A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR

John

ELIJAH BECKFORD "CHARLIE GOAT"

Surge: November 11th, 1951
Subside: November 18th, 2024
Three Score and Thirteen

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR John "CHARLIE GOAT"

Saturday, December 7th, 2024
11:00 AM

Cooper's Terrace Cathedral
Highway Church of God
Cooper's Terrace, Off Kemp Road
Nassau, Bahamas

Senior Pastor
Bishop Robert A. McPhee

Moderator:
Minister Duran McKinney
Youth Pastor

Eulogist:
Bishop Ivan Marshall
Associate Pastor,
Coopers Terrace Cathedral
Highway Church of God

Organist:
Bro. Kenneth Beckford

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me for I am free
I am following the path God laid for me.
I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work or play
If my parting has left a void,
Fill it with remembered joy.
Perhaps my time here seemed all too brief
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Light up your hearts and share with me.
God wants me now, He set me free!

ELIJAH BECKFORD

In Loving Memory of John

John was an avid swimmer and his life was like to the many facets of water. He was raised in a Christian home to the late Oscar and Erma nee Knowles-Beckford and was the second of nine children.

From a young age, John was like a child first discovering the shallow end of the pool. He was full of wonder and excitement and embracing every new experience with the enthusiasm.

His early years were spent at Eastern Mission, currently Cooper's Terrace Cathedral Highway Church of God . He had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, much like the initial strokes that set the pace for a swim. He matriculated at Eastern Junior and Eastern Senior Schools in the heart of Palmdale. After the passing of his father, John left school at an early age to take over the family business, "O.J. Beckford Trucking Service" and provide for his mother and siblings. As he matured, John's life became a series of powerful, steady strokes. He cut the waves of life with strength, hard work, determination and commitment, always striving to improve and grow. He worked at LeCabre Theatre, where he met his wife Thelma. This union was blessed with two children - Elijah and Erin. John also worked at Rainforest Theatre, and after retiring from the hotel industry, he resorted to carpentry, masonry and three cutting, becoming an independent contractor and entrepreneur. After many years, John remarried the Late Mealonie nee' Wildgoose, and helped to raise LaToya and Mauricio as his own.

John's presence was as refreshing and vital as water itself - bringing joy, comfort, and support to all who knew him. He loved spending time with his dogs, horse-back riding, riding his chopper motorcycle and good games of dominoes and backgammon. Just as he found solace and freedom in the water, those around John found peace and laughter in his company. He had a knack for making others feel understood; he was affectionate and simply a people's person.

Throughout his life, John battled many strong currents. Yet, through it all, he remained steadfast and resilient, always emerging stronger and more determined.

John loved church and was active with the Men's Fellowship Choir and the Marriage Ministry of CTC. On June 7th, 2024, while participating in a Men's Fellowship project at church, he tragically fell and was hospitalized until his death. Although he was physically disabled, he remained positive, optimistic, jovial and yet demanding. He enjoyed daily devotions, prayer

and singing spirituals with his family and made peace with God.

In his final moments, John embraced the stillness of the water, finding peace. His legacy, like the ripples left behind by a swimmer's strokes, continues to touch and inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him. John will be remembered for his strength, his kindness, and unwavering spirit, much like the enduring and essential nature of water itself. His favorite sayings were *"Ya'll een making no sense!", "Live with love", "Live as ONE",* and *"Take care of yourself and your family."*

Rest in peace, John. Your journey has left an indelible mark on our hearts, and your memory will forever flow through the lives of those you loved.

John leaves behind countless memories that will be cherished forever. He is survived by his **Children:** Elijah (Sonia) Beckford, Erin (Ashley) Williams and LaToya (Lavar) Charlton; **Grandchildren:** Paige Tilby, Charlie and Brooklyn Williams, Mauricio Clarke and Lavaranae Charlton; **Brothers:** Anthony, Nigel (Carolyn), Wendall (Karen) and Kendall (Michelle) Beckford Sr. and Joey (Muriel) Knowles; **Sisters:** Alice Josey, Carol (Stanford) Sturrup Sr., Antoinette (Julian) Cumberbatch and Charlene (Julius) Rolle; **Uncle:** McAllen (Valderine) Knowles; **Aunts:** Barbara Romer, Sybiline and Judy Knowles; **Loving Nieces and Nephews:** Kimbley (Bishop Robert) McPhee, Kemuel (ElKera) Josey, DeAngelo (Diane) Ingrham, Aretha, Kathy, Antoinette, Nicole, Errol, and Nigela Beckford, Ivala Nixon, Ominique Davis and Valentino (Jesika) Smith, Aisha (Jensel) Watkins, Stanford Sturrup Jr., Crystal (Leonardo) Miller, Andre Sturrup, Melissa, Natasha, Kendall Beckford Jr.,Glenroy (Monique) Beckford Jr. and Glenda Beckford, Juliann (Delton) Rolle and Jessica Cumberbatch; Many loving grand-nieces, grand-nephews, Heirs of the Late Oscar and Erma Beckord, Heirs of the late Cleophas "CC" and Lucinda Knowles Sr., Other Family and Friends, the Coopers' Terrace Cathedral Highway Church of God family, and the Kemp Road Community.

FUNERAL SERVICE FOR THE LATE, JOHN ELIJAH BECKFORD "CHARLIE GOAT"

Order of Service

Processional of Family
"Goodness of God"

Moderator: Minister Duran McKinney
Youth Pastor, Coopers Terrace Cathedral Highway Church of God

Call to Order | Bishop Robert A. McPhee
Senior Pastor, Coopers Terrace Cathedral Highway Church of God

Invocation | Rev. Shawnwell Knowles, Cousin

Prayer Response | My Jesus I Love Thee

Verse 1:

My Jesus I love Thee,
I know Thou art mine
For Thee all the follies
of sin I resign
My gracious Redeemer,
my Saviour art Thou
If ever I loved Thee
my Jesus 'tis now

Verse 2:

I love Thee because
Thou has first loved me
And purchased my pardon
on Calvary's tree
I love Thee for wearing
the thorns on Thy brow
If ever I loved Thee
my Jesus 'tis now

Verse 3:

I'll love Thee in life
and I will love Thee in death
And praise Thee as long as
Thou lendest me breath
And say when the death dew
lies cold on my brow
If ever I loved Thee
my Jesus 'tis now

Old Testament Scripture | Minister Stanford Sturrup Sr., Brother-In-Law
Psalms 91:1-9 KJV

Solo | The Beckford Sisters, Cousins

New Testament Scripture | Dallas Rolle, Grand-Nephew
Revelation 21:1-8 KJV

Video Tribute | Elijah Beckford, Son

Liturgical Dance | Natasha Beckford, Niece

Reflections .... As I Knew Him | **Deacon Kennedy Frazier,** Church Brother

Video Tribute | **Donella Johnson**, Cousin

Congregational Hymn | **Heaven's Jubilee**

Verse 1:
Some glad morning,
we shall see Jesus in the air
Coming after you and me,
joy is ours to share
What rejoicing there will be,
when the saints shall rise
Headed for that jubilee,
yonder in the skies

Chorus:
Oh, what singing,
Oh, what shouting
On that happy morning
when we all shall rise
Oh what glory, Hallelujah,
When we meet our Blessed Savior
in the skies

Verse 2:
Seems that now I almost see,
all the sainted dead
Rising for that jubilee,
that is just ahead
In the twinkling of an eye,
changed with them to be
All the living saints to fly,
to that jubilee!

Verse 3:
When with all that heavenly host
we begin to sing
Singing in the Holy Ghost,
how the heavens ring
Millions there will join the song,
with them we shall be
Praising Christ through ages long
what a jubilee!

Words of Comfort and Condolences | Please limit to 3 minutes

Minister Monique Miller
Coopers Terrace Cathedral Highway Church of God

Solo | **Mauricio Clarke,** Grandson

Ministry In Song | **CTC Sanctuary Choir**
"When the Home Gates Swing Open for Me"

Eulogy | **Bishop Ivan Marshall**
Associate Pastor, Coopers Terrace Cathedral Highway Church of God

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Expressions of Gratitude | **Antoinette Beckford-Cumberbatch**, Sister

Prayer for the Family | **Bishop Robert McPhee**
Senior Pastor, Coopers Terrace Cathedral Highway Church of God

Recessional Hymn | **It Is Finished**

Verse 1:

There's a line that's been drawn
through the ages
On that line stands the old rugged cross
On that cross a battle is raging
For the gain of man's soul or his loss

Chorus:
It is finished, The battle is over
It is finished, There'll be no more war
It is finished, The end of the conflict
It is finished, And Jesus is Lord

Verse 2:
On one side march the forces of evil
All the demons and devils of hell
On the other the angels of glory
And they meet on Golgotha's hill

Verse 3:
The earth shakes with
the force of the conflict
And the sun refuses to shine
For there hangs God's
Son in the balance
And then through the
darkness He cries

Verse 4:
Yet in my heart the battle was raging
Not all pris'ners of war
have come home
They were battlefields
of my own making
Didn't know that the
war had been won

In Loving Memory of Our Pappy

With deep sorrow and immense gratitude, we gather to remember our cherished Pappy. He was a man whose love knew no limits, whose kindness illuminated our live, and whose presence provided unwavering comfort and strength. Today, we celebrate a life, one that profoundly impacted everyone he met in the most significant ways.

Pappy had a steadfast presence, always ready to share a piece of wisdom, or simply be there in silence, making everything feel right. He took us along on his journeys whether it was a simple trip to the store, a leisurely stroll in the park, or a cozy afternoon at home, he transformed ordinary moments into extraordinary memories. His love was evident in every action, every smile, and every thoughtful gesture, radiating the warmth of a heart that gave endlessly.

Pappy exemplified selflessness, always willing to share his time, advice, or quiet understanding. Being in his presence made us feel safe, valued, and unconditionally loved. He didn't merely speak of love, he embodied it.

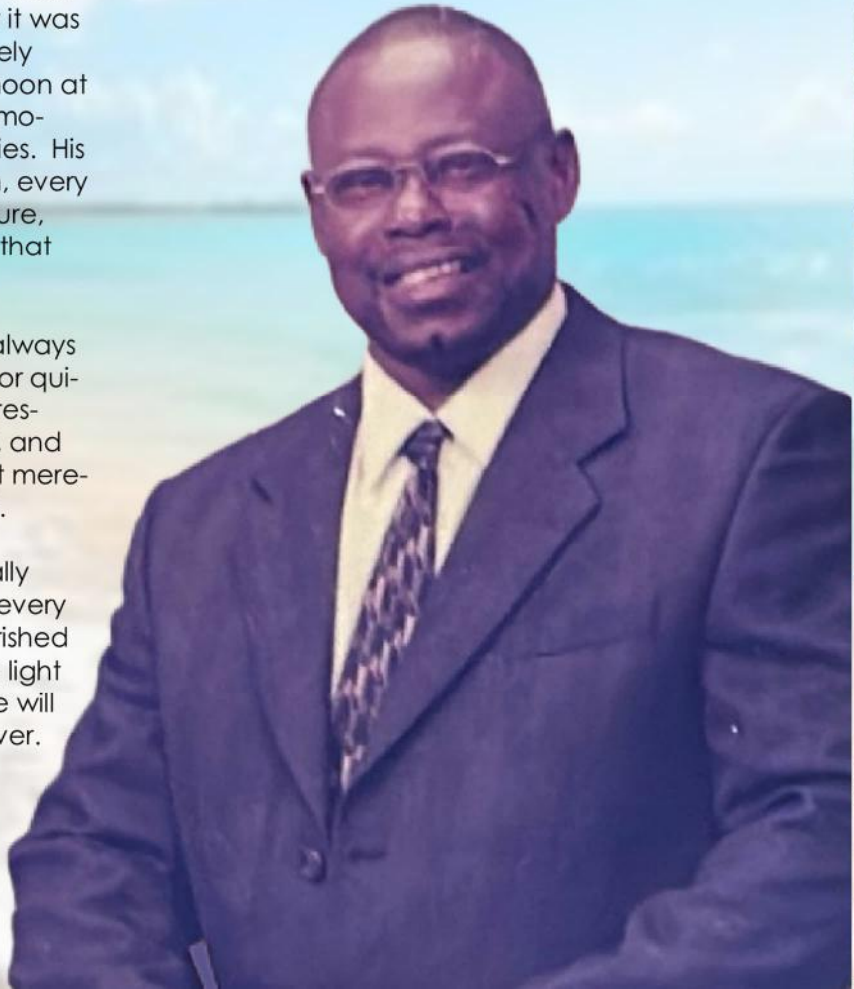
Although he is no longer physically here with us, his spirit endures in every lesson he taught and every cherished memory. His legacy of love and light will continue to guide us, and we will hold him close in our hearts forever.

From Toya and Family

Our Light

A light from our lives has gone.
A voice we loved is still.
A place is vacant within our hearts,
which can never be filled.
You left a mark on our hearts
that will never be erased.
You were a gem and will
remain to be cherished.
our love will forever remain.
We will always miss you Uncle John

Melissa and Jaquan



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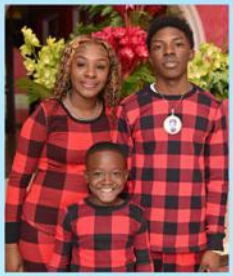

Grace
&

Thank You

Words truly cannot express our deepest gratitude to so many that made this difficult time easier through expressions of calls, cards, prayers, the outpouring of love and other acts of kindness. They have provided us with strength and solace in these challenging moments.

It is comforting to know that John touched so many lives, and your support reassures us that their spirit will continue to live on in our hearts. Thank you for standing with us during this difficult time. Your kindness and compassion have meant the world to us.

Specials thanks to Dr. Valentine and Dr. Indera Grimes Jr. and their teams, the nursing and ancillary staff of Princess Margaret Hospital and Geriatrics Hospital.

Most importantly, we are grateful to God for the life of John Elijah Beckford.

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

ANTHONY BECKFORD, Brother
NIGEL BECKFORD, Brother
WENDALL BECKFORD, Brother
MCALLEN KNOWLES, Uncle

PALLBEARERS

KENDALL BECKFORD SR., Brother
STANFORD BECKFORD SR., Brother In-Law
JULIAN CUMBERBATCH, Brother In-Law
KENDALL BECKFORD JR., Nephew
ANDRE' STURRUP, Nephew
KEMUEL JOSEY, Nephew
JENSEL WATKINS, Nephew
NELSON BASTAIN, Friend
RICARDO THOMPSON, Friend

SCAN ME!

TO ACCESS THE MEMORIAL KEEPSAKE BOOKLET FOR JOHN ELIJAH BECKFORD

Signature creations

Memorial Keepsake Booklet prepared by cousin Donella Johnson

"Charlie Goat"

BETHEL BROTHERS

Service Above Self

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