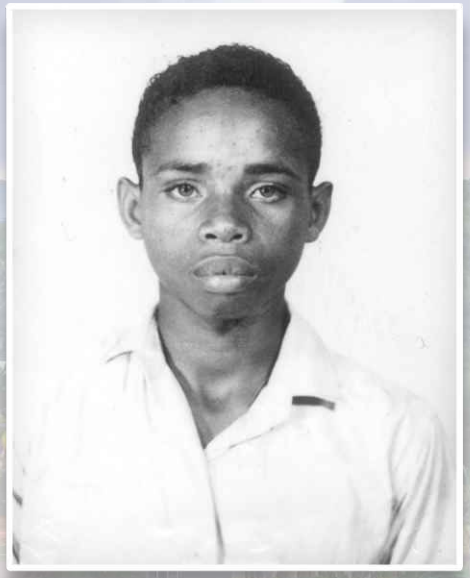
Celebrating the life of

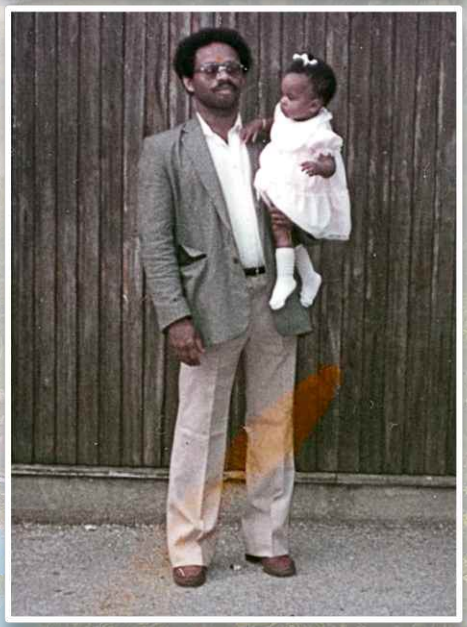
# Leslie Samuel McKenzie

Sunrise: 10th January 1948 - Sunset: 21st July 2022

**Friday 9th September 2022 - 12.00pm**
St Steven Church, 56 Village Road, Enfield, EN1 2EU

SONNY





# Order of Service

**Entrance**
**Take My Hand Precious Lord**
by Jim Reeves -
Sung by - BASSnote Sessions Choir

**Welcome**

**Hymn - Amazing Grace**

**Eulogy**
Hutaff Angelo Frederick *(nephew)*

**Hymn**
**Dear Lord and Father of Mankind**
Sung by - BASSnote Sessions Choir

**Prayer of Patience**

**Poem - "What Is a Brother"**
Margaret McKenzie *(sister)*

**Bible Reading - John 14: 1-6**
Adrianne McKenzie *(niece)*

**Tributes:**
Ronie Tatlyn McKenzie *(mother)*.
Read by Louise Pearline McKenzie *(sister)*
Marissa McKenzie *(daughter)*

**Sermon**
Father Amatu

**Hymn: It is Well With My Soul**

**Prayer for the family**
**The Lord's Prayer**

**Viewing & Musical Interlude**
**Song** Farther Along by Johnny Cash
Sung by - BASSnote Sessions Choir

**Hymn - To God Be The Glory**

**Commendation and farewell**

**Closing - Unforgettable**
by Nat King Cole

**Committal Songs**

**How Great Thou Art**

**What A Friend We Have In Jesus**

**Gather at The River**

**Fly Away**

**Abide With Me**

**Yes, Jesus Loves Me**

**When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder**

**God Be With You Til We Meet Again**

**Pall Bearers:**
Basil McKenzie (brother)
Jermaine McKenzie-Lawrence (nephew)
Dante McKenzie (nephew)
Reynaldo Scarlett (nephew)
Courtney Jobson (cousin)
Kenyatta Fulton (cousin)

## Hymn - Amazing Grace

Amazing grace!
How sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught
my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers,
toils and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease:
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.

When we've been there
a thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days
to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

## Bible Reading - John 14: 1-6

I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

And you know the way to where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

# Eulogy

Leslie Samuel McKenzie was born to Austin George McKenzie and Ronie Tatlyn Rose Richards in the parish of St Ann, Jamaica on 10th January 1948. He was the first of 12 children.

As a boy, Leslie lived in the Forest District of St Ann. At the age of 2, Leslie attended kindergarten with Miss Hilda in the neighbouring district of Lumsden and he received a primary school education with her until he was old enough to attend Brittonville School at the age of 7. Leslie enjoyed maths at school and did very well in this subject. He continued his studies at Brittonville School until the age of 16.

Leslie was a very helpful boy and would run errands for the elders in his family. On Saturdays, his maternal grandmother, Loretta Louisa Rose, would send him with a shopping list to do her shopping in St Ann's Bay. On Sundays, he would help his paternal grandmother, Amelia Woolaston, to make deliveries to her customers from her butcher shop in St Ann's Bay.

During his spare time, Leslie planted his own crops, such as sweet potato, corn, peas and pumpkin. Leslie developed a love for nature and wildlife in his childhood. He would catch pea dove birds (aka bald plate birds) and keep them as pets. He also looked after chickens and grew attached to them. As a result, Leslie refused to eat chicken, a decision he did not depart from. As Leslie grew older, he became skilful in different trades, such as electrics and carpentry.

Leslie enjoyed flying a kite during his childhood. Every Easter, he and the other local children would prepare their best kites and meet up to fly them on the hillside. Leslie would spend time and take great care in making his own kites instead of purchasing one. Leslie was also fond of playing marbles and fishing with his brothers, friends and cousins. In particular, Leslie expressed warm memories of spending time with his younger cousin, Clive (aka Junior), and catching crayfish and eating sugar cane and bananas with his cousins, Courtney and Reagan, when they visited their grandfather.

Leslie had a healthy appetite as a child and loved his mother and grandmother's cooking. He was always looking forward to dinner time. As Leslie grew older, his appetite did not wane and if prepared to his liking, he would happily eat a large plate of traditional Jamaican food every day (with his favourite dish of macaroni cheese on the side).

Leslie enjoyed being a big brother to his siblings, Neville (aka Frankie), Derrick, Juliet, Margaret and Hyacinth (aka Claire) in Jamaica. He would help to change their nappies, feed them, play with them and teach them what he was learning in school. He would also help them with their chores, such as collecting fire wood and water from the local spring. Leslie was particularly protective of his sister, Claire. He described her as being small for her age and very bright. From an early age, Leslie taught Claire how to read and count. Once she started school at the age of 4, Leslie would escort her there and back and help her with her home work.

In approximately 1957, Leslie's father, Austin, left Jamaica and travelled to England. Shortly thereafter, Leslie's mother travelled to England to join him. Leslie and his siblings were cared for by their maternal grandmother, Loretta, as well as their uncle Essie. Although he missed his parents, Leslie decided that he would have to be strong for his siblings and do his best to help look after them. Leslie kept in contact with his parents by way of letters over the years and he learnt that they had more children: Louise (aka Pearline), Janet, Basil (aka Jim) and Yvonne.

Leslie joined his parents in England on 28th January 1965 at the age of 17. His first impression of England was that it was cold, foggy and dreary. Leslie stayed at 35 Napier Road in Kensal Green, which was the family home. A few months after he arrived, his sister, Jacqueline, was born. Leslie welcomed the new arrival to the family as he started to form a bond with his other siblings born in England.

Leslie's first job in England was with Footers, an engineering company in Harlesden, where he worked from 1965 for two years. Shortly before resigning from Footers, Leslie's eleventh and final sibling, Dorothy (aka Tracey), was born, completing the set of 12 children in total. When his employment with Footers came to an end, Leslie helped his mother to look after Tracey and the rest of his siblings who were too young to attend school.

Leslie was later employed by Miklova Transport in Park Royal for five years until 1972, when the business moved to Wincanton. A few weeks later, Leslie was employed by Elliot Milling Machine in Park Royal, but the company was sold and the site was demolished a few months later. During this time, Leslie, now 24, moved from 35 Napier Road to 9 Holberton Gardens where he lived until 1981. Leslie visited his parents and siblings regularly. He

would give his siblings pocket money and take them out to the fair. He was always keen to keep them safe and make sure they had fun. Leslie also continued sending letters to his family and relatives in Jamaica along with money to help them with their expenses - in particular Claire's school fees, as it was important to Leslie that she finished school.

Leslie made friends with George Lewis, Basil Hamilton, Newril Laud, Dennis, William and Valerie Walters, Herbert and Valda Miller and Trevor and Valerie Douglas, to name a few. He enjoyed gardening and growing his own fruits and vegetables, watching documentaries about nature, wildlife and history, going to the cinema, attending church and completing Bible study courses, reading the newspaper from cover to cover, going for long walks in the community, visiting museums and attending parties on Saturday nights, where he would end up at the bar serving drinks - a role he continued when attending parties hosted by family and friends until 2020. Leslie enjoyed playing dominoes and his favourite sports were formula one motor racing, athletics and cricket. Leslie's general knowledge was vast and he was very good at playing along with gameshows such as Mastermind, A Question of Sport, Tipping Point and The Chase. He also enjoyed completing puzzles, his favourites being crosswords and sudoku.

Leslie enjoyed music - reggae, gospel and country music in particular, and he developed a large collection of records over the years. He also collected the stamps on the postcards and letters he received from friends and family across the globe for many years, some of which remain in good condition to this day.

Over the years, Leslie would help to take care of his nephews, Andre and Hautaff (aka Angelo), along with the children of his other siblings and friends. Leslie would play games with them, read to them, watch nature programmes with them and share stories about his childhood growing up in Jamaica.

Although he was a proud Jamaican and he retained his accent during the 57 years he lived in England, Leslie only returned to visit Jamaica on two occasions - in 1977 and 1979. On both occasions he visited his grandmothers before they passed away.

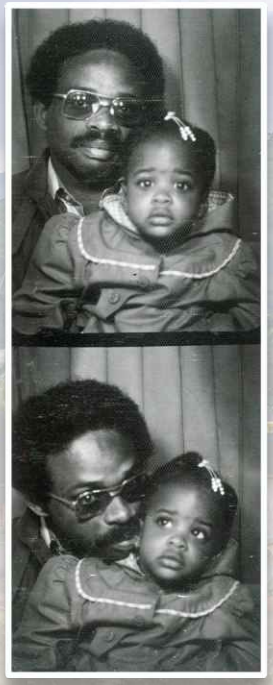
While attending a friend's party in 1980, Leslie met a young woman called Ruby. They spent time together courting until Ruby informed Leslie that she was pregnant and they decided to live together in north London. Their daughter, Marissa, was born on 13th July 1982 and Leslie was very happy to become a father. He settled well into fatherhood, taking care of Ruby, Marissa and his (step)daughter Venetia, who has severe learning difficulties and autism. Leslie and Ruby married later on in life, fulfilling one of their many wishes.

Even though Leslie had a family of his own, he continued to visit his parents, siblings, nieces and nephews regularly and to support his relatives abroad.

Leslie joined Wandsworth Electrical in July 1972 when they were based in Park Royal. He started as a paint sprayer and worked his way through the company in different roles until becoming a foreman. He also engaged in training for the various roles he had and became a certified first aider through St John's Ambulance for a number of years. Wandsworth Electrical moved to Woking in 2000, which led to a number of redundancies. Leslie's role was not an easy one for them to fill so he agreed to work with them on a temporary basis until they found someone suitable to replace him. Leslie travelled from his home in Edmonton to Woking every day during this time, but the temporary arrangement quickly became a permanent one. Leslie continued his employment with Wandsworth Electrical for a total of 48 years until he formally retired in May 2020 at the age of 72 during the COVID lockdown. In 2021, Leslie was invited to attend his former employer's summer barbeque, where his commitment to the company was recognised and he was able to say a proper farewell to his work colleagues, whom he held in high regard.

Leslie's health began to deteriorate in 2019. In the months that followed, Leslie remained positive and continued to spend time with his family, relatives and friends in person and by way of video calls. In his final days, Leslie, who was affectionately known as Sonny, Les, Dodger and Uncle Baba, was visited by family, relatives and friends, who shared memories with him and comforted him. Leslie passed away peacefully at the age of 74 on 21st July 2022 with his daughter, Marissa, by his side.

Leslie was preceded in death by his father (Austin) and two of his sisters (Janet and Yvonne). He is survived by his mother (Ronie), his wife (Ruby), his daughters (Venetia and Marissa), nine siblings (Frankie, Derrick, Juliet, Margaret, Claire, Pearline, Jim, Jacqueline and Tracey), many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, extended relatives, his God-children (Jason Palmer, Leon Douglas and Neil Buchanan), and many friends, former work colleagues and acquaintances.



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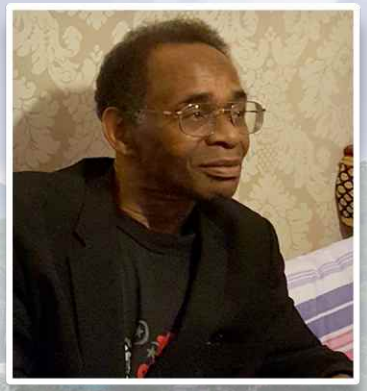
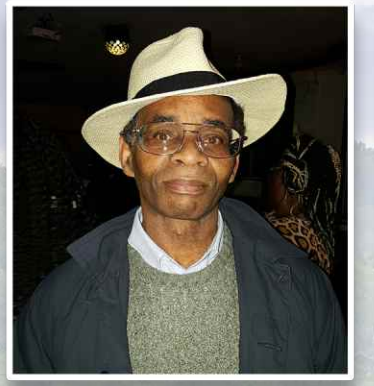
Jamaica

SUMMER

# THE FAMILY TREE OF AUSTIN GEORGE McKENZIE & RONIE TATLYN ROSE RICHARDS

**LESLIE SAMUEL McKENZIE – RUBY HYACINTH BUCHANAN**
Venetia Angela Buchanan
Marissa C. McKenzie

**NEVILLE FRANKIE McKENZIE (aka Frankie)**
Nadeen Martin: Leroy Martin, Natalee Martin
Sydia McKenzie: Asha Muwwakkil, Traval Kenyon
Aaylia Miller
Frank McKenzie: Alea McKenzie
Floyd McKenzie: Akeel McKenzie,Tyrell McKenzie,
Adrianna McKenzie,Omari McKenzie
Alverna McKenzie: Amelia Haughton and
Arianna Campbell
Angalee McKenzie-Savery: Kiara McKenzie

**DERRICK McKENZIE**
Alretia McKenzie: Tavvoye Whitehorne
Tasheka Whitehorn-Burrell: Lloydia
Burrell
Derrick Jerome McKenzie: Nealon Neal McKenzie,
Sanice McKenzie, Neilia McKenzie,
Shaniel McKenzie,
Derrick Henry McKenzie
Xavier McKenzie: Taja McKenzie, Kaylia McKenzie
Nesah McKenzie

Derrick McKenzie Jnr:
Hugh George McKenzie: Alexander George McKenzie
Kevin McKenzie: Kevin Okeefe McKenzie II,
Kevin McKenzie III, Ziah McKenzie
Jermaine Lee McKenzie
Jeffrey Bernard McKenzie: Jeffrey McKenzie Jr, Treyvon McKenzie
Uriyah McKenzie
Jeremy McKenzie: Jer'kariyah Zy'anne McKenzie,
Adeline McKenzie, Jeremy McKenzie Jr,
Jernia Zytrice McKenzie

**JULIET HYACINTH HENRY**
Peter Henry: Natasha Henry
Eric Henry Jr: Applonia Henry: Eric Clark
Brianna Henry: Serenity Satterwaite
Ojay Henry, Tianna Henry
Heritha Henry: Yashawn Fuller
Steve Henry: Shaquille Henry, Samantha Henry,
Jahim Henry, Tashstavia Henry
Amaril Henry: Britney McKenzie
Lydia Henry
Ricardo Henry

**MARGARET MAE McKENZIE**
Andre Sean Frederick: Imani Raine Frederick
Hutaff Angelo Frederick

**HYACINTH RICHARDS (aka Claire)**
Kerian McGrowder: Tyreese Dominque Scarlett,
Tyreek Jahiem Scott, Okaila
Tamika, Russell
Theodore Merrick White
Lorenzo Richards: Shania Richards, Lorenzo Richard Jr
Shawn Richards
Kashina Richards: Gabriella Patreka Forbes,
Sahara Akaliya Forbes, Khaliandra
Malian Forbes,
Micah-William Romario Fothergill,
Lakeish Richards, Dante Richards

**LOUISE PEARLINE McKENZIE (aka Pearline)**

**JANET McKENZIE (1960-1980)**

**BASIL GEORGE McKENZIE (aka Jim)**

**YVONNE ROSEMARY McKENZIE (1963-2003)**
Raisa Louise Carayol

**JACQUELINE MAY McKENZIE**
Adrianne Kelly McKenzie

**DOROTHY McKENZIE (aka Tracey)**
Jermaine Anthony
McKenzie-Lawrence: Celine McKenzie-Lawrence
Dante Armand McKenzie
Ria Scarlett: Sitara Livermore Powell
Reynaldo Carter Scarlett

**Hymn**
**It Is Well With My Soul**

When peace like a river,
attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot,
thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul

It is well, With my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded
my helpless estate,
and hath shed His own blood
for my soul

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

My sin, oh, the bliss of this
glorious thought, my sin,
not in part but the whole,
is nailed to the cross,
and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
o my soul

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

**Hymn**
**To God be The Glory**

To God be the glory, great things
He hath done,
So loved He the world that
He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life
our redemption to win,
And opened the life-gate t
hat all may go in.

***Chorus***
***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,***
***Let the earth hear His voice;***
***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,***
***Let the people rejoice;***
***Oh, come to the Father,***
***through Jesus the Son,***
***And give Him the glory;***
***great things He hath done.***

Oh, perfect redemption,
the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from
Jesus a pardon receives.

***Chorus***

Great things He hath taught us,
great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing
through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher,
and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport
when Jesus we see.

***Chorus***

# Committal Songs

## Hymn
## How great Thou art

Oh Lord, my God When I,
in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds
Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe
displayed

***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***

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

***Chorus***

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 then proclaim, my God,
how great Thou art

***Chorus***

## 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

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

Soon we'll reach the shining river
Soon our pilgrimage will cease
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace

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

## Hymn - I'll Fly Away

Some glad morning when
this life is o'er, I'll fly away;
To a home on God's celestial shore,
I'll fly away (I'll fly away).

***Chorus***
***I'll fly away, Oh Glory***
***I'll fly away; (in the morning)***
***When I die, Hallelujah, by and by,***
***I'll fly away (I'll fly away).***

When the shadows
of this life have gone, I'll fly away;
Like a bird from prison bars has flown,
I'll fly away (I'll fly away)

***Chorus***

Just a few more weary days
and then, I'll fly away;
To a land where joy shall never end,
I'll fly away (I'll fly away)

# Committal Songs

## Hymn - Abide with Me

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide
The darkness deepens Lord,
with me abide
When other helpers fail and comforts flee
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day
Earth's joys grow dim,
its glories pass away
Change and decay in all around I see
O Thou who changest not, abide with me

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight,
and tears no bitterness
Where is death's sting?
Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me

Hold Thou Thy cross
before my closing eyes
Shine through the gloom
and point me to the skies
Heaven's morning breaks,
and earth's vain shadows fleeIn life,
in death, o Lord, abide with me
Abide with me, abide with me

## Hymn - Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.

***Chorus***
**Yes, Jesus loves me!**
**Yes, Jesus loves me!**
**Yes, Jesus loves me!**
**The Bible tells me so.**

Jesus loves me he who died
heaven's gate to open wide.
He will wash away my sin
let his little child come in.

***Chorus***

Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me."

***Chorus***

## Hymn - When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder

When the trumpet of
the Lord shall sound,
and time shall be no more,
And the morning breaks,
eternal, bright and fair
When the saved of earth
shall gather over on the other shore,
And the roll is called up yonder,
I'll be there

***Chorus***
***When the roll, is called up yon-der,***
***When the roll, is called up yon-der,***
***When the roll, is called up yon-der,***
***When the roll, is called up yon-der,***
***I'll be there***

On that bright and cloudless morning
when the dead in Christ shall rise,
And the glory of His resurrection share
When His chosen ones shall gather to
their home beyond the skies, and the roll
is called up yonder, I'll be there

***Chorus***

Let us labor for the Master
from the dawn till setting sun,
Let us talk of all
His wondrous love and care
Then when all of life is over,
and our work on earth is done,
And the roll is called up yonder,
I'll be there

***Chorus***

## Committal Songs

### Hymn - God Be With You Til We Meet Again

God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
may the Shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

***Chorus***
***Till we meet, till we meet,***
***till we meet at Jesus' feet.***
***Till we meet, till we meet,***
***God be with you till we meet again.***

God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings, protecting, hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again.

***Chorus***

God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you;
God be with you till we meet again.

***Chorus***

God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threat'ning wave
before you;
God be with you till we meet again.

***Chorus***

## Tributes

**Leslie is my first born son and I miss him.** I remember when he was born. He was a quiet baby and he grew to be a good boy and an even better man. He was liked and loved by everyone.

As a boy, he would stay with my mother and he liked to read and do his homework. He was also creative and was able to make a toy truck using 4 grapefruits as wheels and a piece of wood as the seat. He would ride up and down from the big guava tree having fun. Leslie loved gardening and he planted corn, peas, sweet potato and coco.

He enjoyed visits from his paternal grandfather, affectionately called uncle Tom. Uncle Tom would visit after work in the evening and make Bamboo Five, which is an instrument similar to a recorder. Uncle Tom would play music for the children, which Leslie enjoyed.

Leslie would help to look after his younger siblings and he was close to his cousin, Junior. Junior would follow Leslie everywhere he went and Leslie used to carry him on his back.

My late husband and Leslie's father, Austin George McKenzie, travelled to England and soon after, I travelled to England to join him. By then, I had six children in Jamaica. When I left, they were looked after by my mother and uncle Essie. When Leslie finished school, he asked me if he could join us in England and I said that he could.

Austin sent the money to arrange Leslie's visa and travel to England. Leslie joined us in England when he was 17 years old. Austin took three weeks off from work to help Leslie settle in and look for work.

Leslie found a job as an apprentice soon after he arrived at an engineering firm in Jubilee Clock, Harlesden.

When Leslie received his first pay, I told him to use some of the money to buy some warm clothes ahead of winter. He told me that he did not care about the winter and that he had to send some money back to Jamaica for his grandmother, siblings and uncle. Every week after that he would send money to help his relatives in Jamaica and he continued to support them until he passed away. He also supported me, his father and his siblings in England.

Leslie would never forget the birthday of his family members. He was always giving and he made it his point of duty to look after his family. Even during the last few weeks of his life, he made arrangements to send a contribution towards the funeral of his beloved aunt, Lily Kenyon, affectionately known as aunt Tit, who lived in Jamaica.

I will miss everything about my son. He would visit me every Friday and I would cook for him. He would sit with me and talk about back home in Jamaica. I remember when Marissa was young, he would wake up early to make her breakfast before she went to school.

I am so proud of the man my son became. He inherited family traits from Jamaica - whereby he was a family man and his family came first. He was not fussy, had a loving nature and he was a simple, proud, hardworking man of principles. This he has passed down to his daughter, Marissa, and his other siblings.

***May you rest in peace, son. Love, mum.***

**To my dear loving husband,**
**Leslie Samuel McKenzie**

Forty-one precious years of our memorable lives shared together. I will always remember you for your thoughtfulness and the kindness you showed to your parents, your siblings and their families, other relatives and friends residing at home in England, the USA and the West Indies. You have been a role model of a sincere husband and father to our loving daughter, Marissa and your stepdaughter, Venetia. You will always be in my thoughts. As you have now joined the ancestors' realm where your soul will never die, may you rest in peace, dear Leslie, until it is your time to rise again in honour and respect from the Creator of the universe.

***From your loving wife,***
***Ruby Buchanan-McKenzie***

**Leslie,** Love is what you deserve. I pray that you are in a happy place. Rest easy King Sonny! Until such time we meet again.

**Cousin, Courtney**

**Leslie**

L - loyal
E - even tempered
S - strong
L - leader
I - intelligent
E - ethical

Leslie was a loyal son, brother, uncle and father. He was committed to his family. Leslie was even tempered. He never got angry with anyone and was always objective in his friendships.

Leslie was strong physically, mentally and spiritually. He was a hard worker and made time for his family and friends. No matter the weather, he would show up at the family home to spend time with his parents, siblings, nieces and nephews.

Leslie was a leader - he was the eldest of 12 children and led by example. He was there for all of his siblings and the extended family. He provided for us all, not just monetarily, but he gave us so much of his time. He was a role model and the foundation he built came from his roots in Jamaica. Leslie was intelligent and he helped all of us (and our children) with our homework growing up. He loved to educate his siblings about nature, the environment and life. He also loved wildlife programmes and doing sudoku.

Leslie was a man with ethics. He was humble, and knew right from wrong. He was a simple man who never wanted all the glamour. A simple man, who just wanted to live a loving and peaceful life surround by his family and friends. Thank you, my brother, for forever being in my life. You have taken your rest now. We love you and will miss you dearly.

***Your sister, Jackie***

**Leslie, also known as 'Sonny' to close relatives & friends was a dear cousin.**
Such a humble man, who worked hard for his family and set good examples for those of us who were younger and could look up to him. He always seemed to take everything in his stride with little or no complaints. He demonstrated good morals to everyone who knew him, perhaps it was because he was the eldest of 12 siblings.

He was / is a credit to all extended family and friends. At family functions he was known as the Head Barman. He served drinks with a smile and a good conversation. Sadly William, your dearest first cousin who you were very dear to, is unable to attend the service of thanksgiving for your life to personally say his own goodbye, however, he sends his condolences and his thoughts are with the family. Sonny, you are no longer with us physically, however, you will never be forgotten. It is an honour to call you cousin, God Bless and RIEP.

***From Norris and family and Melva and family***

**Dad,**

You have been a wonderful father and a great example of what a man and a father should be. I call myself a daddy's girl because we have always had a close bond. That bond has not been broken by your passing, but it is the reason why I feel that a piece of me went with you and can never be replaced.

I have fond memories of our 'daddy-daughter' time during my childhood - our trips to Finsbury Park to feed the ducks, our day trips to the seaside, going to church together and you teaching me tips and tricks to help me to learn mathematics. I used to look forward to bed time because you would always read me stories. I would suck my thumb and enjoy each story you read for me, especially all the funny voices you used to do for each character.

My favourite daddy-daughter time was our trips to Madame Tussauds and the shows in the Planetarium about the solar system. Although we visited several times during my childhood, each time would be like the first. I remember holding your hand and being engrossed in the presentation about the planets, the stars and space. I always had a good time with you, dad. Thank you for all the time you spent with me and the effort you made to make sure I had fun and that I learned along the way.

I remember being fascinated by your things as a toddler, such as your stamp collection and your dominoes set. I have clear memories of climbing up onto your chair beside the bed and opening your cabinet to reorganise and play with everything in sight. I know my fascination led to many of your things being lost or becoming damaged, including your blue clock, which I now know was rare and is worth a lot of money today. After a grumble, you would always tidy up and put everything away, knowing that I would be back in your cabinet the very next day. As an adult, I no longer rummaged through your cabinet, but through your tool box instead, trying to be the self sufficient young woman you taught me to be. Sadly, I have never been able to put your tool box back together as you had it, but much like when I was a child, you would grumble and put everything back in its place, knowing that I would be back in there soon, dismantling the order you created. Thanks for putting up with me, dad! You would spend time telling me about growing up in Jamaica and the things you used to do as a boy, such as raising chickens and how much you loved your grandmother's cooking.

Although I did not know you as a child, I pictured you to be curious, creative and caring. You also spoke fondly of family members who passed away before I was born, such as your dear grandmother and your sister, Janet. Thank you for keeping their memories alive and for sharing it with me.

Dad, I want to thank you for your support over the years while I was studying and pursuing my dreams. I know that you and mum made many sacrifices to make sure that I achieved all that I could and I am grateful. You always told me that material things may come and go, but no one can take an education away from me and that I should remain focused on my goals and try my very best in all that I do. I took heed of your words and I remember how proud you were each time I graduated and each time I told you I passed my post-graduate diplomas.

Although you are no longer with me physically, I hope you will be proud of the things I go on to do and achieve throughout my life. I will be thinking of you each step of the way.

Dad, you were methodical. You liked structure and order to things. At the same time, you could be reserved, calm and easy going. You would say there was little point in worrying about the things you cannot change, so focus on the things that you can change - a point I will pay more attention to going forward.

You were a helpful person who was willing to help family and friends whenever asked, even to your detriment. Your helpfulness was second to none. You also had great carpentry and DIY skills. I can recall so many things you have fixed and built over the years. You did not mind me being around and helping you during those times so that I could learn and do things for myself in future, and I thank you for passing on your knowledge to me.

I will always remember you sitting on the living room floor with the newspaper on your lap, reading it from cover to cover before you would turn back to tackle the crossword puzzles and sudoku. Of the times when you fell asleep reading the newspaper, I would wake you and you insisted that you were not asleep, but merely resting your eyes. When asked why you were snoring if you were only resting your eyes, you would say that you were just testing my hearing. I also saw more of your sense of humour towards the end of our time together, which makes me smile when I think of you. Thanks for the laughs, dad!

The past two years were difficult for you, dad - in particular, the last two months you were with us. Despite all that you went through, you fought valiantly until the Lord called you home.

Thank you for trusting me to support you through your final journey in life. It was my honour to advocate for you, to encourage you, to comfort you and to love you through those trying times. You deserved nothing less and I still wish I could have done more. I see so much of myself in you, dad. You truly are the blueprint for so much of who and how I am. It has been an honour and a privilege being your daughter.

Sleep well now, dad and be at peace.
Time will seem eternal until we meet again.

***With ever growing love from your daughter, Marissa.***

**Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.** For the days of our years are three score years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be four score years, yet is their strength and labour, and sorrow for it is soon cut off and we fly away.

On behalf of the Richards family, I want to extend our deepest sympathy to the McKenzie family on the passing of our brother, son, father, uncle and cousin. Leslie was my eldest brother who was always there for his siblings and grandmother, who passed away in 1979.

As children growing up together in Jamaica, there was fun and laughter. We used to go bird hunting together, as well as collect firewood and water. We did not have much, yet we were all happy. Every Sunday, we looked forward to going to church in the morning and Sunday school in the evening. Leslie migrated to live with mom and dad in England in 1965. As the years passed, we were always corresponding via letters. Every Easter and Christmas, we used to receive holiday money from Leslie. During those years, it used to seem as if the letters would take forever, but as technology improved, we were able to stay in communication by telephone and Leslie would send money to us via Western Union.

Our last conversation was in early July while he was in hospital. We had a good talk and laugh together. We reminded each other of our early years when Mammie, our grandmother, used to tell us "if you can't do any good, don't do any bad" and that "God is going to pay us according to our work". It was a great feeling to be able to communicate with him.

We love you Leslie (Sonny), but God loves you best. You are gone, but will never be forgotten. You will always be in our hearts. Rest in peace, dear brother.

***May perpetual light shine upon you.***
***From sister, Claire and family***

**My big brother Leslie,**
I cannot remember a time when you have not been there to support us. Being the eldest of 12 is a big responsibility. You always looked after us when we were younger. When mum and dad were at work, you were always there at every occasion.

I remember you used to call me ginger when I was little because my hair was light golden brown.

You not being here has left a void in the family that will never be filled.

You have completed your journey here on earth, but your spirit will always live on. You will be remembered and loved.

***Rest in peace big brother.***
***Love you always. Your sister, Tracey***

**Acknowledgement**
The family of the late Mr Leslie McKenzie would like to express their sincere appreciation to everyone for their kind words of encouragement, tributes, cards and comfort through their time of bereavement.

**Committal**
Following the service, the committal will take place at:
**Edmonton Cemetery, Church Street, Edmonton, London N9 9HP**

**Reception**
Please join us to celebrate life of Leslie at:
**La Royale Banqueting Suite,**
**819-821 High Road,**
**Tottenham, London,**
**N17 8ER**

*There is parking at the rear, which is accessible from Brunswick Square, N17 8ES or Peacock Industrial Estate, N17 8DT.*

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