



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

Ivy Arthur and Rita Harewood celebrate their 100th birthdays

On March 17, 2024, celebrations were held in honour of two exceptional women who attained the milestone age of one hundred (100) years. They are Ms Ivy Arthur and Ms Rita Harewood.

Ivy Arthur has no secret to longevity

Born March 16, 1924, the celebrations for Ms Ivy Arthur took place at her residence in San Juan. When questioned about her secret to her longevity, the centenarian heartily replied “I have no secret.” However, relatives noted her penchant for prayer, hymn singing, and a diet predominantly comprising fish may have contributed to her longevity.

Ms Arthur was born in Venture, Barbados. Her industrious and independent nature led her to migrate to Trinidad and Tobago seeking employment. Nonetheless, relatives teasingly suggested that her move to Trinidad and Tobago was driven by a quest for a boyfriend. In her response, Ms Arthur said “I have one boyfriend. Christ Jesus.”

Rita Harewood credits God as her secret to longevity

The celebration honouring Ms. Rita Harewood's significant milestone was held at the Belmont Community Center on her birthdate, March 17th. “Granny” or “Ms Otty” as she is known to many, credited “God” as her secret to longevity. During the celebration, Ms. Harewood expressed her pride in the event hosted in her honour, emphasizing the joy of witnessing four generations coming together. Ms. Harewood, proud mother of seven (7), grandmother of sixteen (16), great-grandmother of twenty-five (25), and great-great-grandmother of eight (8), shared her immense pride in witnessing the growth and establishment of her descendants grow and establish their own families. Ms Crystal Felix Inspector II of the Division of Ageing joined the celebration and presented Ms Harewood with her Certificate of Honour and Achievement and a new wheelchair, all on behalf of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services.

To register for the National Centenarian Programme, please visit the Ministry's website at www.social.gov.tt to complete the online form or print a downloadable form for completion. For more information, persons may contact the Division of Ageing at 623 – 2608; Ext 2001 to 2009, or 800-OPIC (6742).

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Ivy Arthur I - Ms Ivy Arthur displays her Certificate of Honour and Achievement received from the Division of Ageing of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services in celebration of achieving the milestone age of one hundred.



Ivy Arthur II - Ms Ivy Arthur born March 16, 1924 is surrounded by family members at her 100th birthday celebration on March 17, 2024 at her home in San Juan.



Rita Harewood I - New centenarian Ms Rita Harewood dressed in gold at the black and gold celebration to celebrate her 100th birthday.



Rita Harewood II - Ms Crystal Felix Inspector II and Ms Stacey Toussaint, Senior Social Work Specialist of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services present Ms Rita Harewood with her tokens in celebration of her milestone.