

Maude Omaha Dowdy Roberts

The Centennial Queen of Frederiksted

Maude Omaha Dowdy Roberts, affectionately known as "*Maudie*," was born on September 3, 1922, in Frederiksted, St. Croix, to the late Evelyn Agatha McIntosh and Joseph Dowdy. As the eldest of ten children, she was raised in a close-knit family and was baptized at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, where her faith journey began.

Maude received her early education at the historic Old Dane School, now known as the Arthur Abel Complex, which today houses the Frederiksted office of the Lieutenant Governor.

In 1958, Maude became the proud mother of her beloved son, the late Alfred Meredith Hansen. A year later, on September 3, 1959, she married the love of her life, Anthon Roberts, sharing her birthday with the beginning of their lifelong union.

On September 2, 1968, she was blessed with her first granddaughter, Janice Denise Hansen-Murray, whom she lovingly raised from infancy. Her family continued to grow with the addition of two other grandchildren, Julien Hansen and Alfred Hansen Jr. Maude were further blessed with nine great-grandchildren and ten great-great-grandchildren.

Maude's love for children extended far beyond her immediate family. She opened her heart and home to countless nieces, nephews, and neighbourhood children throughout the Virgin Islands. Families from St. Croix and St. Thomas entrusted their children to her care, knowing they would be treated with warmth, discipline, and unconditional love. Her dedication to nurturing young people earned her a reputation as one of Frederiksted's most respected and beloved childcare providers. As a self-employed caregiver and babysitter, she touched the lives of generations of Virgin Islanders.

For many years, Maude resided on Prince Street in Frederiksted, where her home became a gathering place for family, friends, community leaders, and visitors alike. It was not uncommon for Governors, Lt. Governors, Senators, Delegates, and residents seeking family history, local knowledge, political insight, or simply good conversation to stop by her doorstep. Her wisdom, generosity, and unwavering honesty made her a cherished fixture within the community. Those who knew her admired her strength, determination, and firm convictions.

A passionate advocate for civic engagement, Maude had a deep interest in politics. She was a member of the Independent Citizens Movement (ICM), one of the territory's pioneering political organizations, and remained an enthusiastic supporter of numerous candidates and public servants throughout her life. Her voice and influence were respected throughout the community.

Beyond her commitment to family and community, Maude embraced life with joy and enthusiasm. She was an avid baseball fan and proudly supported the Vikings Baseball Team out of Grove and Los Angeles Dodgers Major League Baseball Team. She enjoyed attending St. Croix Festival and St. Thomas Carnival, cheering at horse races throughout the territory, and spending

time with friends near and far. A lover of Virgin Islands culture, Maude was known as the "Queen of the Band" for Stanley and the Ten Sleepless Knights, and one of her Favorite songs was "*Oh Danny Boy*," performed by the late Eldred "Edgie" Christian.

Maude lived a life defined by faith, family, service, and community. She was blessed to celebrate her 100th birthday on September 3, 2022, earning recognition as a true Centennial Queen. Later that same evening, surrounded by a legacy of love and cherished memories, she peacefully answered her Savior's call and entered eternal rest.

Today, her legacy continues through the generations she nurtured, the community she strengthened, and the countless lives she touched. Her former home on Prince Street has been placed on a preservation waiting list through the Office of Historic Preservation, with plans for restoration when funding becomes available, ensuring that the memory of this remarkable woman endures for years to come.

Maude Omaha Dowdy Roberts lived a full and meaningful life, leaving behind a legacy of love, resilience, service, and devotion to family and community. She truly did it her way.