



**BERMUDA  
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AND SENATE  
SPECIAL JOINT SITTING**

**IN HONOUR OF  
HER LATE MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II**



21 April 1926 – 8 September 2022

**HANSARD  
16 SEPTEMBER 2022**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT  
16 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**10:02 AM**

*Sitting number 24 of the 2021/2022 Session*

*[Hon. Dennis P. Lister, Sr., JP, MP, Speaker, in the Chair]*

**The Speaker:** Good morning, Members. Welcome back to our Chamber after a long absence from here. It is nice to be back in the Chamber, and it is nice to see your faces in the place again, rather than looking on that small screen at each other.

We are going to start this morning as usual with prayers.

Madam Clerk.

**The Clerk:** Good morning, everyone.

We will now have the prayers for Parliament.

**PRAYERS**

*[Prayers read by Mrs. Shernette Wolffe, Clerk]*

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Clerk.

Members, the House is now in Session. Please be seated.

Each of you should have an Order Paper in front of you on your desk. We will follow the proceedings as laid out on the Order Paper. I will now give the opening words of condolences. When I complete my remarks, I will call on Madam President [of the Senate] and she will give hers. After Madam President has finished, I will call on the Premier to move the motion and give his remarks. The Opposition Leader will then be called on, and then we will call off the list of Members who have indicated that they wish to speak this morning.

**CONDOLENCES BY THE SPEAKER**

**Hon. Dennis P. Lister, Sr., Speaker:** With that said, it is with great respect that I rise to say a few words in tribute to our late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

I believe most of us within this Chamber, as I look around this morning, are under the age of 70 (most of us), which means that we have experienced no other monarch other than Her late Majesty. She has embedded in us the standard of which is expected of a monarch—a standard that it seems she

has never wavered from during her long reign of service.

After her ascension in February 1952, Bermuda was the first Colony that she visited. And, like all of our visitors to this Island, she was drawn to return. And indeed she did, gracing our shores on a further three occasions, in 1975, 1994 and 2009, plus two stopovers in 1976 and 1983. I cannot speak to the first two visits or the stopovers, as the first was before I was born. And I was overseas in school during her visits in the 1970s and in 1983.

However, I personally can remember the last two visits, particularly the last visit, because I had the good fortune of greeting Prince Philip upon his arrival outside the Clocktower building in Dockyard. Photos of that greeting went around the world. No, no, not because he was meeting me, even though on an occasion I have implied that it was because of me. But the real truth is that it was because of a colourful pair of Bermuda shorts that were given to him as a present. I then escorted him upstairs where he joined the Queen in chatting with the surviving members of the Dockyard apprentices, who decades earlier had trained in the UK as tradesmen. It was a charming moment, as together the Queen and Prince Philip reflected on those years with the apprentices.

As mourning continues, we get to remember that, although at times she may have seemed larger than life, the late Queen throughout it all was a wife, a mother and a grandmother. Collectively we share in this family's loss and offer our deepest sympathies as they share their loss with people around the world.

At times like this we are reminded that with every rain comes sunshine. And the Queen's passing brings the dawn of a new era when most of us throughout the Commonwealth will for the first time be saying, *Long live the King!* (Those of us all under 70, right?) And as this new era begins, it was just a couple of months ago that I had the pleasure of spending time with King Charles III at one of the royal residences whilst I was in the UK for the first meeting between the OT [Overseas Territories] Speakers and the UK Speaker. And, like his mother, he brought a personal touch to each conversation.

In our conversation, he took delight in asking how immensely proud I must be to have my son in

Parliament with me. I agreed with him, and then joked about how many of my family have photos with his family. It was one of those rare personal moments that we both joked about and laughed about.

Let us also reflect that this new era brings change, a change that comes because of the loss of our longest-serving monarch, but change yet still. And as the UK and its people embrace this change, let us likewise embrace the change, the need for change.

My deepest sympathies are with His Majesty the King and all other members of the royal family to whom I offer my most sincere condolences and support at this very, very sad time.

As I close, allow me to do a bit of housekeeping. The tributes will be done as they were in the UK Parliament. Members will be called per the list of Members who have indicated their desire to speak, rather than the custom of having Members jump to their feet to try and catch the eye of the Speaker. This will be done to honour the reverence of this solemn occasion.

With that said, I call on Madam President [of the Senate] to give her remarks.

### CONDOLENCES BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

**Sen. the Hon. Joan E. Dillas-Wright, MBE, JP, President of the Senate:** Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

I am very pleased to give these very brief remarks about Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her death on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at age 96.

Queen Elizabeth II visited Bermuda on four occasions. On her first visit in 1953 I was one of many schoolchildren who went to Front Street to wave a flag of greeting to her. And on her third visit to these Islands, I had the occasion to see her when she visited King Edward VI Memorial Hospital and talked to a number of patients.

Queen Elizabeth II was considered a trailblazer. She was, in fact, a sole woman on the world stage during her 70 years of rule. Many people speak of her dedication and her steadfastness to the role of Queen, further, that she had a profound respect for service and duty, which was reflected in the manner in which she ruled. Indeed, this was highlighted at age 21, while in South Africa, when she had stated the following: "I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service . . ." This she did over the past 70 years, right up until her death. In fact, only two days before her death she swore in the new Prime Minister of Britain, Liz Truss.

Queen Elizabeth II was an inspirational role model to many. There are many quotes attributed to her, and the one I wish to share at this time is the quote she made on leadership in a speech before the United Nations. And here I quote her: "I know of no

single formula for success. But over the years I have observed that some attributes of leadership are universal and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their . . . insights, their enthusiasm and their inspiration to work together." I do believe that this quote has relevance for us here in this Chamber.

May Queen Elizabeth II rest in peace.

In closing, I hereby offer my deepest condolences to her son, King Charles III, and the entire royal family.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Madam President.  
Mr. Premier.

**Hon. E. David Burt, JP, MP, Premier, Minister of Finance:** Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Good morning.

### MOTION

#### THAT THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE CONVEY ITS DEEPEST SORROW ON THE DEATH OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

**Hon. E. David Burt:** I move that this Honourable House do now take under consideration the following motion:

THAT this Honourable House conveys its deepest sorrow on the death of Her Majesty the Queen; expresses its sincere condolences to His Majesty the King and other members of the royal family and acknowledges her association with Bermuda and her people.

**The Speaker:** There is no objection to that motion, is there?

None.

Continue, Premier.

*[Motion carried.]*

### CONDOLENCES BY THE PREMIER

**Hon. E. David Burt, JP, MP, Premier, Minister of Finance:** Mr. Speaker, we convene in this rare fashion today, a Joint [Sitting] of the Legislature, to reflect on a historic life of committed service and incomparable duty.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II lived an incredible, almost surreal, life, one of great privilege. But also a life dominated by certain core ideals to which we can all relate, irrespective of her elevated status.

Mr. Speaker, in the last picture of the Queen, inviting her 15<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister to form a government, it is ironic to think that the frail hand extended to the

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new Prime Minister was a hand kissed by Sir Winston Churchill, a hand that danced with Gerald Ford, a hand that waved to millions across so many countries. In extending that hand for that final time, the Queen demonstrated to the world that she had been true to the vow that she had made in 1947 to devote her life to service.

Mr. Speaker, none of us, not even kings and queens, can decide the circumstances into which we are born. But it is what we make of our lives that determines how we are remembered, or if we become a footnote to the long story of life.

Mr. Speaker, even at the age of 96 Her Majesty's death has shocked many. Her life and the constancy of her service meant that whether we warmed to the idea of the monarchy or not, the Queen was the single most immovable feature on the world stage.

Mr. Speaker, even the world's most ardent republicans have been compelled to salute Her Majesty's life of unparalleled devotion to duty. With her passing so soon after the observance of the Platinum Jubilee, we have been reminded that the 70 years during which the Queen served the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth have been marked by such remarkable global change, change that she not only weathered, but through which she thrived.

For all of the tradition and the age-old rituals that surround the institution of the British monarchy, this Queen struck that enviable balance between preserving the past and embracing the future. Her coronation made history by being televised, permitting a technological intrusion into the centuries-old ceremony. And at her death, she was the owner of an iPad amongst the latest iteration of the technology which came about during her 70 year reign.

Mr. Speaker, Her Majesty was variously known as a symbol or a figurehead. But in truth, Mr. Speaker, she was a leader. Asked why she tended to wear bright colours when on official engagements, the Queen famously replied, "I have to be seen to be believed."

Mr. Speaker, Her Majesty was forced to overcome a natural shyness and mitigate the challenge presented by her small stature. Despite, and perhaps because of these qualities, she determined early that leadership in or from the shadows would not be acceptable to her people. That steadfast devotion to duty has been the refrain of every remembrance the world over, and I am sure will be in this Chamber today. It meant that just two days before her death she discharged the constitutional functions of her role even when there were others who might have done so in her stead.

Mr. Speaker, Bermuda has hosted numerous royal visits. However, none have generated the level of local interest as those of the Queen. Some Honourable Members will recall her most recent visit in 2009 for Bermuda's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of settlement. That visit culminated in a State Dinner hosted by the

then Premier, Ewart Brown, at Tucker's Point. Mr. Speaker, it is said that the menu that night featured various local dishes, from rockfish to seasonal vegetables. But the intrigue of the evening surrounded that local delicacy, cassava pie. After some diplomatic assurance from her host, I am pleased to share that the royal palate can be said to have sampled that unique Bermudian dish.

Mr. Speaker, the embedded continuity of the institution of the British monarchy means that a King now assumes the throne, and with great pageantry the end of one era and the dawn of another has been recognised around the world.

Mr. Speaker, as I observed on the day of the Queen's passing, more than a monarch, she was the matriarch of a family, a mother, a grandmother and a great grandmother. On behalf of the Government and people of Bermuda, we extend our sincere condolences to His Majesty the King, the Queen Consort, their Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the entire royal family. The loss of a mother and grandmother is felt equally whether her picture hangs with those with the rest of the family on a living room wall, rests on a bedside table, or whether her picture happens to be on the currency.

Mr. Speaker, let us reflect on the Queen's decade of undimmed duty and service, and her quiet but steadfast leadership and devotion over a long and well-lived life.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Premier.

We now call on the Leader of the Opposition.

## CONDOLENCES BY THE OPPOSITION LEADER

**Hon. N. H. Cole Simons, JP, MP, Opposition Leader, Shadow Minister of Finance:** On behalf of the entire One Bermuda Alliance, we send our sincere condolences to His Majesty King Charles III and the royal family on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who died earlier this month.

Throughout the 70-year reign, the world witnessed her iconic calm strength, and her ability to adjust to changes in society, even in the most challenging of times, both publicly and privately. By maintaining principles of freedom, justice, and democracy, she earned the respect of thousands of people from all walks of life, from the common person to presidents, kings and queens around the world.

Her son, His Royal Highness King Charles III described his mother as a shining example of selfless duty. She upheld the commitment she made to be of service for the rest of her life. Just days before her death, the Queen held an audience with the UK outgoing Prime Minister Boris Johnson, and the incoming new Prime Minister, the Honourable Liz Truss. She was up and about and held a productive meeting and

demonstrated her selfless duty and service to the very end.

Personally, I had the pleasure of meeting the Queen on two occasions, once in London at the Commonwealth Secretariat, and then here in Bermuda. In London, we shared our thoughts and our experiences with our common passion through the horses and equestrian sports. On the second occasion, we also spoke about the diversity of the Commonwealth and the challenges that it brought. [It was] very, very interesting, very, very enlightening to hear her experience.

Mr. Speaker, we applaud her dedication to the sense of communion with the people of the Commonwealth, the UK, and the British Overseas Territories, by respecting and honouring their individual sovereignty. She played a vital role in the evolution and development, economically and socially, of the Commonwealth family of nations. She did so by epitomising a woman of grace, humility and dignity. Her religious convictions and beliefs daily guided her decisions as she encouraged people to focus on the future and do better.

Despite the division of opinions, with many recalling the legacy of violent atrocities during the dark days of colonialism, the overwhelming sentiment of the death of the Queen appears to be of sorrow, loss, and a loss of a family member, whether we were connected by blood or just a member of the public. Interestingly, despite the Commonwealth's chequered past, the Commonwealth membership continues to grow with Rwanda, the Gambia, the Maldives joining between 2009 and 2020, and Gabon and Togo becoming members in June of this year, bringing the total Commonwealth member countries to 56, with a population of 2.6 billion people from the Pacific, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

The growth of the Commonwealth family is largely motivated by the desire to expand political, trade, social and diplomatic relations beyond the Francophone network, and to have access to a variety of technical assistance resources aimed at strengthening the institutions that support good governance, public sector, climate change adaptation and human rights framework.

Mr. Speaker, I talk about the Commonwealth because, as you know, the Queen was passionate about the Commonwealth. She was passionate about the family members of the Commonwealth, and it was a priority to her during her 70-year reign.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honour to be here today to pay tribute on behalf of the Opposition and the people of Bermuda. I extend our prayers and best wishes to His Majesty King Charles III, the Queen Consort and the entire royal family.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Opposition Leader.

The next Member we will be calling on this morning will be the Deputy Opposition Leader and Whip, MP Richardson.

## **CONDOLENCES BY MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE**

**Mr. Jarion Richardson, JP, MP, Deputy Opposition Leader, Whip, Shadow Minister of Labour, Home Affairs and Cabinet (Economic Development):** Thank you, and good morning, Mr. Speaker and Colleagues.

**The Speaker:** Good morning.

**Mr. Jarion Richardson:** I rise this morning to pay tribute to Her Majesty the Queen upon her passing, and to extend the condolences of my family and all of those I represent to the new King, King Charles III, and his family as well.

Mr. Speaker, not everything that we do in life is a job; in some cases it is a calling. And you do not have to reply to every call, but she did at a very young age. She took on the weight that is royalty and wore it not as armour but, rather, as a restraint. She surrendered some very basic rights that we all have—the right, for example, to have a public opinion, the right to become involved in everything that we desire. And she did that so that she could be emblematic of a greater good, not just in her corner of the world, but all over the world.

She demonstrated grace in leadership in places and times when it was not necessary. She made sure that the entire world had someone to look to for steadiness, stability, for vision, for continuity. These things are not easy, Mr. Speaker, for any one of us to do on any given day. And she did that consistently for 70 years. To that end, she demonstrated the value of constitutionality, the value of believing in greater good, and she has become for many, many people, not just the Queen, but very much a grandmother, someone to look up to and someone to lead us in this new, bold age.

She leaves a legacy that is second to none. And I know, speaking for myself, Mr. Speaker, that I will always be humbled to think about someone who committed so much of herself to so much of the world.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I again offer my condolences and pay tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Opposition Whip.

We now call on the Opposition Senate Leader, Senator Smith.

**Sen. Ben Smith, Opposition Leader in the Senate:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning.

**The Speaker:** Good morning.

**Sen. Ben Smith:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in the condolences to the new King Charles III and the entire royal family with the passing of Her Majesty the Queen.

Mr. Speaker, I did not have the opportunity to meet the Queen, as some people here have had that opportunity, but I will be able to say to you that I can speak from what my father, the late Hubert Smith, Sr., told me of his opportunity to sit and talk with the Queen. Some people would know that he actually wrote a song that was played on the radio when she visited the Island. He spoke fondly of that opportunity. He also always spoke fondly of the way the Queen talked to him personally during that conversation and what that meant to him.

Mr. Speaker, when I was thinking about this opportunity to give my words today, I thought about what we could learn from what the Queen did during her 70-year reign. First, a young woman taking on a leadership role at a time when women were not given those kinds of opportunities to be in leadership, over those 70 years women in the world progressing to leadership positions promoted by having a constant leader in the world that was a woman. When you think of the way that she met with many of the top leaders in the world, who were looked at, potentially, as tyrants at times, and the humble way that the Queen was able to manoeuvre the diplomacy that it takes to talk to people when you do not always agree with their beliefs; you do not always agree with the things that they do. Watching her adapt through those 70 years to the changes through time, from coming out of a war period and seeing multiple opportunities to interact during conflict, and what that can show us, we should take that as a lesson on how we can behave as leaders in this country.

I think when you reflect on how she led and what she was able to do behind closed doors, and when she had the opportunity to speak to the world, that example of her grace and humbleness. The example of being able to step across the line and talk to people and work with people that you do not always agree with is an example that we can pass on to the next generation by following in her lead.

So, once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to give my condolences to the entire royal family and say that for someone who for my entire life has looked at having a Queen to now know that it is a King, thank you to the Queen for her entire reign. She will be missed.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Opposition Leader in the Senate.

We now call on MP Swan.

MP Swan, would you like to give your remarks?

**Mr. Hubert (Kim) E. Swan, JP, MP, Backbencher:** Thank you, and Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Good morning.

**Mr. Hubert (Kim) E. Swan:** It is so nice to be in your Chamber once again.

**The Speaker:** It is nice to have you here.

**Mr. Hubert (Kim) E. Swan:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to be associated with the condolences offered this morning to Her Majesty's family on her passing.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take a little different tack, and speak of someone who came in my living room as a child. Anyone who is of my age would remember that television did not come on and go off without a young lady wearing a crown who bore a resemblance to my queen—my mother—with a long neckline, similar features and tone, colour. Mr. Speaker, as young children, that was an image that stuck with not only my household, but I am sure many households around the world, that we often take for granted.

[The year] 1953 was the time she chose to first come to Bermuda. But in the early 1940s her uncle, who by then was going by the Duke of Windsor, also graced our shores for the sport he loved called golf. He played at the Mid Ocean Club at a round that was featured and covered in the newspaper by the great Louis Raphael "Kid" Corbin, who I had the honour of being part of cataloguing his story. And he played with persons whose grandson sits in this Honourable House today as well. So the royal connections of Bermuda, as being a part of Bermuda, go into the 1940s and 1950s.

Her Majesty came to Bermuda in the 1960s, and in 1975 when, thanks to the Honourable former [Deputy] Speaker, Walter Lister, I have pictures of her with one of my mentors, the now late (who passed away this year as well) Walter King, as young parliamentarians on the steps of Parliament. But it would take a hiatus of some three decades, when many of our relatives to the south of us were becoming independent countries, for the Queen to return to our shores. And when she returned to Bermuda at that time, Mr. Speaker, I held a constitutional responsibility.

So on this occasion, when I give condolences, I speak on behalf of my my wife, who was honoured this year amongst the last persons to ever be honoured by the Queen, and a party that is often spoken of with an ill tongue . . . and I can take it, because, you know, I accept who I am, Mr. Speaker. And I speak on behalf of those who were in the United Bermuda Party, which many people choose not to embrace, and say that they were part of escorting the Queen around this country.

The Honourable Lancelot Swan, I saw a picture of him (such a great youth minister) taking the Queen around St. George's (where I am now a Member of Parliament) proudly with all the children. And there are

many children in this country that saw that, the example that we in this country need to take whether we are for independence, like I, or royalists, like my wife, or closet royalist, like many in this country. I say that all of us need to take a page out of the book of duty and service and commitment and know when it is time to say plenty and say nothing,

Mr. Speaker, there are many lessons to be learned no matter where you sit in life, no matter what station you hail from. There are many lessons to be learned from a life of service of over 70 years who, in one's 96<sup>th</sup> year, got herself up, dusted herself off, purposely—purposefully—did not put on gloves to greet the new Prime Minister of Britain, whose name is Elizabeth (like many around the world who were named after her either by first or middle name).

So I guess, Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would say there is only room enough in Britain for one "Liz", one Elizabeth, one Lilybet. And now there is only one of each still. I offer condolences from my station in life, Mr. Speaker, and urge all of those who came to serve, whether it be in public service, whether it be in elected service or in the civil service, service and duty come with an understanding of protocol and respect of station. No matter whether you are for it or not, respect, as my mom used to say, and my grandmother used to say, is due a dog.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I offer profound condolences from a country boy from up in the valley who used to turn on or turn off his TV and see a young Queen, who turned on his TV and saw a 96-year old lady serve her country until the bitter end with her boots on.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, MP Swan.

Now I call on MP Dunkley. Would you like to make your remarks?

**Hon. Michael H. Dunkley, JP, MP, Shadow Minister of National Security, and Health and Seniors:** Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Good morning.

**Hon. Michael H. Dunkley:** And good morning to colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, like all Members in this Honourable House, I am certainly honoured to have the opportunity to provide a tribute to Her Majesty the Queen, and at the same time to send condolences to King Charles III and the entire royal family on the passing last week of a truly remarkable person.

As colleagues have said before me, Her Majesty reigned for 70 years and 214 days. She ascended to that position of prominence as the Queen and the monarch at the very young age of 25 years, Mr. Speaker. I think we should take some time to reflect on that. And through her reign she managed to be-

come popular, and remained popular through most of her entire reign. That says a lot about who she was, what she stood for, and what she actually did.

Mr. Speaker, it was apparent to me that aside from her ceremonial duties, the Queen was keenly interested in government and political affairs, and is, rightly so, credited for modernising the monarchy. As the Honourable Senate President has said, on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday tour through South Africa, in a broadcast to the British Commonwealth she made the pledge, "I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family."

And I repeat that, Mr. Speaker, after the Honourable President, because those words proved so true and correct. Through that remarkable tenure, she backed up her words. And that leaves a very strong legacy.

Mr. Speaker, like others in this Honourable place, I was blessed to have an audience with Her Majesty, and it was truly an enjoyable time. She refused to talk about political matters, but instead talked about her time in Bermuda, and the time, while she stayed and enjoyed the comforts of Government House, she sampled the Dunkley's "blue" milk. And while her aide was keen to have the conversation move somewhere else, the Queen would not let it go. She wanted to know about the process. Well, Mr. Speaker, I have learned a few things in life. And one is that when the Queen is talking to you or with you, you certainly don't listen to the aide. You listen to the Queen.

Mr. Speaker, I have always held the Queen in the highest regard with the deepest respect and admiration for Her Majesty. I have been blessed to be Premier of this Island that we all love, to serve in Parliament for over 25 years, and all of that time under Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

My heart is heavy today, like millions of people around the world. But I am comforted by the message the Queen sent to the U S after the horrific terrorist attacks on September 11. The Queen's message was read out by the UK Ambassador to the US, and it said "Grief is the price we pay for love."

Mr. Speaker, I have certainly grieved with my family since the passing of Her Majesty last week. But I am comforted by the fact that she was an impressive leader who served through many generations. There is no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that she will be greatly missed. But she has left a mark on the UK, all the Territories, and indeed the entire world. It was her guidance as Queen that has built up a track record that is certainly admirable and will never be forgotten.

So, Mr. Speaker, from my family to King Charles III and the entire royal family, may they be blessed by the Lord. And may they be comforted and given strength by the Lord during this very difficult period.

Mr. Speaker, may Her Majesty rest in peace.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, MP.

Senator Wight, would you like to make your contribution at this point?

**Sen. John Wight:** Thank you, and good morning, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Good morning.

**Sen. John Wight:** I am honoured to have the opportunity to say a few words about Queen Elizabeth II and her remarkable life.

Like the House Speaker, I was born after the Queen started her reign 70 years ago. As a kindergarten student in Canada, one of my early memories in life was singing “God Save the Queen” as we started every day in school. Now, as a 37-year resident of Southampton, I often walk down St. Ann’s Road, past the plaque in her honour near Gibbs Hill Lighthouse, which she admired so much. I believe it was the visit in 1953 when she stopped and she just stood there. And for several minutes she admired the view that we all love looking across the Great Sound.

I have two daughters, 30 and 29, who look to female role models to emulate in life. The grace and values that she has exhibited her entire life are, in my view, exemplary for females and, indeed, for all to emulate. Her leadership during the pandemic . . . the words of comfort that she offered not just to the millions in the UK but to millions around the world was a recent example, for me, of her tremendous leadership skills.

I offer my condolences to King Charles III and the entire royal family.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Senator.

The next Member we will call on is MP Cannonier.

MP Cannonier, would you like to make your contribution?

**Mr. L. Craig Cannonier, JP, MP, Shadow Minister of Works and Engineering and Tourism:** Good morning, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

**The Speaker:** Good morning.

**Mr. L. Craig Cannonier:** First, let me say thank you to Her Excellency the Governor for declaring a holiday on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, and to you, Mr. Speaker, for making this opportunity possible today. And I would also like to thank the Premier for his words of condolences to the royal family and for the fact that he is actually going to be travelling to the services.

I believe it is fitting on this occasion, the passing of a one-of-a-kind, quite frankly—I do not believe that we will ever see another type like Queen Eliza-

beth—that we do our justice, as was said already, and give due respect for the passing of Queen Elizabeth.

For many over the past few days . . . there has probably been a preoccupation about the life of Queen Elizabeth. You can go on YouTube, and I am sure many of us have, and learn a whole lot about things that you just did not know, and the humour that she had when meeting folks. She was very light hearted when you had the opportunity to meet her.

We mentioned that in 1975 the Queen came to Bermuda. I, like many of you (I am looking around) of a similar age would have been around 11, 12 years old. My colleague [MP] Renee [Ming] would know that St. George’s was full. The schools were emptied and the streets were full for an opportunity to get a glimpse of the woman that we know as Queen Elizabeth.

I did not have the privilege of meeting Queen Elizabeth. However, as we fast forward to today, I can say her cautious and wise judgment, her grace, her elegance and humility, her authority and efforts to move all towards common ground can be seen around the world. A real example of leadership; an exceptional life; one of a kind.

Now, I did not have the privilege of meeting the Queen, as I mentioned, but I did have the privilege of meeting our now King Charles (who was then Prince Charles) at the World Islamic Economic Forum. He has a similar attributes as his mother. He has this odd humour, this kind of dry humour that you would have expected also from the Queen. In our deliberations it was interesting to hear some of what he knew about Bermuda, and some of what he actually did not know. I was surprised, actually. I can say that of late, our King, who is someone who believes in green energy and the like . . . it is going to be interesting to see the passing of this torch, per se, as he takes on this mammoth task. I would say that he should not dare, not try and attempt to be like his mother; but he should be himself. There is no way for him to fill those shoes; but be himself.

So, to King Charles and the royal family I extend condolences. May our Queen rest in peace. And may we, as an Island, continue to give due respect to the Queen who has shown to us and many around the world what it truly means to be a leader.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, MP.

MP Pearman, would you like to make your contribution at this time?

**Mr. Scott Pearman, MP, Shadow Minister of Legal Affairs and Transport:** Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Good morning.

**Mr. Scott Pearman:** And on this occasion, good morning to the Bermudian people.

Mr. Speaker, the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is a truly momentous occasion that has impacted billions of people throughout the globe, and not merely those two billion or so who are in the Commonwealth family. This is one of those significant events that causes us to pause and take stock of where we are in our own lives, our own short lives. It is an impactful milestone.

To reign for more than 70 years on the throne of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth is a particularly rare achievement, as many speakers have recognised before me. The Queen has presided over a massive shift in the world, from the world of 1950s, all the way through to the world of today, seven decades of very considerable and meaningful change. There are, of course, some few small voices who have offered criticism. Because she reigned over seven decades her reign at times clearly did witness and must have witnessed deep flaws and atrocities in humanity. But the truth is that during her reign she was, in effect, the personification of the United Kingdom and her people. And, of course, the United Kingdom and her people are not perfect. The United Kingdom is not perfect because humanity itself is imperfect.

But as we humans go, Her Majesty the Queen has been a bastion of constancy, leading by her example to us all. Whether you are a devout monarchist or an ardent republican, any objective assessment reveals a monarch who has demonstrated dignity, humility, grace and quiet, quiet strength. A velvet anvil.

Mr. Speaker, Queen Elizabeth demonstrated a sense of duty unparalleled. Unparalleled. In doing so, she became the cornerstone of English-speaking nations.

Your people thank you, Your Majesty, and your people will miss you deeply.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, MP.

MP Jackson, would you like to make your contribution at this time?

**Ms. Susan E. Jackson, JP, MP:** Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Good morning.

**Ms. Susan E. Jackson:** I would like to be associated with the condolences for Her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. And I would like to pay tribute to her as a role model for women. As I reflect on the life of Queen Elizabeth, I think about what it must have been like growing up. She would have thought that one day she would be a mother and a wife and live in the countryside. Her father would sit on the throne as King and she would be able to live out her life according to the ways of the traditional role of the female, as a mother and a wife. And to imagine in the early twenties, the

age of 25 or 26, being thrust, unexpectedly, emotionally charged, into a position of such significance is monumental. And to think that within days of imagining her life in the countryside with her family, she was thrust into a position of having to rub shoulder to shoulder with world leaders, presidents, clergy, people way beyond anything that she would have imagined at the time, and for her to have dug deep as a woman to say, *I am going to take on this responsibility with dignity, with pride and with commitment as a woman*, Mr. Speaker, it is almost unimaginable.

Queen Elizabeth did not have the freedoms of thought and opinion that so many women in this world do have. But as Queen she was able to do what she could for women. She pushed the bar forward for women; she stood as a representation of dignity. She stood as a representation of pride and has inspired politicians, female and male. But I am speaking today about her role model for women. She inspired women. She inspired women in politics. And we have to give her great credit for that.

She shouldered a responsibility, Mr. Speaker, that many in her family, older, arguably wiser, had run from. But she stood the course, Mr. Speaker. I want to share my personal appreciation for that. She was a strong and steady woman, Mr. Speaker. She had pride and dignity, aspirations that many of us would only hope to achieve.

I would like to end, Mr. Speaker, by saying that I feel deeply for the loss of this woman, who every day of her life tried to live up to the impossible expectations of others. My condolences to her family. My condolences to all of those throughout the Commonwealth in the world who grieve the passing of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, MP Jackson.

Senator De Couto, would you like to make your contribution at this point?

**Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have much of a personal story to tell. I did once go to lunch with the Queen at the National Museum. I did not see her, but I did sit with her dressmaker. So that will have to do.

*[Laughter]*

**Sen. Dr. Douglas De Couto:** It was the Beatles, perhaps second only to the Queen in their global recognition, who sang:

*Her Majesty's a pretty nice girl  
But she doesn't have a lot to say  
Her Majesty's a pretty nice girl  
But she changes from day to day.*

Mr. Speaker, while I think we can all agree that the Beatles were correct, and that Her Majesty was sparing in her public utterances, they were quite wrong about her changing day to day. Her Majesty provided a steady point of reference for generations, a constant in our modern history.

Mr. Speaker, Her Majesty was an exemplar of duty and standards (and we have heard a few comments about that today already), maintained over an almost unimaginable length of time for one person or even one country. Not all may agree with her standards or even with her duty. But all should respect them and Her Majesty's commitment to her unique and heavy role.

Mr. Speaker, in the course of her duties she was present throughout many significant changes in how our lives were lived, how we viewed what was acceptable and what was not, and how we even thought about it. And today's world is very much not the world in which Her Majesty started her reign. As a result, the end of her reign has been the occasion of much remembering across the world, much of it pleasant, but some of it, frankly, quite unpleasant.

And although Her Majesty's position as Queen, which she did not choose, would not allow her to speak fulsomely and frankly on history during her lifetime, I believe that Her Majesty would accept it as her duty that her death might be a catalyst for us all to reflect on that history so that we might learn from it. And with that learning inform our own standards and our own duties to our country and our people. And, Mr. Speaker, if we could carry out our own duties with even a fraction of the dignity and dedication as Her Majesty, we in turn will be doing a great service to our own people.

So, to King Charles III and other members of the royal family, I extend my sincere condolences and wish that Her Majesty the Queen may rest in peace.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Senator De Couto.

Senator Tucker, would you like to make your remarks at this point?

**Sen. Robin Tucker:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning.

**The Speaker:** Good morning.

**Sen. Robin Tucker:** It is indeed a privilege to be here today to celebrate the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I wish to express condolences to King Charles III and the royal family, and to all persons in Bermuda and around the world who loved and revered Her Majesty the Queen.

On the cover of today's agenda, there is a photo of Her Majesty the Queen, and beneath her picture is her birthdate, a dash, and then the date of her passing. Her Majesty's "dash" reflects a life well

lived by a woman who recognised her call to duty and, as a young woman, dedicated her life to public service. World leaders had the privilege of meeting the Queen, have delivered tributes, and many described her as being a stabilising force and a steady hand as a guide. They have also talked about her charm, great wit, sense of humour and warmth and responsible leadership. Those of us who watched from the sidelines were afforded the opportunity to see her as many described, especially as she encouraged and reassured so many during the most difficult times.

We have all seen the media and learned about a remarkable monarch that lived full serving people. But let us not forget that she was also a wife, a mother, a grandmother and a great grandmother. She lived and loved her family. And what is plain to see is that they equally loved their "Mummy," as King Charles recently called her before the media, and "Granny," as we have heard Prince Harry also refer to her.

Her Majesty has run her race and has finished the course that was set before her. She did it with grace, dignity, warmth and a sense of humour. And most of all, she did it with style.

Madam President stated earlier a quote that came from Her Majesty. And I will also repeat that quote. I am going to end today with the quote on leadership that has been attributed to the Queen that I believe is an example and encouragement to all of us as we as we move forward in our own commitments to public service.

The quote, as I restate, is "I know of no single formula for success. But over the years I have observed that some attributes of leadership are universal and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their efforts, their talents, their insights, their enthusiasm and their inspiration to work together."

I pray these words of collaboration, from a woman whose life and leadership has had a significant impact on the world, will become a tool in the hands of us to help us to learn from the past and to build a better tomorrow. This important lesson is just one of the many gifts that Her Majesty the Queen has left us that we can readily apply today. By modelling the way for future generations, who will also read our "dash" and judge us according to the impact of the legacy that we leave behind, hopefully our legacy will be one of great leadership, responsibility, grace, and, most of all, committed service to improving the lot of mankind in Bermuda and in the world.

May Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II rest in peace.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Senator.

Members, Senators and MPs, that brings us to the end of the list of Members who had indicated that they wished to make remarks today.

I now call upon the Premier to move the motion.

### MOTION

#### THAT THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE SEND GRACIOUS MESSAGES TO HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III

**Hon. E. David Burt:** Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now approve the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Honourable House do herewith agree to send the gracious messages from the Members of the Legislature of Bermuda as recorded this 16<sup>th</sup> day of September 2022, to His Majesty King Charles III.

**The Speaker:** Any objections?

*[No audible response]*

**The Speaker:** There are none.  
The motion has been approved.

*[Motion carried.]*

### ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. E. David Burt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move that this Honourable House in [this Special] Joint [Sitting] with the Honourable Senate do now adjourn until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September, 2022.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Premier.

The House will now stand adjourned until next week Friday.

As we close, let me just do a little bit of housekeeping, again for our listening audience, just to reemphasise that this was a Special Joint Sitting to pay tribute to the passing of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It is not often that we have joint sittings. In my memory (being one of the longest-serving Members in Parliament) I can only think of a couple, as I stand here right now, the last being the anniversary of the 1968 Constitutional Order, when we celebrated that in 2018, and I think on the occasion of the passing of sitting Members of Parliament in previous years.

So, we recognise this as being really a rare occasion for us, and it is duly fitting for the service that the Honourable Queen gave in the length of her reign, the type of honour and standard that she set, not only for the monarchy, but for all of us in the political world in how we conduct ourselves as we represent those who put us here to represent them.

With that, Members, enjoy your weekend. Enjoy the holiday. Remember the reason for the holiday and take time to reflect on the family.

With those remarks, the House now stands adjourned.

*[At 11:10 am, the Special Joint Sitting of the Legislature in Honour of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was adjourned. The House will resume at 10:00 am, on Friday, \*23 September 2022.]*

*\*[The House resumed on Friday, 30 September 2022.]*