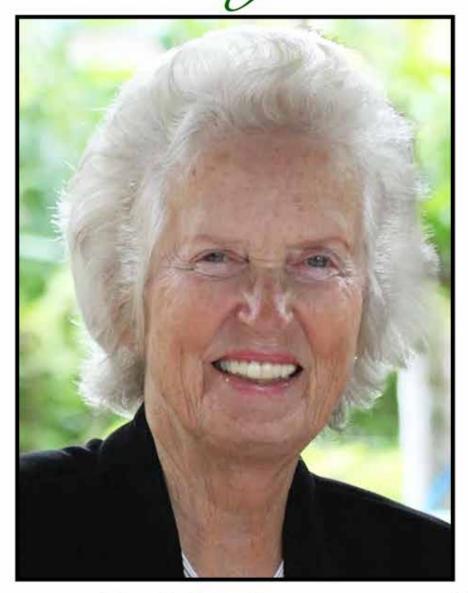
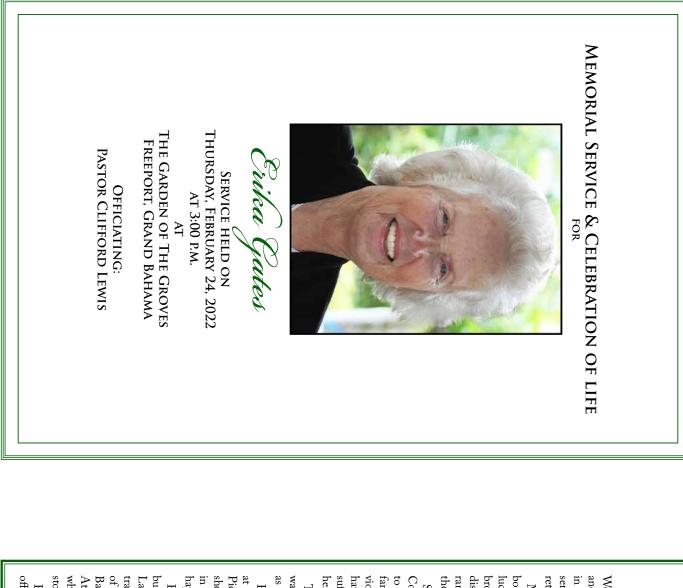
## MEMORIAL SERVICE & CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR Erika Gates



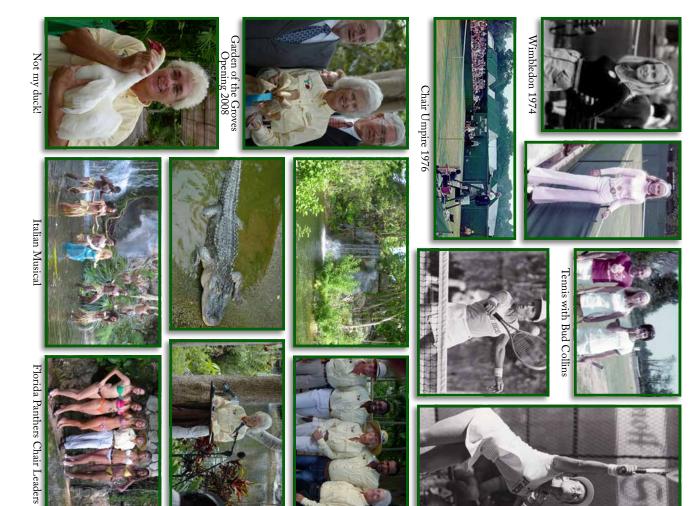
OCTOBER 23, 1942 · DECEMBER 14, 2021 Gone too soon, but forever in our hearts



official capacity and was reportedly the first non-British person to be accepted as an umpire stocked with the best merchandise and tennis gear. of two high-end shops in Miami - Burberry's of Scotland - located in both the Omni and in its heyday and Erika's courts were always busy. There was always something exciting at Arawak Hotel for her to use and this is where she ran her programs and tournaments. war. The officers, their wives and children often visited and Erika spent time in Bournemouth disease. These were chaotic times. Erika's mother recalled a bitterly cold night when soldiers sent to a POW camp in Canada. The war had been over for two years before he was able to which many remember as "the place." Both tennis shops at the Princess were always well-At some time in this period she was also co-owner of The London Pacesetters in Freeport Bal Harbor shopping centers. This required her attendance in Florida a few days each week. training regimen required for that level of play. During this time she was also a co-owner Ladies Championship. But because of her other pursuits she could not commit to the business enterprises. More than an average player, she won at least one Bahamas National happening. she leased the Holiday Inn courts and the two facilities at the Princess Hotel. Tennis was Pictures and details of that period are too voluminous to describe adequately. Later on, as their guest. her the drive we all saw in her. suffering the aftermath of a war that inspired Erika to embrace life to the fullest, and gave have had a different ending. Perhaps it was those early childhood struggles in a country violence around them. Erika always realized that without the British officers, her life could family. Food and medicine became available and the children were protected from the to be a Godsend: these officers were kind, decent men who treated them like their own Commission, made their headquarters on the ground floor of the family home. This proved them to freeze. Even the baby Erika had her blankets taken. ransacked the family home, stole their meager food rations, took their blankets and left brother (who took her birding when she was eight) died at an early age of an incurable lucky to have survived because the mortality rate for children was very high. Her older bombings had ended, starvation, disease and atrocities continued. Erika considered herself return home and Erika met her father for the first time when she was five in the middle of a war. A few months before she was born, her father was taken captive and and celebrate Erika's life, we need to look at that time in her life. Erika came into the world We are told that the formative years of a child's life are from 0-8 years. To truly understand For the next twenty years, she was involved with tennis but she was also involved in other Erika came to Grand Bahama in the seventies to teach tennis. Eight courts were built Some time after the war ended, a team of British officers, known as the British Control Many considered the aftermath of the war to be worse than the war itself. Although the The friendship between the family and the British officers was to last many years after the Erika visited Wimbledon many times in the seventies. First as a spectator and then in an rika Gates EULOGY

a much more powerful twin-engine plane and gained her instrument-rated license. This entrants each year. The tournament was eventually moved to Nassau after intense lobbying chair umpire, she chaired a few matches on the back-courts but functioned as a line judge of Freeport." She loved Freeport and her adopted country. Within the scope of her expertise of her famous green sails, provided a refreshing new slant on tour offerings for Freeport. seriously damaged by Hurricanes Francis and Jeane in 2004. The process had to be repeated Tours has been continuously in operation with a number of employees for more than 30 Nature Tours. of ten years, she made many trips flying supplies for the IAT Clinic and other business meant that she was permitted to fly at night or in bad weather conditions. Over a period with the help of a number of Freeport's established pilots. Before long, she moved up to exposure for Freeport. She hosted the tournaments for two consecutive years with over 150 young women players from all over the world. These events meant important international as Jimmy Conners and Illi Nastase to Freeport to play exhibition matches. She was also the Wimbledon tournaments. Her elevation to umpire was considered a milestone for and abilities, she was often at the forefront of any worthwhile effort or project that would including the Cacique Award, Carnival's award for the Number One Caribbean Operator the ship was returned to Germany While the venture was moderately successful, mechanical issues could not be overcome and famous tall ship, the Alexander Von Humboldt. The Green Lady, as she was known because up at some point, but because of Erika's tenacity and love for the Garden it is still in following Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and Dorian in 2019. Most people would have given years. The company has also been providing tours for Disney at Castaway Cay since its despite the freezing temperatures, loved the experience. They came home and started Kayak enterprises. invited by the prestigious ITF Futures Tournament organization to host tournaments for for some of the more important matches. English tennis and she was invited to appear on the Larry King show. Early in her role as a for the All-England Lawn Tennis Club. The AELTC was the association that administered and Carnival's award for Sustainable Tourism. business today. inception. Director of the BNT has suggested that Erika put Grand Bahama on the ecological map. from there In 1991, she and her husband Ed took a week-long kayak trip off the coast of Maine and Erika would have been happy to know that someone referred to her as part of the "fabric Over the years, Kayak Nature Tours has received numerous awards and accolades In 2011, though Erika's connections in Germany, Kayak Nature Tours leased the world-In 2008, Erika resurrected and reopened The Garden of the Groves which had been Despite the hurricanes and downturn in business due to the pandemic, Kayak Nature The company was one of the first to recognize the importance of Ecotourism. The Executive During these years, Erika became enthusiastic about flying and gained her pilot's license As a result of her Wimbledon connections, she was able to bring top-ranked players such a part of her homeland with her. Like her parents before her, she was born in a quaint, "I'm sorry I'm late" or "I forgot to bring that." experts. When Erika discovered that The Bahamas was only represented by a desk handing in England to promote birding in The Bahamas. This is a huge event that takes place over available. She spent two weeks on the ground under very trying conditions evaluating the Society of Grand Bahama and if she were here, she would ask you to please lend your the years they numbered in the hundreds. She was an ardent supporter of The Humane events both locally and internationally. considerably. During the same period of time, she also organized major annual birding will always be our Bergisches Princess For those of us who loved and adored her, we saw the beauty reflected in her life, and she princesses. It's where she developed a love for the beauty in nature and her passion for birds. Land; an area of low mountains, rivers, deep forests, magnificent castles and fairy-tale 600-year-old town named Lennep. It was in a region of Germany known as the Bergisches and was always meticulously prepared. Few people can claim that they ever heard her say out brochures, it became her mission to correct that three days in August of each year and almost every country is represented by its birding developed the S. Bimini birding trail. interested in gambling. She made three separate trips to Bimini for that purpose and potential of various tour ideas and then a month afterwards writing tour descriptions. Princess Cruise Line passengers. Guests were coming off the ship, but there were few tours identify the various bird species. three multi-day trips and created boardwalks, blue-hole viewing platforms and signage to near Congo Town, South Andros. It was hot and the mosquitoes were biting, but she made have been paid a per diem, she seldom sought to recover expenses. areas badly in need of tourism revenue. She never turned them down and although she may support. new birders. As a result, the number of people enjoying this activity in Freeport has grown weekends each time, spanning almost two decades, she provided free birding classes for "thanks for mentoring." Some said "You made me what I am today." Twice yearly, for several would quietly stay in the background and let others take the credit. would only seek media attention if necessary to move a project forward. Otherwise, she benefit the community and the greater Bahamas. Erika loved what she was doing and Although Erika proudly became a citizen of The Bahamas in 1982, she always carried She may be gone from our lives, but the memory of her will always be with us. On another occasion, she was asked to identify and design tours in South Eleuthera for Erika would spend any amount of time to rescue an injured bird, or dog or cat and over She freely gave of her time and resources. Many messages of condolence mentioned Erika was a true multi-tasker. Her secret was that she always loved what she was doing Over the last five years, Erika made self-funded trips to the annual British Bird Faire More recently, she was tasked with doing the same in Bimini for guests who were not On one occasion, to attract visiting birders, she was asked to create a birding environment The Ministry of Tourism often called on her to assist with introducing new activities to

The family sends heartfelt thanks to all who have sent loving thoughts & prayers, cards of condolences, letters and phone calk. Your support is deeply appreciated.	console us who mourn. Give us Your aid, so we may see in death the gate to eternal life, that we may continue our path on earth in confidence until, by Your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before us, through Your Son, Jesus Christ.
Thank You.	as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In Your boundless compassion,
Gatherings for Cocktail Reception at the Café Deck	
Closing Blessings Pastor Clifford Lewis	Pastor: Let us pray:
SelectionJohannes Reichert "Time to Say Goodbye"Johannes Reichert cousin of Erika Gates	tor:
Message Pastor Clifford Lewis	THE LITURGY OF THE WORD
MessageMrs. Yvonne Smith Pilot	Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!
MessageMs. Elizabeth Tip Burrows Executive Director of The Humane Society of Grand Bahama	Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are Thine;
"Bergisches Heimatlied"performed by Angel Russel, <i>Grand Babama Choir</i> Piano by Kevin Tomlinson, <i>Director</i>	Chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.
Message Pastor Andreas Reichert <i>Cousin of Erika Gates</i>	Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Message Mrs. Christina Stoecker Sister-in-law of Erika Gates	Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!
"You Raise Me Up"sung by Javan Hunt	Mearts unfold like flow is before Thee, praising Thee, their sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away;
The Lord's Prayer	Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Message Lisa Sorenson, Ph. D. Executive Director of Birds Caribbean	Opening Hymn Cudwig von Beethoven's "Ode to Joy"
Message Ms. Sarah St. George Chairperson of Grand Bahama Group of Companies	Erika Gates
	MEMORIAL SERVICES AND CELEBRATION OF LIFE



I never got my cake!







- ALX-













First Plane

Flying to Florida











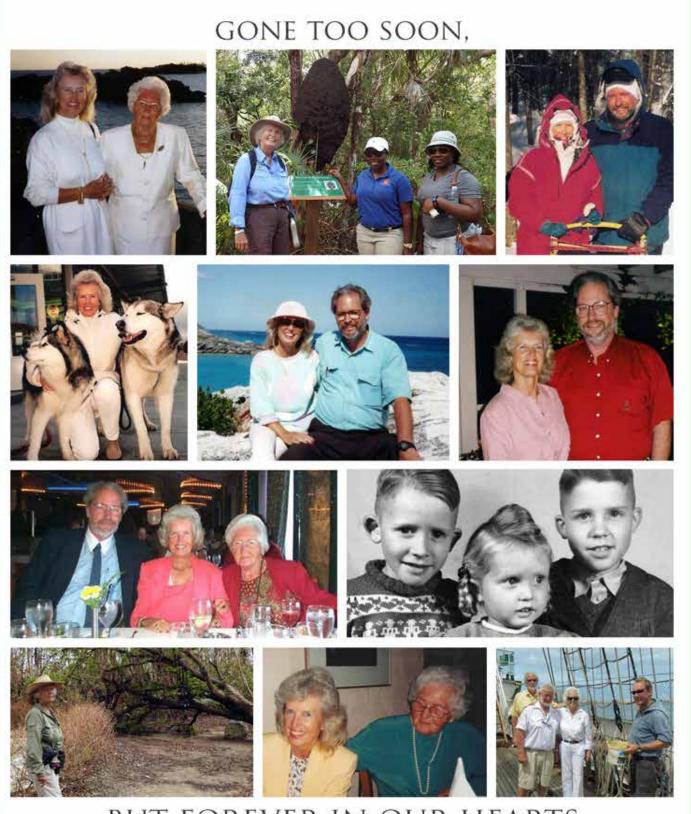


Protecting Birds

Birding Group with Certificates

Red Tail Hawk

British Bird Fair



## BUT FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS