



DR. THE HON. R. DANNY WILLIAMS

July 3, 1934 – September 16, 2023



“I Tried to Make a Difference”

- *Danny Williams* -

ORDER OF SERVICE

R. DANNY WILLIAMS MEMORIAL SERVICE

October 7, 2023

Karl Hendrickson Auditorium, Jamaica College

“Thanks for Making a Difference”

Welcome **Wayne Robinson**
Acting Principal, Jamaica College
Moderator

Opening Prayer..... **David Henry**
Pastor, Swallowfield Chapel

Congregational Hymn **“How Great thou Art”**
Led by Mrs. Andrea McCurdy

How Great Thou Art

O 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 Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour 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 a Cross, my burdens gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

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!”



Scripture Reading **Psalm 121**
Christopher Bailey & Timothy Williams (grandsons)

TRIBUTES

Mr. Christopher Zacca, President & CEO, Sagicor Group

Mr. Derek Jones, Chairman, Jamaica College Trust

Mr. Robert Levy, Chairman, Jamaica Broilers Group

Mrs. Ruth Browne (granddaughter)

Ms. Suzanne Williams (daughter)

Mr. Joel Azan (grandson)

Mr. Mike Fennel (friend)

Scripture Reading **John: 14: 1-3; 27**
Noah & Emma Browne (great grandchildren)

Congregational Hymn “On Eagle’s wings”

Led by Mrs. Andrea McCurdy

(An offering will be collected for the R. Danny Williams Scholarship Fund at Jamaica College)

On Eagle’s Wings *(Song by Michael Joncas)*

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord
Who abide in His shadow for life
Say to the Lord, “My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!”

And He will raise you up on eagles’ wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand

The snare of the fowler will never capture you
And famine will bring you no fear
Under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield

And He will raise you up on eagles’ wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand

You need not fear the terror of the night
Nor the arrow that flies by day
Though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come

And He will raise you up on eagles’ wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand

For to His angels He’s given a command
To guard you in all of your ways
Upon their hands they will bear you up
Lest you dash your foot against a stone

And He will raise you up on eagles’ wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand
And hold you, hold you in the palm of His hand



Message.....Mr. Ralph Royes

Son-in-Law

Shirley’s Tribute to Danny “Because You Loved Me”

Mr. Dwight Richards

“The Prayer”

Tessanne Chin

Prayer for the Family & Benediction **Pastor David Henry**

Recessional Hymn **“Lord of the Dance”**

Dwight Richards

Lord of The Dance

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth:
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
They came with me and the dance went on:

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high,
And they left me there on a cross to die:

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;
But I am the dance, and I still go on:

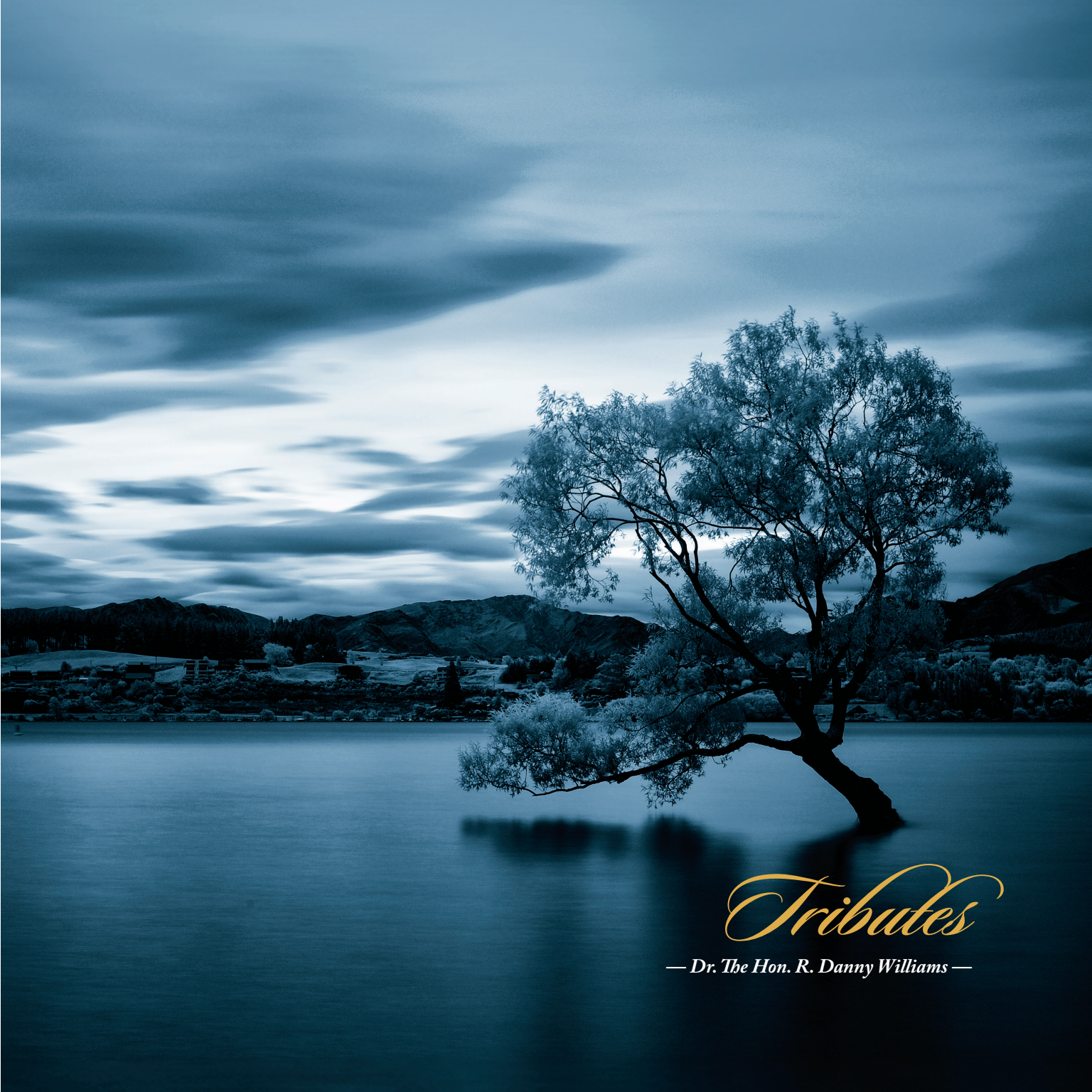
Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.



Guard of Honour Procession **Jamaica College Cadets**



Tributes

— Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams —

— Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams —

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Dear Grandpa,

There is a lot that can be said about the things you did for us as grandkids growing up. From the birthday presents, to the Christmas presents, from the trips and the holidays, the family dinners and more. From being at every birthday party and major event in our lives, to inviting us into your world for some serious life talks. There is more than can be said in a single letter and as one country musician put it, I'm afraid words haven't been made which could shoulder the weight of truly describing what you meant to us.

However there are some things I can highlight with ease. For all of us you demonstrated above all things, the ideal of a grandfather. Wise, present, available, loving, and caring. With a memory like a steel trap and your little pocket book with notes you were always quick with a story and a life lesson, but never so quick to not listen to us. Always proud (never in the negative connotation most think of pride today) but in an almost noble way. Yet never too proud to not be the butt of the joke. Even on your deathbed I could laugh at your soft "puss" hair, that never went gray until you were an "old" man, and your ever ready comb to correct the part in your hair and get all the strands in place.

Beyond being a grandfather to us you demonstrated what a good business person was, the ideals of a man, and through your example, the pinnacle of a husband. You worked hard, around the clock, but never so hard that we, your grandchildren, were even aware of who Dr. The Hon. R. Danvers Williams, OD, JP (ABC and the rest of the alphabet) was, we only knew you as grandpa. But it was an addiction, that as we grew older and became aware of the important role you played in industry, that we grew to admire and only hope to emulate in years to come. You believed in a handshake and that your word is your word. Never be too stern to not bend and listen, but also to be

clear on what your goals are and never compromise on them. You passed the way you lived and as Frank Sinatra said, "you did it your way". As a husband I can only say that you set the standard. To stand before multiple audiences over your lifetime and proclaim that you only achieved what you did because of grandma. To let the world know that you were nothing without first being a husband. Your roles in the relationship were clear and you delivered on your part extraordinarily well. As a man and husband-to-be you have set the standard to which I will stretch myself to reach.

I know I could write pages upon pages of what you meant to so many, proclaiming in your biography that all you did was, "Try to Make a Difference". Well, thank you for making a difference. Even on your deathbed you left me the greatest lesson I will probably receive in life and that is to love without limits. On your deathbed I got to see the kind of love that one can only see demonstrated in the extremes of death. Though your hospital room was quiet, it echoed and shook with the love you had put in the world. It reverberated off of every individual and every passing mat for many the earth seemed to stop for a moment when you passed. That for me was the difference you made. You continuously poured love into the world. Believing there must be a better way, that people are inherently good, that people don't set out to do wrong, they simply make mistakes. That Jamaica had a bright future and that business was the vehicle to get us there. But most importantly we must love those around us, the way you loved us, the way you loved children and the way you loved your wife. We love you grandpa and we'll miss you. Thank you for making a difference.

**Love,
Jeffrey**

— *Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams* —

DANNY WILLIAMS WAS TRULY A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

In the galaxy of our greatest constellations within the annals of our nation, Dr. the Honourable R. Danny Williams, OJ will forever remain a bright and guiding star.

His parents Leonard and Verna Williams named him Raby Danvers in the expectation their son would be one of a kind. Little did they know he would become a solitary brand of his own unique creation.

His place in the pantheon of corporate leadership and entrepreneurial enterprise sets him apart. Universally acknowledged as the father of the Jamaican Insurance Industry, his catalytic energies impelled him to contribute in every facet to the growth and esteem of our island beyond measure.

A man of indomitable will and irresistible powers of persuasion, Danny spanned like a colossus, the entire range of commerce. His capacity for educational and institutional building, support for deserving charitable causes and commitment to social upliftment of the Jamaican people were reflected with remarkable acuity.

In him were inculcated the virtues of humility, courage and an unwavering sense of patriotic duty. He was the quintessential Leader and Motivator-in-Chief. His faith was demonstrated in a constant series of generous initiatives – ranging from JAMAL, School for the Deaf, Tony Thwaites Hospital Wing, JADCO and of course students at his Jamaica College.

A man of esoteric interests, he accepted the invitation to serve in the Cabinet of Michael Manley at great personal sacrifice largely because his presence as Minister of Industry and Commerce inspired public confidence in the maintenance of our democratic values and promoted a sense of stability in the process of transformative social change.

I have lost a precious colleague and a dear friend who was always there to exchange insights on occasions of severe difficulty or agonizing challenges.

He told me frequently how much of his outstanding success was due to the love, care and sterling advice of his lifelong partner, Shirley. She meant the world to him. As we extend our sincere sympathy to her, their children, adoring grandchildren, the immediate and huge extended family, we thank them all for having allowed him to share so much of his eclectic talents and time with us.

Danny Williams was truly a man for all seasons. Our country has lost a gigantic Icon. Those who still remain must build on his rich legacy for there is urgent work which has yet to be completed in the evolution of Jamaica: Land we love.

P.J. Patterson

Former Prime Minister

September 28, 2023

— *Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams* —

AN EXTRAORDINARY HUMAN BEING: A TRIBUTE TO MY FRIEND

By any definition, Danny was an extra-ordinary human being. His life was one of commitment to social causes and replete with genuine empathy for the disadvantaged. He was an undying optimist, a faithful patriot of Jamaica, a visionary entrepreneur, an astute investor, a commensurate diplomat and a generous philanthropist. Danny epitomised selfless service to country and to humanity, and an unwavering commitment to the pursuit of wholesome principles.

His core belief in the transformative potential of free enterprise to address intractable social concerns, and in the nobility of national service, resulted in him embracing at a critical point in Jamaica's development, the duality of business and politics.

That one man could span such a broad spectrum of attributes and accomplishments, is truly remarkable. Even more spectacular, is the fact that much of his stellar contributions were outside his primary vocation of business leadership.

Of his many preoccupations, dearest to him was his role as a family man, and in that regard, he excelled as a loving husband, caring father, attentive grandfather and doting great grandfather.

My wife Jacinth and I enjoyed many wonderful Sundays in Irish Town and occasional long weekends with Danny, his wife Shirley and their family and friends. It was a delightful experience every time to bask in the genuine warmth of their company.

The world will greatly miss this colossal pioneer of the Jamaicanisation of the local insurance industry, and the titan of Caribbean business that he was. I will miss my chairman, my counsellor, my guiding star, but above all, my friend.

Richard Byles

Governor of Bank of Jamaica

— *Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams* —

A GIANT AMONG HIS PEERS AND A TRULY GREAT JAMAICAN

I extend my condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of the late Hon. Dr. R. Danvers Williams.

Danny Williams was a giant among his peers and a truly great Jamaican. His life produced a remarkably diverse range of achievements, as a pioneering and distinguished businessman, parliamentarian, Cabinet Minister, committed philanthropist and unparalleled fundraiser, collectively aggregating to an outstanding contribution in the building of modern Jamaica.

Danny was one of the founders of an indigenous life insurance industry, emerging as a visionary leader of unquestioned integrity who excelled not only in the arena of commerce but also in the broader realm of national life. From 1977 to 1979, he served as a Senator and Minister of State for Industry and Commerce, making significant contributions which have helped to shape our national development.

Beyond his achievements in business and public service, Danny Williams was a beacon of hope for those in need. His deep commitment to philanthropy was a testament to his belief that success should be shared. An intrinsically effective individual, he dedicated himself to several important charitable causes and the building of institutions which continue to touch the lives of countless Jamaicans, leaving a legacy of caring compassion. His outstanding national service earned him the Order of Distinction (CD) in 1972, and the Order of Jamaica in 1993.

On a personal note, Danny was always willing to share his wisdom and advice, and in doing so never shirked speaking in a plain and forthright manner, delivered with tremendous generosity of spirit. No doubt this is why was a such a beloved mentor to many, whose characters and careers he helped to shape for the better.

Jamaica honours Danny Williams for his profound and positive impact on our nation. His is an enduring legacy that will serve as a wellspring of inspiration for present and future generations.

Rest in Peace, Danny. Your memory will forever be etched in the hearts of the Jamaican people.

Mark J. Golding, MP

Leader of the Opposition

— *Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams* —

HIS LEGACY WILL CONTINUE TO INSPIRE US

R. Danny Williams was more than just a leader; his dedication, vision, and unwavering commitment to our values have left an indelible mark on all of us. He not only steered our company towards success but also served as the driving force behind the establishment of the Virginia Dare Jamaica Limited Pension Fund, where he served as chairman since its inception in 1990.

His legacy will continue to inspire us as we move forward, building upon the strong foundation he helped establish. We will honour his memory by upholding the principles and values he held dear.

He will always be in our hearts.

John Bailey

CEO, Virginia Dare (Jamaica) Ltd.



— *Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams* —

A VISIONARY AND PIONEERING BUSINESS LEADER

The passing of the Hon. R. Danny Williams has left a space in the landscape of nation-building that will be difficult to fill.

He was a visionary and pioneering business leader; philanthropist; nationalist; a kind and compassionate man; an incomparable motivator and fund raiser for just causes; a family man; a sociable being and an exemplary friend. The list of attributes is long.

There was deep seated determination in this great Jamaican to support his fellow citizens in any effort that motivated them, not only to dream big dreams but also to realize them efficiently and effectively and make his country and his world a better place. The results of his efforts can be seen in different arenas, among them a thriving Jamaican insurance industry; support for the deaf; the Tony Thwaites Wing (the private wing of the University Hospital of the West Indies) and, of course, the Jamaica College transformation.

He was a giver, a man who understood and loved his country and was always ready to serve it.

The challenge to our nation in this 61st year of nationhood is to find the answer to the question, “Who is going to follow in the footsteps of Danny Williams?”

Karl Hendrickson

— *Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams* —

MEMORIES OF DANNY

Danny is one of my great Jamaican heroes. An incredible example for us all to follow. He had what I consider one of the rarest of humanitarian traits - I can't recall Danny ever saying anything negative about another human being. Always looking at the positive in every person and situation.

Danny, what delightful memories I hold of us sitting on the Bamboo Lodge verandah in Irish Town, oftentimes with family and friends, sometimes alone, coffee in the morning, cool drinks in the evening, and always with Shirley's delectable snacks! Relaxing, yes, but on every occasion, I learned something new from you, on subjects too numerous to mention. Those were lessons for life that I will always treasure.

Thank you, Danny, for everything you did for us all. Shirley, we are here for you. Our gratitude for looking after Danny over so many decades.

Douglas Orane



— *Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams* —

“I PROMISE YOU!”

The UHWI Private Wing, named the Tony Thwaites Wing, would probably not have been built without the promise that Dr. The Hon. R. Danvers Williams (Danny) made to Tony Thwaites, on his death bed, that he would see the project through to its completion. This was in late 1987 and the Tony Thwaites Wing was completed and opened in 1990.

“I promise you!” was a phrase that Danny used often, to give emphasis in respect of achieving a certain outcome based on his suggested strategy; and he was usually always right.

These are the words of a man of great confidence in his vision and his ability to mentor people in ensuring that his vision became reality. He used that phrase often in his guidance to the Board of Directors of the Tony Thwaites Wing. Danny was the first chairman of the Board and after relinquishing the chairmanship remained an active director until his passing.

Danny Williams was the best mentor that I could have had after succeeding him as chairman.

The Board of Directors will miss his insightful observations. May he rest in internal peace.

Mark Thwaites

Chairman

— *Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams* —

SERVICE WITHOUT FANFARE

It is with great regret that we learned of the death on September 16 of The Hon. R. Danny Williams, who worked without fanfare for the Diocese of Jamaica and The Cayman Islands for several decades. The Diocese joins the many organisations and individuals who have paid tribute to this extraordinary businessman, philanthropist and nation-builder.

Over the years, our Church has benefitted from the commitment and practical advice of Mr. Williams, who as one of our Business Referees, helped to guide the formulation of strategies to enhance our financial viability and fulfill our Diocesan mission. He willingly shared his extensive experience in the financial and business sectors, both with our top-level decision-makers and with members of the laity.

Mr. Williams was also a foundation member of the Property Advisory Board which was established in 2009 to spearhead the development of Diocesan real estate assets and promote long-term financial growth. His knowledge of the marketplace and pragmatic contribution to the Board's deliberations were immeasurable. His support for the Diocese and, in particular, the work of this Board, was unwavering. Having attended his last meeting in August, he still found time on the eve of his departure for surgery overseas to discuss an outstanding matter with the Chairman of the Board.

The Diocese of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands acknowledges, with appreciation, the service to God's Church and people of Jamaica by The Hon. R. Danny Williams, and extends its condolences to his wife Shirley, their children, and other members of his family. May his soul rest in peace and light perpetual shine on him.

The Rt. Rev. Leon Golding

Suffragan Bishop of Montego Bay and Canonical Administrator



— *Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams* —

MY MENTOR, ADVISOR, AND CONFIDANT

My affiliation with Mr Danny Williams and his wife goes way back to 2004 when my wife started working at his private office in Irish Town. I did a job for one of his staff members and Mr. Williams and his wife referred me, as their electrician, to all their contacts. Sir/Madam, your names will always be on my tongue.

Mr Williams was my mentor, advisor, and confidant. He showed keen interest in my family and the things I do. He was never too busy to talk to me or render any assistance. I am particularly amazed by a site visit he made just to see our project and shared encouraging words. I will always remember him for such great love and care shown to us.

The last outstanding thing he did was to donate to our recent back-to-school treat that the Apostolic Church in Irish Town hosted for the communities. We thank you for always supporting the students and the church as well. You will always be remembered for your generosity.

Rest in peace Mr Williams, you truly made a huge difference in the lives of many.

Bishop Daniel Walker

— *Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams* —

TRIBUTE FROM THE NURSES ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA (NAJ)

The NAJ joins with the nation in honoring and offering condolences to the family of the late Honorable R. Danny Williams. We at NAJ saw Mr. Williams as a giant in the Jamaican landscape. His support to the Association was unwavering, as there was never a request that he denied. He was one who we could tick off as saying yes before the letter was even sent.

I had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Williams personally, and he was always encouraging me to do more. He would invite me to come, sit and have a talk with him, and once we met, I was assured of my hug, kiss on the cheek, and questions of the achievement of the children,

To the family I say hold the memories dear, there can be no goodbye for you, your connections will live forever. You will miss the times you shared, but if you close your eyes, you will remember the laughter and good times. When you look at the stars, or the sun or the beautiful sunset know he will always be in your hearts, so never say goodbye.

On behalf of my family and I, and the Nurses of Jamaica I say Rest Well Mr. Williams, you will live forever in our hearts.

Patsy Edwards Henry

President - Nurses Association of Jamaica (NAJ)



— *Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams* —

HE TOUCHED THE LIVES OF EVERYONE

The contributions made by Dr. the Hon R Danny Williams to the development and welfare of the Irish Town, Red Light & Middleton communities are second to none and above all. He was instrumental in the creation of the above Associations, the construction and refurbishing of the Craighton Primary School, the waste disposal facilities, and even the bushing of the Newcastle main road from cooperage to Greenwich.

He aided numerous individuals in pursuit of their educational goals. His leadership and advice to the organizations and individuals were invaluable; also his service as a Justice of the Peace.

He conducted over one hundred and fifty meetings within the community, sometime beyond his normal bedtime, as Chairman of the Development Association. He was very passionate about the welfare and development of his community and its people. He touched the lives of everyone.

We have suffered an irreplaceable lost, but we have proud and happy memories of a great and humble human being.

Danny, our Hero, rest in peace.

Major Noel Arnold, JP – ITR&M Development Assn Ltd

Clive Hope Brown, JP – ITRM Citizen Assn Ltd

Sgt M Collins – Irish Town Police Station

Dennis Davis – Craighton Primary School

— Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams —

A SENSE OF CARING FOR OTHERS

The Jaycee movement founded in 1920 is a training ground for young people all over the world helping them to improve their skills and themselves through its seminars, lectures, meetings, community work and interaction with one another thus developing in its members the leadership qualities essential to a successful life.

It was introduced to Jamaica by a small group of young executives which included our beloved and now sadly departed friend Danny Williams.

The organization blossomed and flourished under the guidance of Danny and others in its formative years and Jamaica became a highly respected member of the world body respected by all nations.

Danny was responsible for, or at least deeply involved in, many of the projects, programmes, and successes of the young organization such as the Caribbean Trade Exposition in Kingston, Nuggets for the Needy and the purchase of the Jaycee permanent headquarters on Altamont Crescent, a level of work that caused Danny to be elected Vice President of the Kingston Jaycees (now called JCI Kingston) and later the West Indies Jaycees many of whose members rose to positions of leadership in the Caribbean islands and Guyana and thus became a the forerunner of first Carifta then Caricom.

It would be almost sacrilegious to describe Danny as a “superman”. Suffice it to say that one of his Jaycee and insurance colleagues described him to me as a “phenomenon”, a fitting appellation indeed! It seemed like Danny could do anything. He could build huge buildings like the Life of Jamaica building on Harbour Street, large companies like the Sagicor Group, but as he did in the Jaycees lift people up and help them, a unique gift that he had in abundance.

One small personal incident will suffice to illustrate the humanity, kindness and love that were part of this great man's persona.

When my sponsor invited me to join the Jaycees in Kingston he said he would meet and introduce me at their next general meeting the following day at the Scouts Headquarters on South Camp Road. I attended on time and waited shyly for him at the back of the hall. My sponsor did not show up leaving me shaken and almost terrified. I saw the meeting start with smartly dressed young men in business suits and speaking the Queen's English. I concluded that I did not belong there and was just about to sneak out when a handsome, fair-skinned young man immaculately dressed with hair well groomed and shine approached me. He asked who I was and why I was there. I had hardly finished my answer when he took me by the hand and conducted me into the midst of the meeting, introduced me to everyone and actually made me feel at home and part of the group. These people would later become my friends and we worked together in many Jaycee activities.

That was Danny Williams always alert to what was taking place around him and always with a sense of caring for others. I got to know Danny well and for anyone reading this tribute to our dear departed friend you can bet he is up there with his Lord and Saviour trying to persuade him to start a Jaycee Chapter and who knows perhaps trying to sell him some insurance although for what coverage I cannot imagine!

Such was this wonderful man who deserves our prayer that the good Lord will give his soul beautiful and serene peace and rest for all eternity.

Roy Banarsee

Jaycees

Past International President

— *Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams* —

TRIBUTES FROM THE STAFF OF RAVERS LIMITED

Ravers Limited staff members, over time, were regarded as Mr Williams' extended family, with every individual playing an integral role in his personal and business life.

Director

As his long-standing financial associate and friend, I am impressed with Danny's ability "to see the future and to look forward." He was able to recognize possible projects, programmes and business deals that had the potential to succeed and to fulfil important business and national purposes. His word and his bond were impeccable. — *E Champagne*

Administrative Staff

Mr. Williams was admired for his open-door policy, his humility, and his passion for the less fortunate, especially students. He made himself available to everyone; be it office staff, ancillary workers or even the little man in the community seeking some advice or assistance in starting a business. I have personally gained a wealth of knowledge working in his office since 2003. He not only tried to make a difference, but he truly made a difference in many lives. He will be sadly missed.

— *Judith Walker*

This man was just phenomenal! It was an honour to have met him and to have served as his personal driver/bearer. He will be greatly missed! — *Howard Henry*

Ancillary Staff

Mr. Williams loved his fruits in the mornings and religiously looked forward to his egg sandwiches for supper each Tuesday. One Tuesday, his wife asked me to prepare something different and he was most disappointed, as he told his friend he was going home to have his egg sandwich. He treated me like his family and I will miss him dearly. His coffee cup is as empty as he left us. — *Faith*

I will miss serving his coffee in the mornings; assisting him in doing his exercise; and generally sharing medicinal tips and how I would sun him when he gets to the age of 100 years old as he was aiming to attain. Things are not the same anymore. You are sadly missed, Sir, but you will never be forgotten. — *Dorrette*

Sir, me naah lie dough, me really miss you. You were a very good man to me. You give me sound advice and treat me like your own family. Thank you Sir, for all you do for me. I will continue to take care of your place. May your soul rest in peace! — *Junior*

Mi Boss just gone leave wi suh...no sah, me caah believe it! Thank you, Sir, for the many things you have done for my family. I will always remember you and the good times we shared on the job and at Christmas times. — *Greg*

Mr. Williams, I am the last member to join the staff, but the little time shared was very good. I miss your good advice and your warm personality. May your soul rest in peace! — *Dale*

— *Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams* —

RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING OF R. DANNY WILLIAMS

The Jamaica Association for the Deaf recognises the passing of R. Danny Williams who alongside his wife, Shirley, dedicated much of his time and resources since 1956 to support the achievement of the mission of the JAD.

Mr Williams joined the Adult Services Committee (now our Social Services Division) in 1956, to support the development of community engagement and Deaf inclusion programmes for Deaf adults in the wider population. He was asked to serve as Chair of the Committee from 1960 to 1963. This position offered him membership to the Executive Board, where he supported in this capacity until the death of Chairman Lister Mair in 1963, at which point Mr

Williams was selected to carry the torch as Chairman of the JAD Executive Board.

Under his leadership a number of education and hearing healthcare programmes were enhanced, the organisation's structure was improved, and the ongoing partnership between the JAD and the Ministry of Education to support Deaf education programmes was born.

Mr Williams stepped down as Chairman of the Executive Board in 1972 and maintained his presence as an ordinary member until 1974 when he was appointed President of the Association. Even as he stepped down from this role, his engagement with the JAD was consistent, being present at our special functions, and checking in by phone or email to get updates on our activities and to make suggestions to enhance some of our efforts.

To honour his efforts in supporting the development of Deaf education and by extension the wider Deaf community, the Danny Williams School for the Deaf

was opened in 1987 in Hope Estate, Papine, St Andrew. Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams was established as the school's Patron and served in this capacity until his passing. His tangible support was felt by staff and students last year when he generously contributed to roof repair of all the buildings on the school premises. He visited the school when the work was completed. It was a joy for students and staff alike to meet the man after whom this landmark institution is named. In synchrony with the legacy of its Patron, the Danny Williams School for the Deaf has become a benchmark for deaf education in the Caribbean and will continue as a beacon of excellence.

He will be missed, but his legacy will never fade. The impact of his efforts to develop and sustain programmes to uplift the Deaf community continues to this day, and his intention to spread the light of philanthropy and national service is noted even now through our partners, volunteer board members, and staff.

As noted in his Chairman's Report reviewing the year ending March 1963, "We look back on the year ended with pride; for the coming year we confidently expect to proceed with even greater success in our work of assisting the Deaf community in Jamaica." This statement resonates with us even now as each year we work assiduously to positively impact the lives of Deaf persons in Jamaica. Our current leadership at the level of the Executive Board and operational management, sit firm in the foundation of passion, accountability and improvement as was set by Mr Williams.

**The Jamaica Association for the Deaf
Danny Williams School for the Deaf**

— *Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams* —

R. DANNY WILLIAMS – FERVET!

R. Danny Williams, a shining example of selflessness and leadership, left an indelible mark on society as an iconic figure and dedicated philanthropist. His unwavering compassion and visionary spirit shaped a life dedicated to uplifting humanity, vividly portrayed in his biography, “I Tried to Make A Difference.” Danny’s impact resonated through his commitment to family, nation-building, and paying it forward, particularly in the transformation of Jamaica College (JC).

One of R. Danny’s most notable achievements was the remarkable turnaround of JC. He tackled the school’s numerous challenges, from poor academic performance to lackluster facilities, with charisma and a deep love for charity and JC. Through the Jamaica College Transformation Programme spanning from 2005 to 2016, he forged camaraderie among past students, resulting in a miraculous transformation. Today, JC enjoys the fruits of his labor, including refurbished infrastructure, a new gym, classrooms, auditorium, and improved security—an achievement aligned with strategic goals of academic excellence and conducive learning environments.

Danny’s foresight led to the establishment of the Jamaica College Foundation, a charitable organization supporting underprivileged young boys with meals, books, tuition, and accommodation. His philanthropy touched countless lives, providing education and hope. Income from his biography continues to support the JC Foundation’s Scholarship Fund.

As a leader, R. Danny Williams embodied unwavering integrity, inspiring others to pursue excellence and moral strength. His leadership was marked by inclusivity, empathy, and fairness. Danny’s legacy goes beyond achievement; it’s about profound impact. He taught us that leadership is about positive change in others’ lives. Let his example inspire us to continue the work of making the world better, one act of kindness and leadership at a time. Collegium floreat, fervet opus in campis!

Chris Williams,

Chairman Jamaica College Foundation

— *Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams* —

A FRIENDSHIP OF SOME 78 YEARS

Danny was my best friend - a friendship of some 78 years. His passing has left a deep void in my life.

I knew his mother Verna, his father Len, sisters Joan and Jean; in fact Jean was my very first girlfriend at my tender age of +/- fourteen.

I was honoured to be named as Ray's godfather.

Over the years Danny always supported me in my professional endeavours and in fact was instrumental in my being employed as a quantity surveyor on several projects in which he was directly or indirectly involved.

My late wife Kitty and I spent many very pleasant afternoons and evenings on the Williams' verandas at Bamboo Lodge and at Silver Oaks often in company with his family and mutual friends – memories of which I will treasure forever.

I consider myself extremely fortunate in having been able to enjoy the friendship with Danny and his family and I benefitted greatly from his friendship especially from his wisdom, experience and his advice to me in many matters.

I will greatly miss the gentleman. My love and deep condolences to his beloved wife Shirley and the other members of his family.

John Bloomfield



— *Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams* —

MY CLOSE FRIEND AND MENTOR

Danny was my Mentor, my advisor and most importantly my good friend;

I met Danny when he gave me a contract to sell life insurance when I was nineteen years old.

He was hesitant to give me a contract to sell life insurance because of my young age. After some persistence on my part he gave me a rate book and an application form and said if I could sell a policy without any training he would give me a contract. I did and he was true to his word.

Five years later I went into the real estate development business mainly because I knew he was building apartments so it would be a good move.

On my early developments Danny advised me to use every spare piece of land for parking and having complied I know he gave me the very best advice.

For 61 years Danny has been my close friend and mentor. I spent the last five Christmas Days having lunch with him and Shirley and their close family.

May his soul rest in peace and may our spirits meet again someday. His body may have passed but his spirit is still with us. Rest in peace my friend.

Colin Cooke

— Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams —

TRIBUTE FROM ONE ON ONE TEAM

You may have known him as R. Danny Williams, but for me, he was Sir D, and he played an irreplaceable role in the heart of One on One and in my journey from boyhood to manhood.

From a janitor to a Rhodes Scholar nominee and now CEO of a publicly listed company; my journey would have been unimaginable without him. In 2005, as a struggling student at Jamaica College, I handed Sir D my resume, marking the start of a transformative mentorship—both personally and professionally. He ultimately became my “adopted” father, the first man to call me “Son,” and provided invaluable support in all areas of my journey.

His wisdom shaped my academic and professional choices, and his insistence that “Ricardo, you have a business!” kickstarted our company, One on One, turning weekend tutoring gigs into a thriving enterprise serving over 250,000 learners since its inception. He was also our very first angel investor and has been the bedrock of our company’s evolution from startup to becoming a publicly listed company on the Jamaica Stock Exchange in 2022.

Sir D’s indelible values—punctuality, planning, and unfaltering commitment—fuel the ethos of not only me, but the entire team at One on One and our founding Directors/Shareholders. His final words to me about One Academy and our solution to solve massive problems in education echo as a lasting challenge: “If you guys pull this off, you’ll be heroes.” Sir D, thank you for shaping not just me, but the destinies of those we collectively touch. You are irreplaceable and YES, you DID make a difference, now it’s time for US to make our difference.

On behalf of the board of directors, shareholders, team at One on One, I pledge to uphold your ideals and give back through education, just as you have given to me and by extension, us. Your legacy will endure in the hearts and minds of all who had the privilege of knowing you.

With love,

Ricardo D. Allen

President & CEO

One on One Educational Services Limited

— Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams —

WALK GOOD CHAIRMAN!

It is with heavy hearts that we bid adieu to one of our nation's most treasured sons; a visionary leader, pioneer, nation builder and mentor. Dr. the Hon. R. Danvers Williams has been associated with RA Williams Distributors even before our inception. Our shared principles of integrity, hard work, dedication and the determination to offer the highest quality service have helped to keep our more than a decade old bond strong.

“Collegium floreat, fervet opus in campis”

Our Company's association with “Danny” Williams began with our CEO, Audley Reid, while he attended Jamaica College. In true JC Old Boy fashion, Danny Williams took on the role of mentor to our CEO and countless others, nurturing talent and imparting invaluable knowledge. We were blessed to not only have him as our Chairman but as an inspiration to us all. His wisdom and commitment to excellence guided us through every endeavour. He has left an indelible mark on our Company and we remain committed to continuing his legendary legacy of excellence and selfless service to our nation.

R.A. Williams Distributors Limited



— Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams —

WHEN OTHERS SAW PROBLEMS, DANNY SAW OPPORTUNITY

We went to Jamaica College together in the 1940s. He recruited me into the Life Insurance business in 1958 and under his guidance and tutoring I became a member of his Management Team . We worked together, along with three other associates to give birth to Life of Jamaica in 1969. We became inseparable friends and our wives and children became one.

Danny was driven with a thirst to help people from all walks of life. He had the ability and good health to work tirelessly for long hours with the mind set that positive results from effort was the definition of success. When others saw problems, Danny saw opportunity, when others saw fear, Danny saw Hope. No one was more positive about the challenges of living than Danny Williams. The list of his accomplishments during his life are too numerous to mention ,but I think the four most far reaching and long lasting accomplishments are: The contribution he made to the Deaf Association, the formation of Life of Jamaica , the building and staffing of the Thwaites Hospital wing at the University of the West Indies, and the re-birth of Jamaica College. All of these accomplishments impacted positively on thousands of lives up and down the social scale of all Jamaicans.

So when I tell you that Danny was one of the most outstanding humans that ever lived, there can be no denial. The rippling effect of your footprint will be everlasting. You did make a difference.

Thank you for living such a giving and exemplary life my friend.

Rest in peace.

Donald Davidson

— *Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams* —

OUR TRIBUTE TO AN AMAZING HUMAN BEING

Where do you start when trying to pay tribute to such an amazing human being?

I have known Cousin Danny and his family all my life from I could remember (as a child). His Mother and our Father were Burke siblings and as family we stayed in touch regularly and visited each other's homes and celebrated special events.

Danny was unique and gained the respect of the family for his hard work ethic, focused, and positive attitude. He found ways to get things done, motivated others and made a positive personal difference for many people.

On a personal note, he introduced me to Dennis Lalor at ICWI for my first job (in General Insurance) that I embraced with D. L. tutelage and guidance. It became my lifelong profession, providing me with reliable income to support my family.

Regardless of how busy or successful Danny became, he was always approachable and willing to help. This is an endearing quality that set him apart from most other successful people. His devotion to his family and to helping others and organizations through his selfless involvement as a volunteer chairman or director came naturally.

Danny, thank you for inspiring us to be outwardly focused, while being approachable and willing to help make a positive difference.

Chris Burke & Family

— Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams —

MY MENTOR, FATHER, FRIEND, FORMER EMPLOYER.

In the 23 years of service to the giant of a man, I learnt so much. He taught me to master the art of multitasking, as he expected things to be done in a timely manner and the art of being a good listener. We worked on several charities together and I was able to witness, first-hand, the joy he brought to others through his giving nature. I can't remember been denied of any assistance I sought from him on behalf of anyone, be it financially or otherwise.

His employees were regarded as his extended family. He took a keen interest in the health and wellbeing of those around him. He had a natural passion for people and would make time to have discussions with them no matter their status in life. Even if it was a one-off encounter, he would find time for talks, and would assist in any way he could to uplift the lives of those with whom he came in contact.

He said, "I tried to make a difference" but I say, "The man who made a difference."

One of his favourite sayings were, "You don't just give a man a fish, you have to teach him how to fish so that he can survive long after you are gone." That he did for many.

Rest in Peace Sir! Although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating and hard-working hands are at rest. May God's perpetual light shine upon you as He enfolds you in His everlasting arms.

Althea Lynch

Former Personal Assistant



— Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams —

YOU MADE AN INDELIBLE IMPRESSION ON SO MANY OF US.

Dan Dan,

"The heights of great men reached and kept, we're not attained by sudden flight, but they while their companions slept were toiling upwards in the night".

YOU are a special person, a unique individual and loved unconditionally for who you are.

GOD blessed you with foresight and you brought your visions into reality, noble visions that improved and enriched people's lives. You made an indelible impression on so many of us.

You ran the race, and completed the course leaving a legacy of leadership, integrity, philanthropy, caring and compassion.

Rest now my dear friend for you now sleep with the angels.

Friends into Eternity,

Pansie Bissnott

— *Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams* —

DANNY MY FRIEND AND MENTOR.

I must first express deep and sincere condolences to Shirley and all the members of Danny Williams's family. Danny was my friend and my mentor. I shall never forget the first day I had the pleasure of meeting him. He came to my office without an appointment and said "one of my agents Manley McAdam told me that you said " you couldn't afford any more insurance "Well I'll show you how to buy more insurance, come and work with me and I will show you how "I immediately tendered my resignation to my manager and two weeks later I was working with Danny Williams. My wife and other family members thought I was crazy and even said that people who sold life insurance was only because they couldn't get a better job. Undaunted I went about my new job selling life insurance. I worked long hours on weekends and late at night and Danny was right. Danny Williams was respected by all who worked with him. He didn't treat us like employees but like associates.

Danny Williams also gave his talents to Jamaica when he was appointed to be Minister of Commerce and Industry by The Government for two years after which he returned to the life insurance business. Life of Jamaica and soon thereafter LOJ was acquired by a Barbados investor and the name changed to Sagicor Life Jamaica.

Danny was back in the insurance business and the new investor suggested that a 10 story building in the heart of New Kingston should be named The R. Danny Williams Building...and so it was. Danny's example of hard work, Fairplay and humility will inspire many. Rest in Peace Danny my friend and mentor.

Adrian Foreman

— Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams —

A ROLE MODEL

It was a privilege to have known Mr. Williams, a man of such stature who has made an unforgettable mark in Jamaica and the world at large. I always knew him as my aunt's employer, someone who I heard her, and my mother speak of so fondly.

However, in 2016 I was offered a 5-year-scholarship to attend Ardenne High School. Every summer my mother, my sister and I would make our way up to Bamboo Lodge to discuss my progress. He would tell me stories about his upbringing, challenges he faced and how he overcame them. When we were having our little meeting, he would always tell me to sit up and speak to him with direct eye contact. I recall by the end of our meeting he would encourage me to continue doing well and would look forward to seeing me the following year.

Getting to know Mr. Williams personally, made me grow to admire the man he was, to hear what he has done for Jamaica and his alma mater Jamaica College, made me respect him and view him as a role model.

I will always be grateful for the summers I got to speak with him and learn more about him as an individual. The impact you have made on me and countless others will be talked about for years to come.

Rest In Peace Mr. Williams

Jhaecem Brown, *Scholarship Student*



— Dr. The Hon. R. Danny Williams —

HE TOUCHED PEOPLES' LIVES DIRECTLY

I have been so sad to hear of Mr. Williams' passing, but I haven't had one sad thought about him!

I was a teenager when I met Mr. and Mrs. Williams for the first time at a community function in Irish Town. I was aware of Mr. Williams' national stature, but what surprised me was the humility of this power couple and the effortless way in which they worked in tandem to make everyone feel at ease around them.

Within Irish Town, Mr. Williams was a positive influence. Although he was busy with his family and business, he never seemed to be in a hurry when we met. He always made time. Whether it was to help me to find a job, to negotiate for the community to get a football field, fill potholes, or get a new building for school, Mr. Williams selflessly laid his hands on countless projects, put his money behind them and smoothly got other people to follow. He touched peoples' lives directly, epitomized service above self and had creative ways to make people believe that they could become productive.

In my mind's eye, I remember a charming, giant father figure, with a warm smile, a twinkle in his eyes, a wry sense of humour and a seemingly endless supply of time to patiently listen and give sage advice.

Mr. Williams, I will grieve your passing along with your family, the community and the country, but I will always smile when I remember you.

Sherry Ann McGregor

THANK YOU

The family would like to say thanks for all the love and support received during this difficult season. Your thoughts, calls, and prayers are greatly appreciated. We would like to specially thank the Gore family, the Jamaica Broilers Group, Jamaica College and the Sagicor Group for their thoughtful kindness.



In honour of Danny, contributions to the R. Danny Williams Scholarship Fund will be gratefully received. These contributions may be placed in the designated offering bags, or a transfer may be sent to the Jamaica College Foundation,

Sagicor Bank JMD current account 5501115446

Sagicor Bank USD current account 5501298327



Please indicate in the transfer details that the donation is for the R. Danny Williams Scholarship Fund.

Danny, Thanks for Making a Difference

