

*YOUR SPIRIT – A TRIBUTE TO MY FATHER*

*By Tram-Tiara T. Von Reichenbach*

I know that no matter what, you will always be with me.  
When life separates us, I'll know it is only your soul  
Saying goodbye to your body  
But your spirit will be with me always.  
When I see a bird chirping on a nearby branch  
I will know it is you singing to me.  
When a butterfly brushes gently by me so care freely  
I will know it is you assuring me you are free from pain.  
When the gentle fragrance of a flower catches my attention  
I will know it is you reminding me  
To appreciate the simple things in life.  
When the sun shining through my window awakens me  
I will feel the warmth of your love.  
When I hear the rain pitter patter against my window sill  
I will hear your words of wisdom  
And will remember what you taught me so well  
That without rain trees cannot grow  
Without rain flowers cannot bloom  
Without life's challenges I cannot grow strong.  
When I look out to the sea  
I will think of your endless love for your family.  
When I think of mountains, their majesty and magnificence  
I will think of your courage for your country.  
No matter where I am, your spirit will be beside me  
For I know that no matter what, you will always be with me.

*With all our Love Dad. Thank you.*

*In Loving Memory*  
**WILLIAM JOHN  
HENRY THIJS**  
1918 - 2020



 **EVAN J. STRONG**  
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**WILLIAM JOHN  
HENRY THIJS**

**SUNRISE**

March 9, 1918  
Waterloo,  
Trinidad & Tobago

**SUNSET**

December 5, 2020  
Calgary,  
Alberta

**AGE**

102 Years

As an only child Dad learnt to be independent from an early age. His mother died when he was about thirteen years old and subsequently lived with his grandmother before joining the Trinidad Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Dad's culinary skills were developed under the guidance of his grandmother. He learnt tailoring from his Godfather and later completed his education in Marine Engineering abroad.

At the onset of WWII Dad was drafted into the British Royal Navy, where he served in various capacities including that of Minesweeper for which he was medaled. After WWII Dad's job as a Seaman

took him to Guyana where he met and married Mom and started their family.

Dad worked for Bookers Sugar Estates Limited, as the Engineer in charge of the Motor Vessel "Kamuni" and the Motor Tug "Alec J". He later joined Williams Timber Limited, J.P. Santos and finally worked for Banks DIH Limited as the Manager in charge of the Light Refrigeration Department, prior to immigrating to Canada.

Dad was a member of the Guyana Canada Cultural Association (Calgary), where he served in the capacity of Secretary for a number of years. As a community activist he volunteered with the Calgary Police Training Services providing lectures to new recruits on Cultural Diversity.

Dad was very keen on knowledge acquisition, so even in his 70's he was still attending SAIT taking advantage of all the free computer courses offered to seniors. The pearls Dad dropped into our lives from childhood, the wisdom and insights imparted to us has sustained us throughout our adulthood.

Rest in eternal peace Dad. We love you and greatly miss you. Thank you.

**Celebration of Life**

Evan J. Strong Funeral Services  
Saturday, December 12, 2020 at 11:00am

**Photo Memories**

Prepared by Evan J. Strong Funeral Services

**Celebrant** ~ David Pekrul

**Eulogy**

Wilhelm Julio Thijs (*Son*)

**Tribute**

Marilyn Thijs-Farnum (*Daughter*)

**Memories (Grandchildren)**

Jewell Thijs Jr

Cara Pavey

Quima Green-Thijs

Ryan Thijs

Kobi Green-Thijs

**Videographer** ~ Ed Montemayor

**Graveside Service**

Rockyview Garden of Peace