded by her daughter, Karen, her sister, Delia and caretaker, Icilda .

Agatha in her final moments managed to stitch her name and crochet her love across our hearts when her final piece of puzzle was solved.

**The indelible mark she has left on this Earth,
Will always speak volume to her actual worth...
Her memories will live on; oh, we will surely make that happen
"Sail on silver girl" gone but not forgotten.**

We end this with your favorite quote... Agatha, you are now "as free as a New York goat".

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LEFT TO CHERISH HER MEMORIES

SONS Andrew Jones, Delton Jones, Joseph Jones

DAUGHTERS Hyacinth Fulford and Karen Jones, Curlene McQueen

ADOPTED CHILDREN Valeda Gardiner, John Williams, Judymae Johnson, Wendy Handfield, Kevin Williams, Tessa Malcolm, Icilda Reid

DAUGHTERS IN LAW Cherylann Jones, Brenda Jones, Garde Jones

SON IN LAW Bishop George Fulford

GRANDCHILDREN Rahjime, Brielle, Ahmed, Kenya, Nia, Asante, Tarek Fulford, Aresenio and Zae Moss, Kareen and Carvater Jones, Collin and Anthony Capron, Stelliarr Gardiner

GREAT GRAND CHILDREN Maleek Carter, Akeem Jones and Ahkeil, Caden, Brianna and Antonio Capron

SISTERS Delia Delancy, Elena Patrick, Challis Ferguson, Tyler Lang, Motis Gardiner, Marion Culmer

BROTHERS Daniel Williams

SISTER-IN-LAW Barbara-Ann Williams, Violet Williams, Sue Williams, Flexie Jones, Betty Dean, Patrice Williams.

BROTHER-IN-LAW Ronald Jones and Hugh Gardiner

NUMEROUS UNCLES AND AUNTS

NIECES & NEPHEWS Roberta, Rocky, Paul, Ralph, Nathaniel, Quniton, Oehlers, Mamalena, Ray, Vernell, Pedio, Ian, Ronnie, Samuel, Rick, Erica, Lueann, Shyann, Deann, Donavan, Portia, Clintona, Ian, Ralph, Charrish, Charvis, Oliver Lofton, Joshua, Constant

NUMEROUS GRAND NIECES AND NEPHEWS

SPECIAL COUSINS Carabell Smith and family, Vivian Lightbourne, Madgelyn Dickison and family, Anthea Williams, Steven Burrows and family, Flint, Churiton, Sarah, and Sam Handfield, Beatrice Skippings, Gwendolyn Laborde, Rufus Williams and family, Janderlyn Forbes, Carolyn, Jennifer, Lorriane, Prina, Bounty, Aris, Rev. Goldstone and Withlen Williams, Daisy and Dennis Been, Pat Forbes Rozental Gardiner, Almaida Hall, Bernice, Hermutal Handfield, Alveria Reid and Murial Walkins

SPECIAL FRIENDS Maud Handfield and family, Evette Gardiner, Marciana, Brenda Smith, Lewlyn and Carlos Handfield and family, Mary Higgs, Sandra Coalbroke, Sarah Williams and family, Howard Gibbs and family, Paulena Handfield, Irene, Trayvon Gray, Mary Duhaney, Cardinal Arthur, Isula Stuart, Dianna Deley, Arthur Harris, Annal Handfield, Carmencita Morley, Mrs Henirrata and Olivia Delancy and Olivia, Enid Sanderson and Family, Mac & Marie Smith, Denise Mattew & Dorothy Been and Bible Study Ministries Family.

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- ORDER OF SERVICE -



MUSICAL PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL OF THE FAMILY

OPENING SENTENCEOfficiating Pastor

CONGREGATIONAL SONG“And Can It Be”

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies!
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love Divine!
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.

He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness Divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own

OPENING PRAYER Pastor Lewellyn Handfield

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTUREPsalms 71:8 -24.....Mr. Ralph Patrick [Nephew]

INSTRUMENTAL Bishop George Fulford [Son-In-Law]

GREETINGS

TRIBUTE IN SONG Mrs. Kacy Higgs [Cousin]

REFLECTIONS Valeda Gardiner [Daughter]
Hurmutal Handfield [Friend]

NEW TESTAMENT2 Corinthians 5:1Nia Jones [Granddaughter]

TRIBUTE IN SONG Higgs Brothers [Nephews]

OBITUARYRead by: Mrs. Comacita Morley [Friend]

SPECIAL SELECTION North Caicos Baptist Association

SERMON	Rev. Dr. Goldstone Williams
PRAYER FOR FAMILY	Pastor Dennis Swann
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	A&S Funeral Services
RECESSIONAL HYMNAL	“Glad Reunion Day”

There will be a happy meeting in heaven I know,
 When we see the many loved ones we’ve known here below;
 Gather on the blessed hilltops with hearts all aglow,
 That will be a glad reunion day.

Chorus
 Glad day, a wonderful day,
 Glad day, a glorious day,
 There with all the holy angels and loved ones to stay,
 That will be a glad reunion day.

There within the holy city we’ll sing and rejoice,
 Praising Christ the blessed Savior with heart and with voice;
 Tell Him how we came to love Him and make Him our choice,
 That will be a glad reunion day.

When we live a million years in that wonderful place,
 Basking in the love of Jesus, beholding His face,
 It will seem but just a moment of praising His grace,
 That will be a glad reunion day.



BENEDICTION

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- GRAVESIDE HYMN -

“SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER”

Shall we gather at the river,
 Where bright angel feet have trod;
 With its crystal tide forever
 Flowing by the throne of God?

Ere we reach the shining river,
 Lay we ev’ry burden down;
 Grace our spirits will deliver,
 And provide a robe and crown.

Refrain:
 Yes, we’ll gather at the river,
 The beautiful, the beautiful river;
 Gather with the saints at the river
 That flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river,
 Washing up its silver spray,
 We will walk and worship ever,
 All the happy golden day.

Soon we’ll reach the shining river,
 Soon our pilgrimage will cease;
 Soon our happy hearts will quiver
 With the melody of peace.

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- TRIBUTES -

COMPASSIONATE
CONSIDERATE
CHARITABLE
CAPTIVATING

TO MY DEAR GRANDMA

What great an honor to know you, love you and be loved by you. For the past twenty four years, you have been a constant ray of sunshine.

You were more than just my 'Grammy'. You were my confidant, comedian, life coach and one of my girlfriends!

Although we know that from the day we are born, our days on earth are numbered, I never could imagine life without you.

I am eternally grateful for you! Here's to the 24 years of love, laughter and sweet memories.

"I LOVE YOU LONG-TIME!"

FOREVER & ALWAYS YOUR GIRL

Nia

DAUGHTER

KAY

These are just a few words one could use to describe my mother, the love of my life. Mum, I am so grateful I had the last chance to thank you for all that you have done. You made me what I am today and I can never truly express how appreciative I am of you. You were the definition of selflessness, not only to your children, but to everyone that you crossed paths with. You always told me to live by the Golden Rule 'Do unto others as you would have them unto you.' I never truly understood the extent of what you meant until I witnessed the outpouring of the love and support your family and community showed you in your final weeks of life. Your last words to me were, 'Kay, love yourself, love the Lord and love your children.' The things you instilled in me will always be in my heart. Your loving nature, your enthusiasm, your optimism and your endless love for others will live on in those you touched. I was truly blessed to have you as my mother. I will forever be grateful I was able to see you smile one last time before God took you back home to Him. We all loved you, but HE loved best.

MY COUSIN AND FRIEND

For these 30 plus years you have been there for me as a counselor, and advisor, a listener and a defender. I looked up to you as a mother. We have a relationship that I cherish very much. When ever I visited home in North Caicos, your home was like mine. We would talk until we fell asleep. I am going to miss those chats, but I am happy you are free from pain and sickness. Sleep on my dear cousin and friend, take your much needed rest.

Whitleen Williams

CELEBRATION OF OUR SISTER

Agatha Beatrice Jones

Today we the family of Agatha, affectionately known as Gatha, are saddened, but not broken. We were all blessed to have her in our lives.

Agatha was the oldest sibling for the last twenty six years. She proudly wore her crown as the matriarch of her family. She wore that crown with honor and distinction!

She had a keen, tender, listening ear. One that would advise you to do the right thing, even when you felt it was not in your best interest. Agatha would always tell us "the good you do, you do it for yourself".

Agatha would always tell us that when she slept; she would not dream, because 'she doesn't worry about anything'. All of Gatha's fears were with the Lord. She believed in the scripture, particularly the one that says "be angry but do not sin".

We will never forget the stories she told us. Like when she got her first corn shuck bed; when she learned her name was Agatha and not Agartha and lastly, her high school days in Grand Turk. And these stories will be passed on to our children our lineage, our generations, our future

After having her double mastectomy, she would jokingly say "all I do to Daisy and Macy, they gone leave me to fend for myself, they just like bad children". Even when most of us would be angry with God for our battle with cancer, our sister thanked her Lord and turned her sorrows into laughter.

We will never forget our phone calls from you, with your silly solutions. You were and will always be our wise and beautiful sister. Yes, peas and rice and pork will always be sweet to some of us.

In memory of your birthday we did our best to have a steak dinner and a glass of sparkling apple cider; on you. Dessert would be accompanied by one of your most hilarious toasts. This would be missed.

So long, Sister until we meet again.

YOUR BELOVED BROTHER AND SISTERS:

Daniel, Delia, Louise, Mariane,
Mytis Elena and Challis

My Sister Gatha

I cannot say goodbye. My sister Gatha, as she was affectionately called, was a ray of sunshine that could brighten the darkest of skies. I took great pride in knowing that I was the one she prayed for. After 5 brothers, Gatha desperately wanted a sister, so she prayed and asked God to send her one and along I came. She was sure to let me know that I almost killed our Ma in childbirth and they thought I was dead until they saw the "lil thing move" as she would say.

Oh how she could tell a story! You couldn't help but laugh, sometimes until you teared up and your stomach ached. Yes Gatha was definitely a comedian! She was known for her phrases like "Stop talking cow fart," or "I right here old and 'oogly"...

Gatha had a way with words that no one could duplicate. Gatha remembered the little, but important things, such as when she sent my grandson \$5 for his favorite plantain chips. It was special for him. But that was Gatha.

I love you with an unmatched love. Rest my dear sister.

YOUR BABY SISTER DELIA

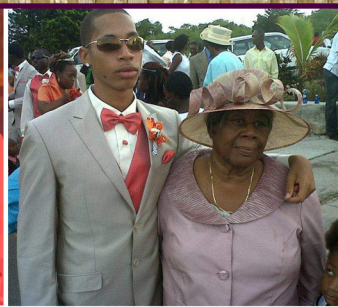
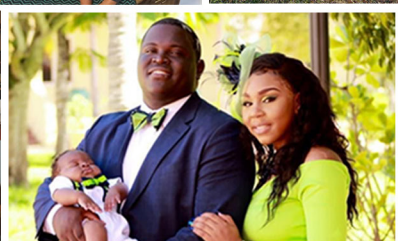
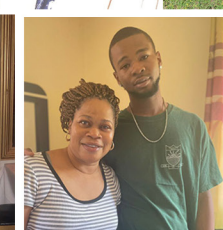
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TO MY STEPMOM

Agatha

In three lovely years I have built memories of you that will last forever. Thanks for the pure and genuine love you've shown me. I know you are in a better place, where you are my guardian angel. I will miss you!!

ICILDA





- HONORARY PALL BEARERS -

Andrew Jones Delton Jones
Rhajame Jones Ahmed Jones
Joseph Jones Paul Higgs
Tarek Fulford

- PALL BEARERS -

Stellon Gardiner Rockey Higgs
Vaughn Higgs John Williams
Ralph Higgs Giovanni Higgs
Eddy Smith Darry Handfield
Ralph Patrick Ian Patrick

- USHERS -

Curley Gardiner and Vanessa Williams

- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS -

The family of the late Agatha Beatrice Jones would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to all who phoned, messaged, sent cards or visited to express their sympathy and support. Those expressions of sympathy meant so much to all of us. Our thanks to the community of North Caicos and those visited, sang and prayed with Agatha, those who took turns sleeping at nights at her home with her, making sure that Agatha and her family were never alone. Thank you so much for your kindness. We extended our thanks to the staff of the NHIP and the doctors and nurses who treated her at the hospital on Providenciales; and the paramedics and pilots who carried her safety on her travels to and from the hospital. The nurses and doctors who took special care of her during those visits, a special thank you. Our thanks also to the Ministry of Health and the Community Health staff, Dr. McKenzie, and Nurses Smith, Black and Hernandez on North Caicos; and extra special thanks to Ms. Isilda Reid her care taker who ensured we never had to worry about her wellbeing in the final years of her life.

SERVICE RENDERED BY:



A&S FUNERAL SERVICES

24HR/NUMBERS: 1(649)232-1244 or 341-1683

EMAIL: ans@ansfuneralservices.com

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