



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Minister Cox Joins 100th Birthday Celebration of 1984 Hummingbird Silver Awardee**

Mr. Garnet Samuel Edwards was awarded the Hummingbird Medal Silver for exceptional service in the Public Service for Youth Development in Agriculture in 1984. This year, Mr. Edwards is celebrating a remarkable milestone: his 100th birthday. The new centenarian celebrates two birthdays: October 7, the day he was born, and October 23, the day he was registered, where for many years his official first name was “Boy” and his second name “Child.”

To mark the occasion, the family hosted a birthday celebration at the Diego Martin Central Community Centre on October 6, 2024. Joining the celebration was Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox. In her remarks, Minister Cox noted that a common thread among the more than fifty-nine centenarian celebrations for 2024 is the absence of bitterness, along with a commitment to hard work, healthy eating, and faith in God.

Mr. Edwards’ secret to longevity confirmed the Minister’s sentiments, as he credited God and family as his keys to a long life. According to Mr. Edwards, “so many times, people ask me how I live so long. My first answer is, with God, all things are possible. My next answer is a good family life. You see family; you see them; they are all handmade by the Almighty.” His family also conveyed that the secret to Mr. Edwards’ long life is his healthy habits, “he eats well, doesn’t drink or smoke, consumes a lot of vegetables, and enjoys a lot of fruit juice.”

Following the proceedings, Minister Cox presented Mr. Edwards with his Certificate of Honour and Achievement, a birthday cake courtesy of platinum sponsor, the Kiss Baking Company, and food hampers sponsored by Vemco and National Flour Mills.

The former Extension Officer with the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries also received his centenarian medal in recognition of his contributions to national development from Minister Cox.

Two years ago, Mr. Edwards’ prestigious Hummingbird Silver medal was stolen during a robbery. In response, the Office of the President graciously issued a duplicate medal to Mr. Edwards. During yesterday’s centenarian celebration, Minister Cox graciously accepted the family’s request to repin the centenarian with his medal, acknowledging his role and contribution to public service.

The Manzanilla native married his childhood friend and sweetheart, Faith, in 1951 at St. Jude Anglican Church in Arima. Following seventy years of marriage and five children, Mr. Edwards,

fondly called ‘Eddoes’ lost his beloved Faith in 2021. Mr. Edwards is also the grandfather of nine and great-grandfather of five.

He considers his greatest accomplishment to be his family. Among his children is David Edwards, the former President of the Greater Tunapuna Chamber of Industry and Commerce. Together with his wife, Faith, a former schoolteacher, they have also raised a psychiatrist, a vice principal, an engineer, and a State Registered Nurse.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services was proud to honour Mr. Edwards and encourage persons to register for the National Centenarian Programme. To register, please visit the Ministry’s website at [www.social.gov.tt](http://www.social.gov.tt) to complete the online form. 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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*Minister Cox celebrates with new centenarian Mr. Garnet Samuel Edwards.*



*Minister Cox joins the family for a photo with new centenarian, 1984 Hummingbird Silver Awardee Garnet Samuel Edwards.*



*Mr. Edwards displays his Certificate of Honour and Achievement presented to him by Minister Cox.*