



Evelyn Evadne McKetty

July 8, 2020

On Friday, the 3rd of July, 2020, Evelyn Evadne McKetty (née Dennis) passed peacefully away, a month shy of her 99th birthday. Evelyn was born in Preston, Cuba, on August 6th, 1921, to Louise and Daniel Dennis. When she was 9, the family (now including four younger sisters) moved to Jamaica - Louise's and Daniel's homeland. It was there, in Carisbrooke, St Elizabeth, that Evelyn grew up.

A keen and ambitious pupil, after completing her secondary education, Evelyn went on to study at Bethlehem Teacher Training College for Women in Malvern, St. Elizabeth, where she excelled.

In December 1945, teacher's degree in hand, she married Vincent, also a teacher. Together, they had seven children. Evelyn's professional ambitions were not at all dampened by the responsibilities of a large family, however, and she worked for over twenty years as a primary school teacher. Evelyn, who loved learning and challenging herself, went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of the West Indies in 1970. From 1972 through 1977 she held the position of Lecturer in Psychology and Principles of Teaching in the Teacher Education Department at Excelsior Community College in Kingston. When Evelyn, along with husband Vincent, moved in 1978 to Gainesville, Florida, she took on her final post,

Director of St. Augustine Day Care. Never mind the qualifications she had, ever the keen learner, Evelyn enrolled at the University of Florida and was awarded her Master's in Education in 1983.

Evelyn Evadne adored music - both listening to it and producing it herself. Whether it was sight-reading sheet music at the piano, plucking guitar strings or producing the torturous shrill squeals on her violin that every beginner does, making music made her day. The instrument she was most proud of, though, and the one she engaged most often, was her voice. This instrument she did not play only at home, where she would often burst into song; she was a proud member of her church choir-in Jamaica, and later in Gainesville-and always took delight in contributing with a solo.

Another love that characterized Evelyn was her love of gardening. Her husband, Vincent, was the pragmatist - most interested in plants that produced food. Evelyn was the aesthetic gardener. Her attention focused on the beauty of her roses, her anthuriums, her orchids, her camellias, her African violets. For her, flower gardens were a piece of heaven on earth.

Evelyn's love of learning manifested itself not only in formal study but in the delight she took in travel going off to someplace new and experiencing something different. She was an avid traveler and was always up for an adventure. Her trips abroad included visits to England, France, Germany and Switzerland.

Evelyn's Christian faith was the defining part of her life. From childhood into old age she was an active member of different church communities. For over 40 years she and Vincent worshiped at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, where she shared her musical gifts as a

dedicated member of the choir, and was active in several other ministries. Even after she was no longer able to attend regularly, Evelyn cherished visits by the close friends she had made over the years as a member of Holy Trinity. Be it due to faith or just her personality, Evelyn had a certain calmness about her that all people she came in contact with benefited from. Her advice was always solicited and she gave it without being overbearing.

Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband, Vincent, and all of her siblings. She is survived by her seven children (Dennis, Joye, Marlene, Carlyle, Everett, Carol and Noel), nine grandchildren (Marlon, Cinque, Camara, McKenna-Louise, Liam, Nicola, Ariadne, Matthew and Marissa), four great-grandchildren (Lewis, Carla, Francis and Cameron), daughters-in-law, granddaughters-in-law and sons-in-law as well as many nieces and nephews.

Evelyn lived life fully and we are assured that she is now resting in peace.

Tribute Wall

MM

“ Hi Marlene, Noel and Carol
Such a lovely tribute to Miss Lyn. Condolences and the comfort and peace only God can give to you and the entire McKetty clan. She is most certainly with her Lord and Savior and may His light perpetually shine on her.

I trust you and your siblings are well otherwise. And I know that in time the wonderful memories of her, and the valuable lessons she taught will outweigh the current pain of this great loss.

Michele McMahon - September 21, 2020 at 03:29 PM

MW

“ Joye, thanks for sharing your mom's obituary. she was an amazing lady. She was so beautiful. Reading this made me feel like a knew. You have great memories to cherish. I am glad you were able to be there with her.

May God continue to bless you and your family.

Love you.

Marion Welch - July 23, 2020 at 04:40 PM

MA

“ Noel, Marcia & family: Our sincere condolences! What a beautiful tribute & a historic life well lived. May the Lord console you & May her soul Rest In Peace. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

Maria /Aloy Adigweme & family

Maria/Aloy Adigweme - July 15, 2020 at 10:27 PM

CH

“ Our sincere sympathies to the McKetty family. Noel I know your mother will continue to live in your heart and memory. May you be comforted in the thought that she lived a very full and rewarding life and that she loved you. The Bible says, " blessed are those who mourn for that shall be comforted" so lean on the Lord and know that He will either give you the strength to carry on or HE will carry you. Know that you are in our prayers.
Charmaine and Rory Family

Charmaine - July 11, 2020 at 11:42 PM

EB

“ Heartfelt Condolences to you Marlene, Joy and the gang.
A beautiful eulogy, a beautiful life!
Lots of memories to comfort you!
Be strong in the Lord your God, and may she rest in His ever loving arms!

Erica Bailey - July 11, 2020 at 04:21 PM

YB

“ Noel and family, our condolences on the passing of your mom. We commend you Noel, for the care and attention you were able to give her. We are thankful for some pleasant moments we shared with her over twenty plus year. May you all find comfort in the long life she had and the time you had her in your lives.
May she be at peace.

Melvin, Yvonne, Ayanna, Seth Bryan
Ontario, Canada

Yvonne Bryan - July 11, 2020 at 01:08 AM

CN

“ *My sincerest condolences to Noel and the Mcketty family on the passing of your matriarch. May the memories you built together help to sustain you all. May her soul rest in peace. Prayers going up for you from Cecilia and Canute.*

Cecilia Gardner and Canute Nembhard - July 11, 2020 at 12:54 AM

FC

“ *On behalf of the church family of St Michael and All Angels here in Tallahassee Florida, I extend our sincerest condolences to Noel and the rest of the McKetty clan as they gather to mourn the passing of this wonderful Christian woman who lived a full life and shared the many gifts Almighty God blessed her with. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.*

Fr Hugh & Genevieve Chapman - July 10, 2020 at 03:00 PM

CL

“ *Heartfelt condolences Noel. Losing a Mom is not easy at any age. Fond memories of her back in Gainesville. She had a good innings.*

Lots of love

Corinne Laville - July 10, 2020 at 05:33 AM

HB

“ *Please accept my condolences she lived a full life and she is now gone to be with her maker.*

Hope Patricia Birthwright - July 09, 2020 at 08:03 PM

MA

“ So sorry to hear about the passing of your mother. A life well lived. She always told me to come visit, but I never did. The whole Ekuban family, brothers, sisters, nieces and grandchildren extend our sincere condolences to you and your siblings. **MAY SHE REST IN PERFECT PEACE**

Mary Agyei - July 09, 2020 at 02:22 PM

BD

“ So so sorry Marlene. You mom was quite accomplished and accomplished a great deal. She lived a long good life. This should give you and your family much comfort. Let's celebrate her life,! **MUCH LOVE!**
Beverly Smith- Downes

Beverly Downes - July 08, 2020 at 09:16 PM