



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

**IN HONOUR OF THE LATE  
CHARLES WALTON DE VERE BROWN, JR., JP, MP**

**HANSARD  
11 OCTOBER 2019**

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**10:11 AM**

*[Hon. Derrick V. Burgess, Sr., Deputy Speaker, in the Chair]*

**PRAYERS**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
OR MEMBER PRESIDING**

**APOLOGIES**

**The Deputy Speaker:** Good morning. There are two Members who are absent today: the Honourable Speaker, Dennis Lister, [Jr.]; and the Honourable Member Cole Simons. They are both abroad.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**The Deputy Speaker:** Can we stand and observe a minute of silence?

*[A moment of silence was observed.]*

**The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you.

**TRIBUTES**

**Hon. Derrick V. Burgess, Sr., JP, MP, Deputy Speaker:** To members of the Brown family; the Honourable Premier David Burt; the Honourable Opposition Leader, Mr. Cannonier; Members of Parliament; former Speaker, the Honourable Kenneth Howard Randolph Horton; former Premiers Dame Jennifer Smith; and Sir John Swan—good morning.

The one thing that can be said about the weather is that it is unpredictable. In the wink of an eye, a hurricane could uproot a massive tree from its soil and solid foundation. This could be stated as what happened to the House of Assembly with the sudden passing of our dear brother, the Honourable Walton Brown, JP, MP.

Brother Walton was a staunch advocate for Bermuda's sovereignty, and he dedicated most of his adult life trying to make this a reality for the rest of us.

Although soft-spoken at most times, Walton was able to convince the unconvinced that Bermuda would not be able to reach its full potential until the Union Jack was lowered and Bermuda's own flag was hoisted.

W. E. B. Du Bois, a prolific and influential African American scholar and activist, said, "The cost of liberty is less than the price of repression." It is a well-known fact that Walton's fervent desire for an independent Bermuda was evident in the many speeches he made on the floor of the House of Assembly and in the community as a whole.

None of us were surprised when Brother Walton was appointed to the Senate in 2007 by his cousin and party colleague, the Honourable Dr. Ewart Brown. After all, Walton had paid his dues by serving the party in various capacities since 1983 when he returned to Bermuda from college. He was elected to Parliament in 2012 and again in 2017. And then, he was appointed as the Minister of Home Affairs by the Honourable Premier David Burt.

Walton had a calming spirit, even under immense pressure. And in particular what I admired about him was that once he took a stance on a particular issue you could not get him to waver from his position. He was as solid as a rock. He never criticised you for your beliefs and views. Another characteristic that I admired about Walton was that he spoke very clearly and succinctly. One did not need a dictionary to understand his delivered speeches.

The Honourable Member had many attributes. The staff of the House of Assembly described him as kind, humble, easy to talk to, thoughtful, impactful, sincere, resolute, an avid listener and a fierce champion for the rights of Bermudians. One staff member in particular recalls that Mr. Brown always had a twinkle in his eye and a smile when he spoke about controversial issues in the Chamber, while at the same time he did not diminish the importance of the issue.

We at the House of Assembly, together with the Legislature staff, are deeply saddened that the Honourable Member, whom I describe as a first amongst equals and possessing acumen, will no longer be gracing us with his humble presence.

On behalf of myself; the Honourable Speaker, Mr. Dennis Lister; MPs, Members of Parliament; and the legislative staff, I would like to extend my deepest

sympathies and condolences to the Brown family, in particular his mother, Ms. Barbara Brown.

Thank you.

At this time, I call on the President of the Senate, [Senator] the Honourable Ms. Joan Dillas-Wright.

**Sen. the Hon. Joan E. Dillas-Wright, MBE, JP, President of the Senate:** [To the] Brown family, former Premiers, Members of this Honourable House and the Senate, this is a sombre occasion, as we are gathered to pay tribute to a colleague and fellow Parliamentarian, MP Walton Brown, Jr., JP, MP, who by being multitalented has given so much to Bermuda in his short life. I am referring to his being a lecturer in history and political science, a researcher, news commentator, journalist, author and politician, first as a Senator from 2007 to 2010, and later as a Member of Parliament from 2012 to present, and who held, as a Member of Cabinet, ministerial portfolios.

I had the privilege of being associated with MP Walton Brown years ago when he was a lecturer at Bermuda College and owned Research [Innovations]. I was then involved with several substance abuse agencies, and at that time MP Brown was conducting research for the National Drug Agency, which was to assess drug use among schoolchildren. His lament at that time was that he was only allowed to survey the public schools, which meant that the results were inadequate for developing an Island-wide substance abuse education programme for schools. I am pleased to say that this has changed today.

Subsequent to leaving Bermuda College, MP Brown became more focused on the issues facing Bermuda. He did not have to base his comments on a purely academic perspective, but could then take a political view on what he believed was the best way forward. He was now in his element.

MP Brown was an eloquent spokesperson. He could speak most knowledgeably on any subject. But one that was dear to him was the land grab situation in Bermuda, which propelled him to try to achieve justice for Bermuda and its people. He would often speak to that topic as indeed the right of Bermudians to manage their own affairs. Independence was therefore his quest, which was informed by history, data and his own experiences.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Members of this Honourable House and the Senate, and his family, it is often stated that Bermuda's young people need leaders whom they can aspire to. I submit that Walton Brown, JP, MP, is one such leader, who was humble, never dogmatic, and used his academic, administrative and experiential knowledge to inform his decisions.

Were these qualities or traits to be emulated by our young people, then MP Walton Brown's dream of an independent Bermuda will be realised. MP Walton Brown has done his work. We as Parliamentarians

now need to ensure that our young people follow in his footsteps.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** At this time, I call on the Honourable Premier of Bermuda, the Honourable David Burt.

**Hon. E. David Burt, JP, MP, Premier:** Madam President and Members of the Senate; Mr. Deputy Speaker; and fellow Members of the House of Assembly; former Premiers; Members of the Legislature; Members of the Civil Service Executive; and, most especially, the Brown family. On each occasion that an Honourable Member rises to speak in this Honourable House, or when a Senator beckons for the recognition of the President to speak from their appointed seat, that Member embarks on the execution of a sacred trust established in centuries-old traditions of parliamentary democracy. I term it a "sacred trust" because, whilst it may be our voices that pronounce the words, we are but instruments entrusted to be the voice of the people.

Madam President, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a profound voice of the people has been silenced by death. In the cold symbolism of this day, an empty seat declares that Walton Brown will no longer grace us with his presence or his thoughtful and reasoned arguments in debate. Madam President and Mr. Deputy Speaker, at the core of Walton Brown was principle. His beliefs were not subject to negotiation, and they could not be watered down by the persistence of those who may have opposed him. Over several years, the only concession that I saw him make to an opposing argument was that wry smile, which seemed to say, *Nice try, but no chance.*

There was a fundamental consistency to his life's work in every arena. The issue of Bermuda's self-determination and ultimate sovereignty was seldom far from his lips. He would engage the staunchest critic of Bermuda's ultimate step and methodically dissect their misgivings, so at the end of discussion another mind was at least open to the possibility that we could properly take our place among the family of nations. With his perseverance in securing converts to sovereignty for Bermuda, imagine if he had chosen the path of religion. His church surely would have been full.

Madam President, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Walton Brown was a teacher, an author, a historian and an advocate, and he was our friend. The truth about Bermuda can be uncomfortable. And we have become experts in masking inconvenient facts. However, the true measure of our friend and colleague is to be found in his writings, his lectures and his ordinary discourse, for he refused to cloud the truth about Bermuda. Who among us remembers hearing Walton shout? Who among us can recall a moment when he spoke in anger or with malice? No one, because he

never did. He spoke directly to the point of conviction in words that were seldom sweetened sufficiently for most tastes; however, truth is rarely succulent.

In his seminal work, *Bermuda and the Struggle for Reform: Race, Politics and Ideology, 1944–1998*, we gain insight as to how the unwavering Walton Brown was forged. In his own words, he said, and I quote, “It began around the Sunday morning codfish breakfast table, mostly, with my parents, siblings, and oftentimes, my irrepressible paternal grandfather W. G. Brown. I sat there mesmerized by the stories, told about Dr. Gordon, ‘that Jack Tucker,’ Dr. Barbara Ball, Lois Browne-Evans and Ottiwell Simmons; tales of power, the struggle for rights and justice and the sacrifices made, all resonated with me long before I could really appreciate their meaning. The passion with which Bermuda’s history was relayed to me during these impromptu classes, punctuated with a firm slap on the table to accentuate each point, told me these events were transformative for my parents and for Bermuda.” (End quote.)

From those early, formative days at that breakfast table emerged a champion of social justice in Bermuda. Every movement needs one who will keep the record and ensure that the story is accurately told. Walton’s determination to chronicle the truth about our Island made him that record keeper. He remembered and recorded so we would not forget.

Madam President, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as Honourable Members today raise their voices in tribute to this fallen servant of the people, there is no need to shy away from those things on which we may have disagreed. Without betraying the constitutional secrecy of Cabinet, it will not surprise anyone to know that even the principle of collective responsibility was tested during Walton’s tenure in *the room*. He never abandoned his principles, and we, his former Cabinet colleagues, are better for having been challenged by him as we sought to execute on the mandate provided to us by the people.

Madam President, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in a telegram to Winston Churchill after reclaiming Ethiopia from Italian forces in 1941, Emperor Haile Selassie said: “We have finished the job; what shall we do with the tools?” I would adapt the Emperor’s quote in this way: Walton finished his job; what shall we do with the tools? Walton Brown’s voice may be silent, but the tools he left us are sharp, well-oiled and relevant for use in lifting up the people of this country. His legacy is one of truth, one of social justice and one of an undying commitment to sovereignty for Bermuda.

In the African tradition, we might say that he has joined the ancestors. To his family, especially his mother, his sons and his siblings, this transition is hard. It was untimely, and it was unexpected. But if there is any comfort you can draw from all that surrounds you at this moment, know that the man you knew as son, father and brother now joins the ranks of those who made making Bermuda better their life’s

work. In that you should be proud, and we join with you in mourning his loss, but also in celebrating his amazing life.

Thank you, Madam President and Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The next voice you will hear is the Opposition Leader, the Honourable Craig Cannonier.

**Hon. L. Craig Cannonier, JP, MP, Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

An acknowledgement to our President of the Senate; our former Premiers, Dame Lois and Sir Swan; our former Speaker of the House Mr. Horton; [and] to the Brown family, it is a pleasure to see you here. And on behalf of the entire OBA family, we mourn with you.

To the Premier, the Progressive Labour Party, to all of the honoured Members here, MPs, this is a devastating time. And as I rode in this morning, I looked up. It is still outside, completely still. I believe that this time is more of a time of reflection than actual words. One thing that I have learned through life and continue to [learn] with the passing of our good friend, the Honourable Walton Brown, is that death is the reason why we find meaning in life.

An understated man in many ways, calm, very collected, his demeanour in many ways might not have stood out amongst a crowd. But at the very moment he spoke . . . eight years ago when I had the opportunity to actually sit down with him and talk with him, I realised how articulate and smart he was. As we reflected upon the news that we received this week, I realised that this great stature of a man, across the divide of this room, sought what was in a room for a better Bermuda. And why do I say that? Because even in the OBA, we have Members who are devastated by this death and probably cannot even come with words to express how they feel.

As I walked in this morning, I could see in those eyes that I made contact with that pain. As I watched the Brown family come in, I recognised that Bermuda . . . Bermuda has lost a man who cared even for those who may have been his pundits.

Articulate, smart, yet I could approach him at any time—at any time—and sit with him and discuss the beauty of the Island that we serve and what was the best way to serve it.

When you are asked to speak at a moment like this here, the first thing you say is, *What do you say? What is it that I can say?* And that is why I believe that this is a time for us to reflect on what is most important in life. Walton actually took out the time when I got involved. He sought me out, showing that he cared about his fellow brothers to understand them, to know them and to also give opportunity to get to know him. I will forever be grateful for the family who brought up such a man. The OBA will forever be

grateful for the stance and the positions that he took, because in every deliberation that we had, he always deliberated out of respect. This man deserves every honour possible that we can give him as a fellow colleague.

And so, my prayer as we go on throughout this time, and as we continue to figure out how we deal with his passing and how we mourn, let us not forget that his life lives on through us. May we forever remember this was a child of God. This was a man who was born in Bermuda and cared about all of us. May we continue to mourn out of respect for the family and revere and reflect on the beauty of such a man.

**The Deputy Speaker:** I now call on other Members of the Legislature.

The Chair recognises the Honourable Member Lovitta Foggo.

**Hon. Lovitta F. Foggo, JP, MP, Minister of Labour, Community Affairs and Sports:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I do rise with a sad heart this morning. Walton first was a schoolmate. In fact, the Class of 1977 can brag, I think, a piece of history because I think it is the only time in history that three graduating members of that class—the Honourable Walton Brown, MP Weeks and myself—not only just sat in Parliament together, but we sat in Cabinet together. I do not know if any Cabinet can speak of that same type of history.

I will say when, on learning of Walton's death, the very first image that came to my mind was right back there at Berkeley. And it was the image of Walton, and I always remembered this of Walton, bellowing out the words of Prince Escalus in the play, *Romeo and Juliet*. He carried out that part so convincingly that it made me . . . it just captured . . . that was captured always. And I at times would speak to Walton about that. *Remember when you were in the play?* And it stayed with me.

And I think I understand now why, because Prince Escalus was responsible for the peace within Verona in that play, *Romeo and Juliet*. And the way in which he meted out justice as the prince, he was very much to the point, as people have said Walton was. And yet, he was still fair. Because at a time when people were getting murdered in the streets of Verona, he still found a way to ensure that, in the end when he meted out punishment, that it was done fairly. So, instead of sentencing Romeo, for instance, to death, he banished him. He exiled him forever because, given his behaviour was one that was a response to other murders, he felt that this was the just way of handling that situation.

And I believe, in watching a Walton whom I felt was the most compelling actor in that play, because again you thought that it was him in particular, him as in Prince Escalus, and not Walton Brown acting. I understand that it was just a foretelling of all that

Walton Brown would be. And we have heard those words echoed here today. He was a fierce champion for justice. He was a fierce champion for the rights of all. He was a champion for the underdog. And he worked tirelessly to try and bring about a change within our society that would render us to where he believed justice only could be realised in, and that was in the state of sovereignty.

And it is for us, those who continue while he is no longer, to pick up that baton and ensure that one day we do have a just and most democratic society. Because without true sovereignty, I dare say that democracy will never be, not to the state that it is supposed to be. And so, in speaking to Walton's honour, I do have to say this. The one thing that Walton did not suffer very well at all . . . he did not suffer stupidity. And he did not suffer ignorance. He had very little tolerance for that.

And most of the time that Walton did sit in the House of Assembly, I can say that we sat side by side, both in the Opposition and when he was in Cabinet. Our seats were side by side. I enjoyed Walton sitting beside me, especially when I was the Whip. I purposely sat him beside me, because I did enjoy his temperament. He was a calm-natured person. But often, if you saw Walton leave the House, what most people did not know is that, at least when he was sitting beside me, if he thought that nonsense was being spewed out, again, because he was someone who did not tolerate ignorance, he would find a way to absent himself from the Chambers. And I would say, *Where are you going?* He was like, *Lovitta, I am not sitting here for this. Going in the kitchen. I'll get a cup of tea.* He did not suffer stupidity or ignorance.

And I can say, for those of his true classmates, and some are sitting in the Gallery, I think that they can attest to that even more so than I, because they sat in class with him not just at the great Berkeley Institute. They also sat in class with him at West Pembroke. And they knew him well. In fact, some of those who sit here today were 1,000 per cent behind him when he chose to step forward to run as a parliamentarian. I do not want to say "proffer," because then it would, I guess if you will . . . I will use that common [expression], "put shade" on the Senate. And no, he did not just use his senatorial position; he took to the streets and thought that his role would be better served by representing people. And so, he threw his hat in the ring and did just that. And in so doing, he did secure a seat in the lower House as a Member of Parliament.

And I think Walton, to those who knew him closely and more intimately, did them extremely proud because he put one more feather in his cap in that being true to who he was. He did not just speak from the sidelines. He stood for the rights of people in this Honourable House and made certain to advance their wishes, their concerns. And he continued his fight on

their behalf and in honour of his family for a just and fair Bermuda for all.

I am eternally grateful for much of the knowledge that he imparted to all of us. And I definitely will take his baton and try to continue his fight and our fight in the same vein that he would want us to do and that Bermuda needs us to do.

Thank you, family, for sharing Walton with us. I am eternally grateful. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Before I recognise the next speaker, Minister, do you want to come take your seat?

[Pause]

**The Deputy Speaker:** The Chair recognises the Deputy Opposition Leader, the Honourable Leah Scott.

**Ms. Leah K. Scott, MP, Deputy Leader of the Opposition:** Good morning, all. Protocol having been established . . .

[Pause]

**Ms. Leah K. Scott:** When I heard the news of Walton's death, my first thought was, *Where is Kim? I have to find Kim.* Because anybody who knows Walton or Kim knew that those two were joined at the hip. And I knew that if I was devastated by the news, that she had to be completely heartbroken. I was finally able to speak to Wayne Furbert, who told me that he was with Kim. And while she was distraught, she was okay. And I talked to her that evening.

I cannot tell you when or how Walton and I met. He just kind of morphed into my life and remained there as a subtle presence. I could call Walton at six in the morning or eleven o'clock at night, and he would take my call. And if he was not available, he would always return my call. And he would always call and say, *MP Scott!* And I would say, *MP Brown, how are you today?* He was always there.

What people may not know is that in 2016, when we had the immigration issue when the OBA was in power during the time of the protest, for the four or five days that that protest went on, Walton and I talked every single day with a view to trying to find a resolution, to trying to find a meeting of the minds of the people who were protesting and the decisions that were made by the OBA. My position is and has always remained that immigration reform is necessary. But it is a process. And [there is] the need to communicate and educate people about the things that you are doing. And Walton and I agreed on that point. And I do not believe that it is by accident that I am now a member of the Bipartisan Committee for Immigration Reform.

Walton was an astute politician who was open, honest and easy to talk to. While you may not

have shared the same views, he always listened, always. I have seen tributes from various friends of Walton who have known him for 50 years or more, and I have not had that opportunity. But I am grateful that I did have an opportunity and for the time that we spent together, for the knowledge that he shared.

Walton was an iron fist in a velvet glove. He was a valued friend, and his passing leaves a huge void in both our public life and in my life personally. In 2013, I had the privilege of awarding him the National Literary Award for Nonfiction for his book. He was an articulate parliamentarian who stood steadfastly for his friends and for his party.

Benedict Greening did a review of Walton's book. And one of the things he said was that he was a man who was able "to find the difficult balance between polemical argument and balanced analysis." And to me, that is the definition of Walton.

I express my condolences to the family. And thank you for sharing him with us. And I pray that his soul rest in peace.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The Chair recognises the Honourable Minister Wayne Caines.

**Hon. Wayne Caines, JP, MP, Minister of National Security:** If it pleases you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker; Madam President of the Senate; former Premiers Dame Jennifer Smith and Sir John Swan; Honourable Premier; Members of Parliament; Senators; and the family of Walton Brown, I say good morning.

Tuesday in Cabinet, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when we received the news, there was shock. We were stunned. There were cries. There were screams in the room. We sat in a malaise, hugging each other and consoling each other in the midst of our loss. Shortly thereafter, our colleagues and wives started to pour into the Cabinet building as we sat there consoling each other. It hit me that we are family. We sat in the room grieving the loss of our brother.

Our beloved Walton is the sixth PLP Member of Parliament to die whilst in the service of the people of Bermuda since 1998. Over the last 48 hours, that has hit me hard. It has caused me to reflect on my life. It has caused me to reflect on the work that we do here in the House of Assembly. Yesterday, MP Jamahl Simmons and I were discussing this. And we were asking each other, *Is it for the pay?* An MP's salary averages \$55,000 per annum. Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is not for the money. We pondered, *Is it for the fame, the adulation?* One week, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they lay palm trees in the street and cry, *Hail, King of the Jews!* The very next week, the same people yell out, *Crucify him! Crucify him!* Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is not for the fame. It is not for the adulation.

Why do we do what we do, Mr. Deputy Speaker? [We have] the CC meetings, the central

committee meetings, the caucus meeting, the campaign committee meetings, the subcommittee meetings, the bipartisan committee meetings, the branch meetings, the community meetings? Why, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Why do we do this? I was forced to look at our beloved Walton's life. It was simple. And it is simple—service.

I read the tributes from the students at Bermuda College online, and they were talking about the impact that he had in their lives. And they laid tribute to the places that they are now and how they ascended and the impact that his class, that his leadership, that his mind . . . how it transfigured and transformed their minds and their lives. They spoke of the mentorship that he gave them in their time at Bermuda College and how it had a long-term impact, how he challenged their views and juxtaposed his thinking and melded it with their thinking to allow them to come out of their myopic views and their narrow-minded views and have a global perspective. That was his gift of service.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, pedagogy is the method of teaching an academic concept. But Walton's pedagogy, through his research and through his lecturing and through his being an author and through his being a researcher, gave you information, Mr. Deputy Speaker. He allowed you to form your own opinion—oftentimes a dissenting opinion. He did this whilst never becoming churlish, angry or disrespectful—something that I took from him, sitting beside him in the Senate and for almost two years sitting beside him weekly in Cabinet meetings. I learned that you can have an opposing view, and that you can have a viewpoint that is totally diametrically opposed, and you did not have to be nasty. You did not have to be disrespectful. And that you could still have a healthy relationship with someone whom you had an opposing view with.

We had conversations about his views on Palestine, his burning desires and understandings and views on human rights. And can we forget independence? Oftentimes, the aforementioned topics were not sitting on all fours with the mainstream ideology in our community.

I was then forced to look deeper at Walton, the man, the pedagogy of his person, his teaching style, his resolute determination, his respect for others. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that becomes the bedrock of his legacy—a man who stood. In other words, you must stand. You must serve your community. And the sacrifice that he made for this community.

We soon will meander into bye-election mode, Mr. Deputy Speaker. That is the legacy that we must now continue, to go forward for that, a legacy of standing for that which is right, a legacy of service to the people of Bermuda and the ability to sacrifice for your country.

To Mother Brown and to the Brown family, we mourn with you. And we stand with you at this difficult

time. Even though [Walton Brown's] sons are not present, [their] father's legacy will shine brightly through his work, and he should always be kept deeply ensconced in your heart.

To my colleagues, we often are forced in the public eye to maintain our composure, to deal with loss and to deal with hurt. This is no different. We will get through this. We have a work to do. I will paraphrase Frost. *The woods are cold. They are dark and deep, places to go and promises to keep. Many miles to go before we can sleep.*

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The Chair recognises the Honourable Member Michael Weeks.

**Mr. Michael A. Weeks, JP, MP, PLP Backbencher:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and good morning.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to my feet, like my colleagues before me, on a sombre and surreal note. Just a few short days ago, Mr. Deputy Speaker, one week, to be exact, I stood and shared a tribute at the funeral service of one of my former Berkeley Institute friends and classmates, Mr. Chris Davis. And here, just one week later, sharing a tribute to another one of my Berkeley Institute alumni and parliamentary colleagues, Mr. Walton Brown, JP, MP. Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is definitely surreal.

You may have heard on this past Wednesday when, on Magic 102.7, they played an interview of our dear, departed brother. I think it was in 2014, he was speaking of comprehensive immigration reform. Well, after he finished speaking and they had the question-and-answer [segment when] listeners can call in, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the same Chris Davis called in. And the two of them had a spirited debate about the state of immigration in Bermuda, and a few other things, because as much as they had differences of opinion, being former Berkeleyites, they were friends.

I had to stop for a minute, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and realise that two of my contemporaries have passed in such a short space of time. And hearing this conversation made me reflect on what their conversations will be like way up yonder when the two of them start to get at each other on different issues.

The Honourable Member Walton Brown, Jr., JP, MP, was such a knowledgeable man. His commentary was principled and piercing. And we have already heard that, as a former lecturer at the Bermuda College, he brought that persona to this Honourable House. And I personally admired how he always made his position clear when he got up on his feet. What a loss, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to this country and to this Parliament.

I mentioned that we attended the Berkeley Institute at the same time. We knew each other, but we were in different circles. My first real encounter with the Honourable Member was one summer in the early 1980s. We were both at home during our sum-

mer break from our respective universities. But by chance, we were visiting a mutual friend, Mr. Peter Furbert, at the same time. And we had a spirited debate about none other than Bermuda becoming independent. That was way back when we were 21–22 years of age. I never forgot this conversation. And he soon became a public figure, and I always followed and admired his steadfastness on various issues.

But when we became political colleagues, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we talked about that discussion and how our positions and country have remained the same, the travesty that, more than 30 years later, our country is still not independent.

Since April of this year, by chance or by circumstance, we were seated next to each other in the House until we moved to this present location. This gave us the opportunity to talk more often, sometimes serious and sometimes not so serious. He had a sincere love and fearless commitment to the people of this Island. And I firmly believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we cannot talk about independence for Bermuda and what that means without mentioning the late Walton Brown, Jr., JP, MP.

There is a story, Mr. Deputy Speaker. In July of this year, I gave a speech on the motion to adjourn on the then-upcoming Gay Pride Parade. While I was on my feet, he knocked my foot a few times. He was on one side, you were on the other, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But when I sat down, he leaned over and said to me, *Good speech; but I support the parade*, in his usual, calm manner. This is another example of his steadfastness that I and others have already spoken of. He had his position; he respected yours. And you could not sway him no matter how good your speech was.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are giving him a state funeral. But what we should be doing is draping his casket with an independent Bermuda flag. And since we are not independent, I implore everyone . . . let us honour our fallen colleague by pursuing independence with a vigour once and for all!

My heartfelt condolences to his very close-knit family, to his mother, his sons, his brothers, his sisters and his extended family and friends. To his constituency in C17, who have lost a true stalwart, I send my condolences.

As I take my seat, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I remember the Honourable Member as a lifelong soldier for social justice, there is a verse in the Berkeley Institute school song, which to me encapsulates our dearly departed brother. I have not been blessed with an angelic voice, like my honourable colleague, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in [constituency] 6. But here I go, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Only those Berkleyites would know this verse:

*[Inaudible interjections and laughter]*

**Mr. Michael A. Weeks:** *[Singing]* “For we owe you such a debt that we never can forget how you loyally played your part.”

*[Some Honourable Members joined in singing.]*

**Mr. Michael A. Weeks:** Sleep in peace, Walton.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker recognises the Honourable Member Michael Dunkley.

**Hon. Michael H. Dunkley, JP, MP, OBA Backbencher:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. That is a tough act to follow. And thank God the Honourable Member had some colleagues who supported him in the last part.

Protocol having already been established, Mr. Deputy Speaker, condolences to the Brown family, to the PLP and to the many friends whom our former colleague had.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one’s passing, when expected, is certainly a very tough pill to swallow. It is never easy. You are always at a loss for reasons and understanding. One’s unexpected passing is perhaps the most humbling shock that any human being can have in their world. You are in a state of disbelief. You search for answers. You look for meaning in life. And certainly, you look for comfort as you try to get that understanding.

So, I cannot imagine the pain and suffering and the thought that the family had over the past couple of days. So, on behalf of my family to your family, our deepest prayers and blessings as you soldier forward.

Now, everyone knows that Walton and I always sat on different sides of the aisle. But I always had the highest level of respect for the former Minister. It has been just over 22 years since I was blessed to be first elected into the Legislature. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in my view, I have seen it become more acrimonious. I have seen it become more divisive at times. I have seen it become less respectful at times. I have seen it lose some of our friendship and fellowship at times.

But the former Member was not like that. One of the first things that always struck me about Walton (and the Honourable Minister from constituency 14 referred to it), he was never personal. He was usually very controlled. And he was generally well prepared every time he stood to his feet. And that was the same if you bumped into him on the street. It was clear that he took his responsibilities seriously. It was clear that that responsibility was carried with him through his daylight and the night-time hours. For that, I always respected Walton’s approach because, as you know Mr. Deputy Speaker, in this Honourable Place we can get carried away during debates. We can get very emotional. And often, we can regret some of the

things that we say. Walton was not that type of man. He knew what he had to do, and he represented well.

My relationship with Walton was always very enjoyable and always very cordial. Publicly, it is there for people to see. But privately, we met on occasion to chat or for coffee. And I was deeply gratified for the opportunity to chat over these issues, no matter what side of the aisle we sat on, as Government or Opposition. Because I knew that when we sat and talked Walton came prepared and he was going to be genuine in everything he said. And as we reflect on the volume of the man and what he committed and contributed to Bermuda, I humbly suggest that we need to remember and live and learn from the way Walton carried himself.

We did not always agree on issues. Sometimes, we had some severe disagreement. In fact, the major differences are there for people to see, as well. And I did not support his approach on some of these issues at times, whether publicly or privately. But I always had the greatest respect for how he carried himself and how we could communicate. It never got personal. And in politics, as we serve, that is very important. And so, as I reflect on what the man contributed publicly and privately, I will try to live from the lesson that he walked every day on how to handle himself.

Walton was a man who deeply cared about Bermuda. Walton was a man who contributed greatly to Bermuda, and he had his vision of what he expected, and you have to respect that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I want to take this time in this Honourable House to thank him for his service. As honourable colleagues have already said, and I am sure they will say through the rest of this tribute, service in good times is hard. In the tough times that we face all too often as we serve, it is very difficult. It can get personal. You can search for true meaning in your beliefs. You can search for the support you need in your beliefs. And so, all of us here can understand just how hard it is to serve. And I want to thank the Honourable Member for his service.

I want to thank his family for allowing him to serve. All of us who have family know how difficult it can be at times and how, Mr. Deputy Speaker, at times your family wonder why you serve. So, thank you to the mother and the family for allowing Walton to serve, because he made a great contribution.

And finally, Mr. Deputy Speaker, do not let today be the end of us coming together as Members who were elected or appointed to serve Bermuda. Because, while we will continue to have vehement differences, we all know that we come together to serve because we love our country. And that is what Walton stood for, his country.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I am honoured to give this tribute. And the man will never be forgotten by the people he served.

To the Brown family, you have our deepest prayers. And in the days that come, you know that you have a multitude of Bermudians who are ever grateful for Walton Brown, former Minister. Thank you.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

### HOUSE VISITORS

**The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you.

Before [we continue], we would just like to recognise former MPs—the former Deputy Speaker, Walter Lister, and former MP Mark Pettingill.

*[Tribute to the late Mr. Charles Walton De Vere Brown, Jr., JP, MP, continuing]*

**The Deputy Speaker:** The Deputy Speaker recognises the Honourable Minister Jamahl Simmons.

**Hon. Jamahl S. Simmons, JP, MP, Minister without Portfolio:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I would like to begin by extending my condolences to his beloved mother, his brother Charles, his family and his children.

Chairman Mao once said, “Learn from the masses, and then teach them.” And Walton Brown lived by that adage because he learned from the people as much as he conveyed knowledge, wisdom, history and understanding to them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I had a special bond with Brother Walton because of our love of independence. I was raised to believe in independence the way many of us were raised to believe in Christianity. And so, I first met him during the referendum debate on independence. And I met him at numerous meetings where he spoke passionately. And he spoke in a manner that, even if you already believed, the belief became stronger, the belief became deeper. You had the tools to be able to rationally pursue the agenda and convince others.

And from there, I became even closer when I worked at VSB-TV because he was a phenomenal political commentator who, regardless of his political beliefs and ideology, spoke from the purely political scientist bent—concrete analysis, factual analysis. And he was very rarely proven wrong.

He predicted the 1998 election to the number, when nobody else did. And people will often forget that role he played in being very accurate in reading the people, and watching the will of the people be enacted. He attempted to succeed me in my former seat, Pembroke West, and I spent many a time, many hours with him trying to help him to carve out a few more PLP votes in that seat. And though he was unsuccessful, he persevered and continued on.

He became the host of *Bermuda Speaks*, where he attempted to succeed me in Parliament. I

had the good fortune to succeed him as the host when he was successfully elected in 2012. And I remember on that night, because he won by a very close margin. But even though we went down in defeat, I was happy to see him achieve his dream and be able to have the opportunity to serve his country at the highest level.

Together, we toiled in Opposition and paid the price in Opposition. He was a freedom fighter when we were in Opposition. He shut down the Senate. I think many remember. That is something I think has never happened in our history before. But his passion for an immigration policy that put Bermudians first, that recognised the small size of our country and tried to be sustainable and balance everything so that people at least come out on top at the end—that was at his core. And he was prepared to fight for that. And that is something I will always respect.

Minister Caines alluded to this earlier about how yesterday we were at a function, and we had an opportunity to talk. And, you know, in our careers, you often come to question, *Is it worth it?* There are so many of us who have served who are forgotten soon after we leave or depart this corps. We speak no more of them; we do not remember their accomplishments. And we both agreed, and I know that Walton would agree as well, and he would say, *It is worth it. It is worth it to see the elevation in the condition of our people.*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member Rolfe Commissioning, who will speak shortly after, brought to our attention a quote by Walton Brown that I think is very relevant. And really, to me, I almost hear his voice when I hear it. *The British flag, God Save the Queen, and the Governor's plumed hat are outmoded and oppressive relics in Bermuda today.*

I am saddened that he never lived to see the Union Jack taken down and our own colours raised in its place. I am saddened that he did not live to see the end of the journey. But I am comforted because I know that ideas that begin as unthinkable eventually become radical. They eventually become controversial. They eventually become understood. They eventually become politically popular. And they eventually become the law.

We shall heal our wounds. We shall mourn our fallen brother. And we shall continue to fight.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker recognises the Honourable Sylvan Richards.

**Hon. Sylvan D. Richards, Jr., MP, Shadow Minister of Home Affairs and Environment:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the last few months for me personally have been difficult. I have lost more than a few friends, family and acquaintances over the last few months, people who, in my view, were cut

down and taken from us in their prime when they still had so much to offer to this country of ours. So, when I found out while I was in my office that Walton had passed, I said, *Once again I have lost a friend.* And then I started to think, because we have friends, we have acquaintances, we have people whom we see, and a lot of times, we do not think, *Well, when did I first meet this person?* or, *How did this person first come on my radar?* So, my thoughts were cast back to when I first became aware of Walton Brown. And it was at West Pembroke Primary School.

I remember him at West Pembroke. He was a year behind me, I believe. But even then, he stood out. So, he has been on my radar for a long, long time. And I really got to know Walton as a man, as an adult, when we both came into Parliament at the same time back in 2012. And that meant a lot to me. It was special to me because you start out in primary school as little kids, running around on the lower field, playing marbles and competing at sports. And then you find yourselves sitting in Parliament at the same time, serving the people of Bermuda. So, that was very special to me.

The one thing about Walton Brown, MP—and I quickly found this out—was that he was very firm in his convictions. He made it very clear where he stood, and he never wavered. And he and I debated each other on occasion. And it was always, for me, entertaining. And what I liked about Walton was that, yes, he was firm in his convictions. But he had a demeanour where we could disagree without being disagreeable. That really, really stood out to me, that sometimes when we were debating, I would say something to be deliberately provocative during the debate. And the Honourable Member would stop, and I would see him take a breath. And then, with a wide smile, he would respond.

I respected his intellect. I respected his preparation. And I knew that if I had to be opposite Walton Brown in a debate, I had to step my game up. I had to bring my A game. I really, really respected his demeanour. I never saw him get angry. He could stand his ground, but afterwards, we could go have dinner and share a glass of wine.

Everybody knows that Walton enjoyed a good meal. He enjoyed being social. I saw him out on many occasions at the various restaurants enjoying a meal. I was always interested in whom he was having a meal with, because his dinner partners were diverse. It was not always the same individuals. He had a little group. But I always admired the people whom I saw him out with. In fact, last night I went to a local restaurant to pick up a little something. And as soon as I walked in, the manager and another gentleman who was there immediately said, *Oh, it's sad about MP Brown.* You know, Walton touched a lot of people in this community. A lot of people in this community are going to miss him. A lot of people in this community are mourning him.

And what I will take away is that, once again, he was knowledgeable, but he was fair. And he could disagree with you without being disagreeable. And that is the lesson that I will take away from Walton Brown.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, some might say that it goes against the natural order of things that a mother has to bury her son. So, I would give my sincere condolences to Walton Brown's mother. I know he loved his mother. There is a picture . . . I think I saw it online. I do not know when it was taken, but it was MP Brown standing next to his mother. And I could see the pride in her face and the love in his face. And that is what is important in this life—family and families supporting one another. Even if they have different stances on issues, family is what it is all about.

So, I give my condolences to his family, to his extended family, all of his friends. And join with everybody in this House in saying that we will never meet an individual like Walton Brown again. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you.

Just let me remind Senators they can make remarks also in this House.

The Deputy Speaker recognises the Honourable Member Rolfe Commissiong.

**Mr. Rolfe Commissiong, JP, MP, PLP Backbencher:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Protocol having been established, I want to once again extend condolences to Mother Brown, Walton's siblings, his children and extended family, a family that has given so much to this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as noted before in this House, in relation to the great men and women who have passed on, the good that those men and women do is often interred with their bones. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am sure you share with me the view that that will not be the fate of Walton Brown, an honourable and principled man, as all here acknowledge today. His good works will live on, as have the good works and just deeds of the great men and women who preceded him—Freddie Wade, Dame Lois Browne-Evans, Julian Hall, Walter Robinson, Arnold Francis.

And what of the great writers who chronicled our lives over generations in our Island home? Cyril Packwood, Ira Philip, who have passed on. Those who still live, such as young Dr. Quito Swan. And let us not forget the inestimable Dr. Eva Hodgson, who had such a seminal influence on young Walton Brown.

I spoke to his brother the other day, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I said I was so shocked to hear that Walton was younger than me—not because he looked older than me . . . but let me put this in context. I have the feeling that at age five, people who did not know Walton closely or the family would have thought he was eight or nine or ten years old. At age 10, they

probably thought he was 15 because of his temperament. I suspect he was a very precocious child. No, that would not be the fate of Mr. Walton Brown.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there were times, as some here have acknowledged—I can speak to this myself—that we did not see eye to eye on a number of issues. But when it came down to it, our differences were more about tactics and not about the goal and ultimate objective. Walton was a progressive before the name became hip. That is all you hear now in the US and Western societies about a progressive movement. Walton was always progressive. Let no one have any illusions about that. When it came to issues of social and economic and racial justice, and of course independence, Walton carried on the great tradition of those giants I mentioned. He belongs in that pantheon. He will live on in our hearts for as long as Bermudians seek social and racial justice.

I said that he was the pride of black Bermuda, and I say that without apology again in these Chambers. He represented a generation that gladly took on that baton from his parents and grandparents and that older generation of leaders to advance that great and monumental work with courage and with conviction.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, our Premier cited the opening paragraph, and to be honest, I was going to do the same. He has pre-empted me again. Gladly, I accept that. But he has given me another opportunity. In the same preface, I am going to cite the final paragraph, with your indulgence, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The quote is as follows: "This book is dedicated to my mother and to the memory of my father. As much as the book analyses the collective quest for social reform it charts a struggle they too shared and helped shape."

You see, Walton Brown, like myself and many others here, was born into this movement for change in this country. We had no choice. That is the milieu that we grew up in. The role models we had were our parents and our grandparents and people like Dr. Kamarakafego (Roosevelt Brown), Dame Lois Browne-Evans, as I mentioned. They were our role models. That is why we are here today. And we have lost a great soldier.

I spoke earlier, Mr. Deputy Speaker, about when a president of the US dies, you know, they have a procession down Pennsylvania Avenue (correct me if I am off base here). And they have that horse behind the hearse without a rider. I am looking to my left rear, where only two weeks ago he sat. Today we see that horse; we feel that presence without a rider.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the other day I had the opportunity to be on the show with the host Sherri Simmons. And so, I spoke at length with others who were there about the greatness of this man, his intellectual heft, his grasp of geopolitics. And I loved talking to him about geopolitics. But Walton, like many of us, could also talk about what is happening on Court Street, Middletown, Dockyard, St. George's. He was a

local man with a global appreciation of this world. Let us not forget that.

He asked us to always think about what is happening not only in Bermuda, but globally. And we are in debt to him. And I say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with respect to that, that while he kept his sights on what was happening globally, he was a man who never forgot where he came from.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The Deputy Speaker recognises the Honourable Ben Smith.

**Mr. Ben Smith, MP, Shadow Minister of Social Development, Sports and National Security:** Good morning, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Tuesday was an extremely difficult day for me. I spent the last several days reflecting on the last 15 years that I have had the honour to call Walton Brown my friend. The news was devastating on Tuesday. I met Walton 15 years ago at a dinner party when I was first dating my wife. I actually met him through her. We had the opportunity to sit and talk to each other. The conversation that I had with Walton that day at that dinner party sparked a friendship. We talked of every subject imaginable. And just the way that he talked, the knowledge he had . . . [this] meant that the following week we [would have] another dinner party. It has been said already that Walton enjoyed going out and enjoying a good dinner, good wine, with good friends.

The opportunities that I had to spend with Walton over the last 15 years I will carry with me forever. He taught me so many things. I cherish those moments. Last Friday, we were communicating back and forth because he was away for his birthday and we were not able to get together to celebrate his birthday. But he said when he got back, we would make sure that we had that opportunity. So, on Friday we tried to organise dinner for Saturday night. And he said, *Can I get a rain check for next week?* The rain check that I wish I could cash.

In the years that I have known Walton, I can tell you we talked often about his love for his family. As a fellow mama's boy, he talked specifically about his love for his mother. As devastated as I was on Tuesday, I cannot imagine what this was like for his mother.

The way that he spoke of you, I can only imagine the love that the two of you had between each other. And my condolences, sincere condolences, go to you and the entire Brown family.

His son, Tariq, actually works for me in my business. And I guarantee you I will continue to look out for Tariq, specifically, because Walton was my friend, my brother. And anything that you guys need, I tell you, I will be there.

Walton had a love for his PLP. We talked long into the early hours on multiple nights about the struggle that led to the PLP winning. We talked about the

differences, and you have heard it here, respect that Walton always showed for the differences that we have. We were not always on the same page.

But what I will tell you is this, when I was given the opportunity to potentially become a candidate, the advice I sought was from Walton. And Walton said to me, simply, *You love your country. I know that for sure. Serve it. That is your responsibility. You have to serve the people of this country because together we are going to work towards making it better for all of us.*

It is an important piece of his legacy. He loved all of Bermuda, not just the PLP members, but the OBA members—not black, but black, white, Portuguese, all of the community. It did not matter what your background was. It did not matter what you believed in. Walton respected everyone, and I believe that what we should be doing, going forward, is living to that legacy, that we respect everyone. Our differences are what make Bermuda strong. But we have to accept that and communicate with each other with respect. Because that is what Walton did.

I am going to miss my friend. But I will always remember him. And I will live to *live up to* what he taught me. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The Chair recognises the Honourable Member Michael Scott.

**Hon. Michael J. Scott, JP, MP, PLP Backbencher:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, thank you.

The reality of what we are doing here this morning, paying final—the operative word *final*—farewell to Walton Brown weighs heavy on us, as reflected in my colleague Mr. Smith's last tribute, as reflected in how I know that my dear friend, the Minister of Health, is feeling and has reflected how she has been gathering strength to cope with the loss of her friend and colleague, and with the speech delivered by Ms. Leah Scott, the Honourable Member.

So, I want to adopt all of the tributes paid thus far on behalf of Walton, hoping that what we do here this morning is supporting this noble family of Mrs. Barbara Brown and Walton's sons, Dominic, Tariq and Jarrod. I hope and pray that what we do here this morning is having a proper purpose.

We have heard the theme of *surreal*, and certainly that is how I felt on Tuesday. I was in the throes of meetings at the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. I was at court. I knew that the Cabinet was meeting. And it was surreal when the news came that Walton had died. And I heard the Premier, the Honourable David Burt, in paying tribute, use that same word. It has been used a lot here today.

Death has been heavily about us in this last fortnight. I recall as I drove out last Saturday on Front Street, I saw that the flag was flying half-staff, and I just wondered out loud, *I wonder who it was for.* I did not know. I know we had lost Sir James Astwood during the week. Before that, it was Dr. James A. C. King.

On Sunday when I went to church, it was announced that Trenton Butterfield, the father of Cory and Christin, had passed. And before that, in my church, Kevin Bean, who is a member, had lost his dear sister, Karen Greene, the wife of the chairman of my colleague Scott Simmons's branch, David Greene. And so, the flag has flown half-staff for these noble souls.

But, you know, Walton carried a number of flags and raised them in his life. They were not white flags of surrender, but bright banners of a soldier of important causes for this country and the world's affairs, particularly his work on human rights, his noble work for sovereignty for this Island. So, his representations both at home and abroad helped to define his work, his life, his times. Reflective, intelligent, authoritative, scholarly, vigorous in speech—these all were [arrows in his quiver], his arsenal, which he released always with powerful effect.

I remember Walton's voice ranging from firm and convincing over my right shoulder from our Opposition benches in the west corner of the House, thundering out some unstoppable case, some compelling argument on constitutional positions, on sovereignty, human rights and justice. These were the subjects which enthralled us to Walton Brown and enthralled him to us and the world.

Now, land grabs in Bermuda and righting the inequities of that area was a focus for Walton. It was for him both a personal matter and a cause inspired in him through his family, particularly his mother, Barbara. Land ownership is central, Mr. Deputy Speaker, central to the very survival of black people of the Island. It rivals in priority and importance to even the constitutional advancement to independence. But landholding by black families in this Island has come under recent attack through a number of notable agendas. They include land grabs that are unlawful and, recently, direct foreclosure actions fed by the onboarding by black people of this country, onboarding of debt made too easily available by lending institutions. The consequences of these agendas can and will rob ordinary citizens of this Island of this scarce and important resource. And so, no wonder Walton found this question an important passion for him to promote.

As I close my remarks in tribute today to a politician, a professor, a pollster, a progressive, as my colleague, Mr. Commissioning, has underscored, the prophet for Bermuda independence, father to Dominic, Tariq and Jarrod, these roles Walton discharged in his time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with passion and excellence. These key aims we pledge as his party to both action and deliver. And I adopt these sentiments that have been expressed in this House as a commitment of us all so that one day these seeds which have been planted, which Walton watered, and they have grown now and taken root, we even see the green shoots . . . one day soon, I hope and pray, they will

come to full flower as a tribute, a lasting monument, to Walton Brown, Jr.

How interesting that Shakespeare has featured in our tributes here today, as our speaker, the Minister Lovitta Foggo, has shared with me that which I did not know, that he even took the part. Berkeley often gave us groundings in Shakespeare. I did *King Lear*. Walton did *Romeo and Juliet*. As we seek to pay this final tribute, the words from the Prince of Denmark come to my mind: "This is the imposthume of much wealth and peace, That inward breaks, and shows no cause without Why the man dies."

To Walton's mother, Mrs. Barbara Brown, and the Brown family, this noble family in our midst, please accept my condolences. I pray for your continued strength throughout this time as we all have pledged, this whole House, from the Members of the Opposition to the Members of the Government, to support you in this time. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The Chair recognises the Honourable Member Pat Gordon-Pamplin.

**Hon. Patricia J. Gordon-Pamplin, JP, MP, Shadow Minister of Health:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Protocol having been established, I wish to address the Brown family, because I can say that very few things in life go according to what we hope they would. We can plan as well as we want, but there are some things that hit us at the most inopportune times that, to us, just make no sense.

This past Tuesday, I almost lamented the fact that we have instant communication, because I was able to hear a *ping* on my telephone to say on my WhatsApp group that there had been a tragedy within our parliamentary group. I looked. I was stunned. It is very difficult to accept that someone with whom we were colleagues could have been snatched away from us in such an untimely manner as what we experienced this past Tuesday.

The interesting thing is I say that we are colleagues, because we all come together here for the common purpose of service, irrespective of the route that we have taken to arrive at this place. We did not share the same political philosophy, no. But we have a common aim, and that is to serve our country and our people as best we know how.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have at times the understanding that we are mere mortals. I can only empathise with his mother at this point, because this does not make any sense. We do not have an explanation. We do not know why, and we do not know when. But I believe that when we have the Christian hope and belief that we do, we know that we will see him again. We know that his living does not stop or did not stop on Tuesday, because we will always have something of Walton to carry with us and to hide in our hearts that we can use as an example when we might be tempted to fall short.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is known that the cut and thrust of the political debate can serve to bring out the worst in many of us. But Walton was perhaps that example who says, *It's not necessary. We can disagree. We can be diametrically opposed on fundamental principles. But we do not have to be disagreeable in the process.* And that is a quality that is missing among so many of us. And I say "us" because I fall seriously short in that particular area. And it is a lesson that, in retrospect, I will now have the ability to reflect on and perhaps make a concerted effort to change even my approach. And hopefully, as we look to garner a level of respect among our colleagues in this Honourable House, we can all make a commitment to that end.

Walton has shown that civility is possible even if we are divided. After the 2017 election, Walton was appointed by the Premier to be the Minister responsible for Immigration, which was the position that I held as we went into that election. So, there was the continuity of responsibility that we had, notwithstanding that I had lost my position and he had gained it. But there was a fundamental issue that befell us as a country at that time and on which I was working. And because it was something that was going to impact our people significantly, I felt it was my obligation to share with Walton, as the new Minister of Immigration, the progress and the conversations that had been had in respect of the issue regarding passports and the BMU versus GBD nomenclatures that appeared in our passports which was creating difficulty for our residents to be able to freely traverse into the United States.

And I did so willingly because I felt that it was not about who won or who did not win the election. It was about what information do I have on this issue that I could share to help to find a resolution to an extremely vexing problem that our people were facing? And I believe that Walton accepted the conversations that we had. We shared backwards and forwards. And we were able to at least have an understanding that there is nothing wrong with knowing information that you can pass on to your successor if it is meant for the better good of the country. Walton was receptive, and I appreciated that.

We have heard today that Walton . . . at no time did you find him becoming personal on issues. And that is a quality that I think we can all hope to emulate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can say to his mom that Walton, I assumed, was one of my contemporaries. I did not realise that I was about 10 years older than he was, because he had such a maturity of spirit and of attitude and of persona and of knowledge and of information. He was a wealth of information. And it did not occur to me that I was so many years his senior. However, notwithstanding that I was the old lady of the group, he never treated me in any other way

other than with deep and abiding respect. And for that I will be eternally appreciative.

Walton and I had the opportunity of [attending] a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference together in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2010 as the Bermuda delegates. At the time, the delegation was led by Dale Butler, who was the Minister of Cabinet. I was the Opposition Member and Walton was the Government Member who attended that Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference.

During those conferences, there is a segment that is dedicated to the small branches. And there was an issue at the time in which Walton had taken exception to a challenge that was being faced by one of our fellow small countries in terms of fair interaction with Britain. And he did not discuss it. We went to the small countries, and he said, *I would like to bring forward a motion*, which he did. And when I listened to the motion, which did not pass in the general assembly, but when I listened to the motion, I thought, *What do I do here?* because I did not agree with the motion. The leader of the delegation, Dale Butler, said, *Well, because the motion is coming from somebody from our country, then maybe we should support it.* And I thought, *I find it very difficult to support something with which I did not agree.*

So, in the final analysis, when it came down to the vote, the leader of the delegation abstained from the voting. Walton, who had moved the motion, obviously, voted in favour of it. And I, as his colleague, voted against it. So, we ended up with three delegates all taking a different position on an issue. And we found it really quite extraordinary because when the meeting was over, we all got together, and we chatted. And he says, *Well, maybe I should have explained to you beforehand what it was that I was thinking. But I was so dogmatic about the position, that I thought it to be the correct one, that I didn't give you guys that opportunity for us to have that discussion.*

And that is something that the average person may not necessarily have either recognised or appreciated. But I think that when we look at his ability to say, *Listen. We could have done this differently . . .* And whether we would have gotten a different result or not will never be known, but had we had that opportunity, he recognised that this is something that we could have done, and we could have done it differently. And it is those qualities that he possessed that made me understand that there is a better way to interact one with the other when we are dealing with things politic and we are dealing with things that create differences in us.

So, as his family is just preparing to lay to rest their loved one . . . very difficult, as my colleagues intimated for a mother to bury a child. I can only wish for you comfort as you reflect on the meaning of his life, what you were able to infuse into him and to know that we are eternally grateful for what he gave to us as

a people, as a country, certainly as a parliament, and me personally for my family. God bless you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The Deputy Speaker recognises the Honourable Scott Simmons.

**Mr. Scott Simmons, JP, MP, PLP Backbencher:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, good morning.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf—and I will presume to do so, as it relates to my family; I recognise that my older brother is here. But I will yield to him in that regard. But at this particular time, I wish on behalf of our family to extend to the Brown family our deepest of condolences.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, before I begin just a few remarks on my relationship with our honourable colleague, I just wanted to say that there are times when we . . . and I appreciate the words of the previous speaker, my honourable colleague, in this regard as it relates to the fact that many of our relationships here in this House, from time to time, will have a health affliction. And they continue to work in this House and serve the people of Bermuda accordingly. I do not think at times we recognise that in a way . . . in a public way. But I do believe, as colleagues, we recognise that they do have that challenge and they do work in this House. And our honourable colleague was one of those who, no matter how he felt, he continued to work very hard for this country and among his colleagues.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that there were times when I did not agree with Walton on a number of issues. From time to time we would have a conversation on these matters. But I can safely say that the Honourable Member taught me much. I believe that he traversed all sides of the House, all sides of Bermuda. And I do believe that he took the time to not [only] understand his own experience, but also took the time out to understand the experiences of others throughout our community.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we must now support our parliamentary colleagues who were closest to him. He touched each and every one of us. His contribution to Bermuda, and to the Bermuda Progressive Labour Party especially, and the body of work that he dedicated or devoted to immigration and the plight of every Bermudian to preserve and protect our birth right as Bermudians will be greatly, greatly appreciated.

He will be missed. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do believe that his legacy will live on and on. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The Deputy Speaker recognises Senator Mrs. Simmons.

**Sen. Michelle Simmons, JP, Independent Member:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Madam President, Deputy Speaker, the Brown family and all Members of the Legislature here

assembled, present Members and former Members . . . Charles Walton De Vere Brown.

I met Walton when he was a fourth-year student at the Berkeley Institute and I was at the very beginning of my teaching career. So, we go back a long, long way. I had the privilege of teaching Walton, albeit for a very short time. But it was during a period when his real chemistry teacher went on maternity leave. And I was in my very first year of teaching. At that time, maternity leave was something that was granted, but there were no substitute teachers. So, as the second chemistry teacher, I just got double classes. So, Walton, who was not my student, per se, ended up in my class for about a term, as I had more than 40 students, trying to teach them chemistry.

Walton struck me immediately as a highly intelligent young man who loved to debate just about anything, with a twinkle in his eye and a bit of mischievousness, as well. He excelled in any subject, in any area that was of interest to him. There were other things that he did not really enjoy and did not really find interesting. So, he kind of left them to one side until someone reminded him, *You have to do well in everything in order to really show your true potential.* And he did.

It will not surprise any of you to hear that Walton was passionate about four subjects. I am not saying he only did four; he did a lot more than that. But four of them were his passion: English Language, English Literature, Economics and History. Are you getting the profile? He excelled in these subjects. He was an exceptional student. And it was around that time that, career-wise, he was thinking that he would study economics at university before he went on to do a law degree. That was then. Of course, we now know that Walton went to university, and the lure of political science and everything associated with it was just too great for him to ignore. That became his next passion.

On his final report card from the Berkeley, his economics teacher, who just happens to have been my sister, wrote, "Walton is a brilliant student." (I will leave out a little bit of what she wrote.) "I am sure that he will be the very successful lawyer that he desires to be." That is a quote from Sonia Grant.

Then there was his English teacher. And I will say three initials, R. K. H. And all the Berkeleyites in this Chamber today will know to whom I am referring—none other than the Robert Keith Horton. He wrote on Walton's final report card, "It is with much sadness that the Berkeley Institute and Room 3" (remember?) "in particular bids farewell to one of its favourite sons. Walton's intellectual gifts have developed superbly during the past two years, and he is simply destined for a magnificent future. Prince Escalus, may nothing thwart you as you reach resolutely for success." That is the end of the quote from Robert Keith Horton.

As Minister Foggo has already said, those of us who were there at the time remember vividly Wal-

ton playing the role of Prince Escalus in Berkeley's production of *Romeo and Juliet*. This character was to be the arbiter, the peacemaker, the person who was trying to encourage the Montagues on one side and the Capulets on the other side to come together, to basically make love, not war. I am sharing this information with you about Walton, the young man, so that you can appreciate that Walton was already, at the age of 15–16, on a path which led him eventually to the highest echelons of government in this country. He knew what he wanted to do. I suspect he knew even at West Pembroke Primary School.

It was with great admiration that I watched Walton's career develop. And in all that he did as a lecturer at Bermuda College, as the researcher, pollster, as a Member of Parliament, as a Cabinet Minister, he consistently upheld the highest standards of integrity, respect for the rights and opinions of others, and always acted in the best interests of Bermuda.

We have lost a true Bermuda statesman. But our loss is nothing compared with what I see in the eyes, in the looks of the Brown family. You have been in my prayers ever since I heard. I know all of you. I love you, and I will continue to pray for you.

My deepest condolences are extended to Mrs. Barbara Brown; Walton's children, two of whom were my students at the Berkeley, Tariq, Jarrod and Dominic; his brother Charles, another student of mine, and Lisa, his wife; his sister, Deanna, husband, Randolph, whose children I had at Berkeley, as well (I think you are getting an idea of their support for the Berkeley Institute); and the entire Brown clan.

Walton's legacy must live on in his family and in all the debates and conversations we will have regarding the issues about which Walton was passionate. We will miss this true Bermuda champion. But we will never, ever, ever forget him—never.

Rest in peace, dear Walton.

And I am going to end by giving him the final word. This would have been the final speech that he gave as the Prince of Verona in *Romeo and Juliet*, more Shakespeare. Ironically, it comes right at the end of the play. And you will hear some familiar words. I am going to do a little massaging of Shakespeare today; I hope I am forgiven. But here it comes:

"A glooming peace this morning with it brings;  
The sun, for sorrow, will not show his head:

...

For never was a story of more woe . . ."

Than this of Charles Walton De Vere Brown.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The Chair recognises the Deputy Premier, Walter Roban.

**Hon. Walter H. Roban, JP, MP, Deputy Premier, Minister of Home Affairs:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

One thing the tribute today, I think, certainly for me has certainly allowed the feelings that I may have had since Tuesday to be subsided, because I have heard a lot of very warm and fulfilling memories from people who have been a part of our fallen colleague's life from the very beginning, and have shown us a picture of him that many of us may not have known. But it is fulfilling to hear at this sombre time. And I am appreciative of that, which is why there is even no need to go over certain memories that I may have of our dear colleague.

But there are a few things that I would like to say. You, Mr. Deputy Speaker, amongst a few others in this House, have been around long enough to see our party go through this a little bit too much. This is the sixth person that we have experienced who were close to us in our organisation who has gone in the field of service. It is never easy, no matter how many times you go through this, because these are family members. They are not just parliamentarians; they are not just colleagues. They are and were family. And it is painful to lose family in this way.

It is often easier that they retire from service, and we know that they are going on to other duties in life and then, eventually, they go through the sequence of life. But to leave while committed to the role of service to their country and to their party and to the citizens they have been elected to represent is difficult to witness. And so, I think I express what many of PLP Members are feeling right now, irrespective of where they sit in the hierarchy of our party as parliamentarians or members or constituents. I think I am expressing the pain a bit. But as I said, what I have heard this morning about our fallen colleague has brought a bit of ease.

I would like to speak a bit about the man whom I knew and met, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Upon returning to Bermuda in the late 1980s as an impressionable, slightly younger college graduate, I craved to find out what was happening in my country, to get involved. And there were a few people I was directed to. And one of the people I eventually found my way to was the doorstep of Walton Brown. And it was an automatic spark for me because I was a political science graduate, particularly international politics. And I found somebody in Bermuda for the first time whom I could have discussions with and fulfil my own interests with. And Walton was that person at that time of my life.

And visiting his home, I sat in his study. And if anybody remembers that study, there was a table. He had books all around. It looked like a professor's study. So, you knew this was a learned man. And we talked about all things—Marxism, Leninism, all the theoretical . . . and it was a wonderful experience. And, of course, with that came the issue of sovereignty, which was his passion. And, of course, Bermuda, in general. And I, of course, joined the committee that he chaired to push for Bermuda's full sovereignty.

And it was a great learning experience for me at that time. I was then and today committed to Bermuda fulfilling full sovereignty. And if anything, being with Walton, and all the other members who were there, helped to shape and solidify my commitment to that vision for our country that clearly Walton Brown, at that period of Bermuda's time, helped to shape. And much of what we understand and what we believe around that issue is shaped by the words of Walton Brown. And he certainly articulated, as has already been said, his brilliant mind and ability—not only brilliant . . . But [his] ability to articulate clearly the message around the issue that he was very strongly committed to was a gift and made him the natural spokesperson for the group. And as has already been said, despite his solidity in his commitment to many of his causes, he had a broad church of people whom he would gather with and talk to. Even if you did not agree with him, he was very clear and very measured in how he argued.

Often, we find people who are staunch activists, which Walton was, who people on the other side may find toxic to deal with because they are so strong and maybe very emotional and passionate. And that may turn off some of their opponents. But Walton was never like that. It seemed as almost sometimes his opponents would be drawn to him. The anti-independence people would engage him all the time, because Walton could engage in a way that was measured and thoughtful and articulate and clearly solid. But he did not do things in a way that suggested he was disrespecting his opponent.

Very true, he did not suffer fools or ignorance gladly, and he made it very clear. And I can remember some of the points he would make, particularly around discussions about independence, where somebody said to him, after perhaps a long going-back-and-forth, then the person would say, *Well, we need to be concerned that Spain may itself exercise its right to take back Bermuda because it was the first country to land here.* And he said . . . you know, he would just shake his head and say . . . So, that's where the argument went. But clearly, he felt, *Well, that is where the person had to go because all the other arguments that they had tried to put to me just didn't work.*

But he would lead even those discussions, you know. That person might come back again and try to have another conversation with him because that is how Walton was. And speaking to him as a person who, from a social standpoint . . . clearly it has been articulated by many who knew him that he was social. And it is true. His house where he lived and where I certainly knew him was always a gathering place for people. When he had parties, there was a cross section of people. Some people you would be surprised were there. But they were at Walton's house. And he led a very vibrant social environment, when he had parties, when he had events at his home. And you felt like even with the opponents on the other side of the

room, you were all there for the same thing, to have a good time irrespective of our views, because that is the type of environment Walton could cultivate around himself.

And so, I was always drawn to that and enjoyed the back-and-forth around the politics, the social and the man. And I learned a great deal from him. He was clearly gifted in the areas of politics in most areas. He was perhaps the best pollster who operated in Bermuda during his time when he was actively involved with it. And that has been articulated by others here about how well he came to the results, many times with Research Innovations.

And most of all, Walton was committed to the country. He was committed to his family. He was committed to seeing what he believed was right for Bermuda to be achieved. And that could be seen in the causes that he steadfastly, consistently stayed with. Certainly, for the almost-30 years that I knew him, they never changed. Sovereignty, human rights, LGBT rights, for Bermuda to have its rightful place in the international environment . . . And even though we are a colony, he even desired to make sure that the relationships that Bermuda would develop even in this limited state were suitable for Bermuda to move forward with the UN, with the Caribbean and with other countries. Walton did that, and was given the responsibility for doing that in different times under different Premiers. So, that is a testament to the consistency in the commitment.

Certainly, around the issue of land rights, he took that up and carried it. And certainly, his articulation around the issue of land rights is what motivated very much what we all believe today is important in that area, because Walton took it up, articulated what should be done, brought it straight to the Legislature. And that is a part of the agenda, the unfinished work that he has presented to us.

Human rights continues to be an issue, and other rights. Walton was uncompromising in his belief in what should be done, and pushed us, often having some of us in his own party not on his side. But he stayed committed to what he felt was right, always consistent in every way with every cause that he put his name to and never communicating in a way to others, even his opponents, to be offensive, to be derogatory. He was clear and intelligent and decisive in his message on all the things that he believed in.

Walton was a Pembroke man through and through. I have never known him to not be living in Pembroke. He was raised, he studied, clearly, and he represented Pembroke. And of all of us who are left who are the Pembroke Members of Parliament, I think he is the one who is continuous in that experience. He remained in Pembroke, ran in two different constituencies in Pembroke, and one in which he was victorious. But I never went to a house that he lived in that was not in Pembroke. He was truly a Pembroke man,

committed to his parish, committed to his people and committed to his country.

And as he would share his experience with you, it was clear that the history of his family bore great influence on his path in life, talking about his grandfather and the experience that his grandfather had here in Bermuda and abroad. And his commitment to Bermuda, moving forward, shaped Walton in what he did and what he believed in and how he moved forward.

So, if you truly got to know him, you understood the man, what he was about, what he believed in and the purpose he felt for himself and why he was committed to serving his country. I feel honoured and blessed that I had the opportunity to know him for as long as I have, to have been influenced and to learn from him in the way that I have, and that our party had that benefit, as well, and his constituents in constituency 17.

I would now like to express my sincere condolences to his family, to his mother, to his brothers, to his sister, and all of the Brown family. Bermuda has lost a great son. And so have they. And certainly, as a Member of the PLP, as a Bermudian, I will do my best to see that the causes that Walton felt so strongly about are fulfilled in their appropriate manner.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The Deputy Speaker recognises the Honourable Member Lawrence Scott.

**Mr. W. Lawrence Scott, MP, Government Whip:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

With protocol having been established, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I may not have the vintage that some Members have in this Chamber with their seniority and being seasoned, but as one of the younger Members in this Chamber, and the fact that I may not have gone to the Berkeley Institute, there may be some Ministers which say that means that I didn't count, others would say that I can still boast of having been a classmate of Walton Brown in the "Class of 2012," the elected class of 2012.

And one thing that stands out is that soon after being elected . . . it was myself, Walton Brown, and Minister Wilson who would spend a lot of time outside of Parliament together. And Walton would culture me on quite a few things and aspects in life. And although there are Members that can say that he was wise beyond his years, for me, as a younger Member of not just Parliament, but of society, his age was timeless because I still felt as though I could relate to him. I did not feel as if he ever talked down to me, but counselled me.

And the thing that stands out about . . . well, one of the many things that stands out to me was that he always believed in people noble in nature. So it was not about the action that they might have done or the position that they were taking at that time, it was

who they could become, where they could go, what they could achieve. And that goes as far as to the wider community and the country as a whole. And his belief, and my understanding of his belief, in Bermuda as a country being . . . and our nobler nature to be able to do things on our own, to be able to be an independent country, there was no need for us to be tied to anyone or anything else.

I will share a story that many in here will already know . . . that [during] the Budget Debate of 2013, where Walton was very policy and procedure driven, where if you do not have enough Members in the Chamber, any Member of the House can call for a quorum—and for those that are listening who might not be familiar with parliamentary procedure, the Budget Debate is that of the Opposition. It is the Opposition's duty to carry that debate. And right after lunch, with the first Budget Debate of our Opposition, the Honourable Walton Brown looked around and said that there are not enough Members in this Chamber to carry the debate and asked the Speaker (Speaker Horton, who is in the Chamber now) to call for a quorum. And the Whip at the time, the Honourable Lovitta Foggo, had to do her duty and round everybody up to show that they were in the House and that they did have enough to continue.

And the moral of the story there is that Walton saw how important this duty of service is. He ensured that the policy was followed at all means and all costs, even though that meant holding his own team members to account. And that is something that speaks to his integrity and his honour and his character.

And one thing that Walton was, he was reliable and consistent. And for me, as the current Whip, and with our caucus meetings, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you are one of those who shows up on time, if not early, every time. Every time without fail Walton was there early, if not on time. And what that allows for is . . . that, I believe, is part of the foundation of what we have seen today—Members on both sides being able to speak to and remember how pivotal of a role he played.

I think the best way for me to express that is by (and I am not going to sing it) the first verse of Simon and Garfunkel's song, *Bridge Over Troubled Waters*:

"When you're weary, feeling small,  
When tears are in your eyes  
I will dry them all  
I'm on your side  
When times get rough  
And friends just can't be found  
Like a bridge over troubled water  
I will lay me down  
Like a bridge over troubled water  
I will lay me down"

That, to me, captures one of the major roles that the Honourable Walton Brown provided, not just

for this Parliament, but for the country. Because when it came to the controversial issues—immigration, same-sex marriage—behind the scenes . . . and the colloquial would be “that back channel,” that bridge over the troubled waters, which plagued our Island at the time, was Walton Brown. He was the one that would reach out to the other side and say, *Hey, although we are divided in these aspects, this is where we are of like mind. Why don't we build on that?*

So, for me, I think that losing that pillar of our community, losing that reinforcement in the bridges that connect us, it is not just sobering, not just humbling, but it is gratifying in the sense that it allows us to be grateful for the time that we have spent with him, the laughs that we have had, and the memories that we share.

And as I take my seat, the last quote that I would like to use to encapsulate and capture MP Brown's essence is just one line out of a poem that is near and dear to my heart and to the hearts of other Members in this Chamber. It is a line from the poem *If* by Rudyard Kipling. And the one line that I want to focus on is: *If you can . . . walk with kings and not lose the common touch . . . that . . . that . . . that was him.* He was a Member of the Cabinet, he was a Member of the Senate, he was a Member of the House of Assembly, but yet he never lost the common touch. So, if you can walk with kings and not lose the common touch.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you.

The Chair recognises the Honourable Member Kim Swan.

**Mr. Hubert (Kim) E. Swan JP, MP, PLP Backbencher:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on this sad occasion, on behalf of my PLP branch in constituency 2, my wife Cindy and my family, I offer my sincere condolences to the family of our dearly departed colleague Walton Brown, Jr.

To the family gathered here today, my heart goes out to you especially, as you know most intimately the life of Walton Brown, Jr., as a family member.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the spirit of Walton Brown was captured in this very room today as it was the first time in my time in Parliament, that we did not turn to the east in prayer—a position Walton Brown observed in every session he attended in Parliament.

In recording the life of Walton Brown, from my lens, the most poignant memory I have was a photo that was captured of a very young Walton Brown with his family at a historic protest in the 1960s. Proverbs 22:6 states, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

In the lead-up to the 1995 Independence Referendum I found myself on the same side of this im-

portant issue as Walton Brown, Jr. [He] was the spokesman for the Committee on Independence and those of us who supported independence from the UBP, were definitely a minority there, I will say, we respected the position advanced by Walton Brown, Jr. I remember proudly voting for independence on that day and standing at the polling station in St. George's with my friend, Phil Perinchief, in 1995—24 years ago. And there was a division amongst those of us who supported independence at the time. And during this period in 1995, Walton Brown, Jr. was a peacemaker attempting to bridge the divide that emerged between those who were supporters of independence.

Today, as we mourn the passing of Walton Brown, Jr., independence for Bermuda remains long overdue. And I thank Walton Brown, Jr. for the great work he has done to advance the great importance of independence to Bermuda fulfilling her true potential.

Walton and I both have been talk show hosts at HOTT 107.5, Inter-Island Communications. And I know I speak on behalf of Inter-Island Communications in extending heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Walton Brown. We shared that Sunday evening slot, and I remember when he interviewed me as Opposition Leader, a political adversary. He said, *We are just going to have a conversation.* And we had a conversation and he could make his points very succinctly, without a lot of rancour, quite different from myself, who is trying to take a page today out of his book and be a lot more quiet spoken. Imitation is the greatest form of flattery, they tell me.

In later years—more recently—I was able to interview him as a Minister and a political colleague. It meant a lot to me to have him there in the studio. The work of Walton Brown, Jr. is reflected in his book, *Bermuda and the Struggle for Reform: Race, Politics and Ideology, 1944–1998*, which was also used by the Joint Select Committee examining the events of December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016, of which I was chairman. And we used his book to put in context immigration and the immigration policies that evolved in Bermuda, so significant was his work. So I would commend persons to read his works.

In closing, I offer my condolences to his mother, his sons, siblings, family and friends. I would say Walton Brown was the conscience of the Progressive Labour Party. As diverse as we are, we have founding members—many who have passed on—who held great principles near and dear to our heart. And if anyone would look at L. Frederick Wade, the late Dame Lois Browne-Evans, C. Eugene Cox, and others who have passed on, and see the issues that [Walton] held near and dear to his heart and advanced—just the big three—he was in line with them. I think it is important to make note.

May God comfort his entire family and friends during this difficult time, and may Walton Brown rest in peace.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The Deputy Speaker recognises the Honourable Neville Tyrrell.

**Mr. Neville S. Tyrrell, JP, MP, PLP Backbencher:** Thank you for recognising me.

Madam President, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Members of Parliament, both former and present, members of the Brown family, extended, otherwise, and friends, I wish to express the heartfelt condolences of myself and the entire Tyrrell family for your loss. Mrs. Brown and family, we will keep you in our prayers during this difficult time.

It has been a loss to me of a friend and colleague, and I say “colleague” because in the “Class of 2017,” he was in my class. So I feel proud about that.

Walton’s passing was certainly a shock to us all and it will be difficult to replace this brilliant son of the soil.

Walton was sort of a person that, you know, did not suffer things gladly, and one of them was repetition. And a lot of it has already been said today, but there are a couple of small things that I would like to share with you that certainly brought Walton and I together.

During his period as Minister, Walton actually sat directly in front of me. I was on the Backbench and he was on the Front bench, so we had the opportunity—several opportunities—to chat whilst debate was going on. And I certainly picked up a lot from him. But I certainly remember one time when we were, as a caucus, prepping for the debate on the marijuana Bill (up to 7 grams), and I told him that I felt a little conflicted in speaking because I had always preached to my children and my grandchildren about the smoking of marijuana because it was illegal. It was not legal, so I felt conflicted. But I understood the Bill, what it intended to do, and it was to protect our young people from getting a record that would stay on them for their life and cause them not to be able to even leave the Island or further their education. And when I discussed that with him, he said to me, I remember him saying to me, *You believe what you have said to your children and your grandchildren?*

I said, Yes.

And he said, *Well, look, speak your conscience, be principled about it, and just say it.*

And it gave me the spirit to speak on that Bill that day. And I am glad I did. And, as I said, it was certainly as a result of Walton.

It was mentioned earlier (without giving any secrets of caucus) that Walton was always early at caucus and so was I, and Mr. Deputy Speaker, you were one of the four as well that was, you know, usually early. And one of the rules that the Whip had (or has and still has) is that the last person in the room before starting at 5:30 has to say the prayer. Well, we all know Walton’s position on that, and I always said to him, *I see why you come early, but I am waiting for*

*the day when you come late.* And he gave me a smile that just said, *Yeah, you wait.*

I always found my brief exchanges with Walton very enlightening. I found him so knowledgeable. In fact, it was mentioned here, I thought Walton was older than me, I really did. Because he was so schooled in everything—you can put your glasses back on, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

*[Laughter]*

**Mr. Neville S. Tyrrell:** He was just so knowledgeable and he taught me some things, certainly, on human rights and sovereignty. Those were his two main subjects that he would talk to me about and, as I said, I learned quite a lot from him. I am certainly going to miss him.

I came upon a quote very, very recently which I think, in my opinion, describes Walton. And I would like very much just to repeat it. It is a short one, it is from . . . those of you may know him as Stokely Carmichael, some know him as Kwame Ture, and it says, “There is a higher law than the law of government. That is the law of conscience.” And that is something that, you know, Walton always, always expressed, you know, speak your conscience, be loyal to your position.

And as I said, I will miss him. I will miss his presence. In this setting here he sat two seats down from me and, as you can see . . . well, it was empty until my colleague just sat in it. You know, he will be missed and I hope his legacy lives on. And I say to my friend and colleague, rest in peace.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The Deputy Speaker recognises the Honourable Member Tinee Furbert.

**Mrs. Tinee Furbert, MP, PLP Backbencher:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I start off with condolences to the Brown family and Walton’s friends and the constituents of [constituency] 17.

I have a connection with the Brown family. My godmother is Walton’s cousin, and growing up as a young girl she used to take us to all the Brown functions, so I am very familiar with the Brown homestead and also visiting Walton’s home when he used to have functions at his home. And I just remember how close-knit the family was, and still is. And so I know that Walton’s leaving us is a great, great, great loss. So my greatest condolences to the family and I hope that this pulls you even stronger together.

When I heard of the death of Walton, I was actually in the office and I was actually going through my phone. I was showing one of my colleagues some pictures of a recent trip that I had been on, and we were talking about experiences and memories and how important experiences and memories are so that

we call fall back on them, those memories, in making us remember when we felt good and how we can be joyous about certain experiences and memories that we have been through. And then I ran down to the Cabinet building to be with my colleagues and then I suddenly remembered that my daughter had a netball game and I said I needed to be there because, knowing Walton and Walton's family, family is very important. And so I left to go be with my daughter at her netball game. She appreciated that.

There is something that I do remember in regard to Walton. There is a quote that I would like to share and it says "To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment."

And knowing Walton and his convictions and him being himself, that definitely was a great accomplishment. (I lift my face up and his face is staring right at me . . . Walton).

But Walton was very deliberate on his feelings, particularly what I remember is his feelings, how he felt about us giving allegiance to the Queen. And every time when it would come for us to read the oath, I would look up to see what it is that Walton would do, because we knew deep down inside where our allegiances should lie. And that is something that I do remember about Walton—his commitment to our Island pushing forward with independence, his commitment for our Island pushing forward [concerning the] land grabs and comprehensive immigration reform. There was also something that he felt very strongly about and that was how we report in our community about our public school system versus the private school system.

I remember Walton as being a professor and how knowledgeable he was. I used to often listen intently to him when he did speak because he made such sense. And he could speak on topics off the top of his head. It was like, Walton, where are you storing all of that information? But he was a great speaker and he will definitely be missed.

And I just want us to remember that . . . I mean, me particularly, I serve a living God. And I say "living" because I feel as though He is always with me and I know that Walton will continue to be with us and we will remember him with the things that we do and we will remember his presence in this House. We should not let his ideas, his thoughts, his research, his literature fall on deaf ears. So I urge our community, like another Member has said, to go and buy his books, go and study his literature. Talk to your elders. Talk to those who came before us.

There is a quote, something that reminds me of Walton because he said this all the time. And it is: *If you don't know your past . . . or something to this tune, If you don't know your past, how can you deliberate and properly plan your future?* And I think that is very important for us, because at times we make decisions without having the research and knowledge

behind it, and that is something that I definitely will take away as a memory from Walton.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker recognises the Honourable Renee Ming.

**Mrs. Renee Ming, JP, MP, PLP Backbencher:** Good afternoon, Mr. Deputy Speaker and listening audience.

First of all, I would like to let the Brown family know that they are truly in my thoughts and prayers, and I also bring condolences on behalf of my branch, which would be constituency 1.

I am going to start this because it would seem like so informal the way I am talking to you right now because family, a group of people who are related to each other . . . well, maybe 24 years ago, Barbara's nephew decided he was going to marry this girl from St. George's, named Renee Anderson (at the time). And so I have been in the Ming family for over 24 years because I think I dated Raoul for five years before marrying him.

And so one of the things that always stands out when it comes to family is they have a very strong family tie. But if you want to stay in good standing with the family, you *must* go to the annual family picnic every year. I do not care what you have, biding the fact that you are in the hospital or something like that, or off Island, you had better find your way down to Clearwater Beach. And it used to be the Sunday after Cup Match, but now it is the Sunday before Cup Match. And so it is at that time that was my first encounter with Walton and his family. Barbara was actually one of the first people when she met me, to give me like the biggest hug and welcoming me into the family, even though at that time I was still outside of the family in terms of marriage. So the ties to the Ming/Brown family go back years.

It is amazing that when you look back on things and you reflect, and having been around them, Walton is very common in his family—his mannerisms—because the men in the family are generally cool, calm and collected. I have never seen my father-in-law upset. I have seen him be passionate about things when speaking, but never be upset. And so the men in the family are cool, calm and collected.

I see Deanna over there looking at me shaking her head. That is because the women are the complete opposite, and they can let you know exactly what they are thinking and where you can get off. And so, if you have been around enough, you can appreciate that. And even over the last week I have had a few laughs at some of the things . . . even though . . . through your sadness you try your best to find things to make you smile and, at least, be happy about. And one of the things that we know is that we are not

mourning at this time. We are celebrating the life of a person who was amazing.

And it is funny because as a Member of Parliament you prepare for everything. Right? So you think about what you are going to wear, what you are going to say, and this morning I remember thinking . . . let me get out the traditional black dress. And then I thought about it and I said, *Well, Walton was really not a black-dress person; he was as colourful as you could get.* So what you see today is representative of how I felt he was, and he was colourful. I did feel awkward when I walked into the room at first when I saw all my colleagues in all these dark colours, but if you know the person that he was, he was extremely colourful.

So my family side of Walton probably started in the early 1990s. But my real conversations with Walton started in 2012. And that was when I became actively involved in big politics. And I remember him saying to me, *I didn't know you were interested in politics.* And then from there the conversation went on. It was probably a good thing I was a Member of the Progressive Labour Party because I wonder how those conversations would have been if I was big politics on the other side. Maybe he would not have shared so much, but he was not that person anyhow, he would have embraced me any which way. But I am just saying it made it a lot easier I am sure. (Ben is smiling at me.)

I remember in the Senate, when I was a Senator, and we used to have a lot of conversations back then because I did not know some things, and history is very important during the legislative process. And he would at times say that I could think about this or I could refer to this or I should read this, and whatever.

But one time where I really had to call him was the Peppercorn Ceremony in . . . I think it was 2013. And, of course, the Peppercorn Ceremony is down in St. George's and it is a big thing for St. George's. And my colleagues know I email out like, *Who is coming to the Peppercorn Ceremony?* to make sure that like, they are in St. George's. But when the "God Save the Queen" song came on and Walton did not stand up, I almost died. I was like, *What are you doing? You are in St. George's! You have to act proper! You know, this is the Queen's event.*

So he said to me, *Call me later and I'll tell you about it,* because I was fit to be tied.

Like, I was, *What's happening? You had better stand up. You have got to stand up.*

And I was telling everybody else, *Hit him!* Because he has got to stand up, right?

So [we had] our conversation later, about two days after that, and it [took] about two hours when he explained his position to me. And so I wish somebody had told me prior to the Peppercorn Ceremony because I was having about five heart attacks, I swear, as I was having him . . . *He's got to get up!* Telling people to hit him. But I came to respect that position

and understand the "why" behind it. And then, that conversation actually led us into greater conversations on independence and immigration.

And during my time in the Senate the work on controversial immigration Bills that came and sometimes having that discussion with Walton helped me to understand—either sometimes the position that our party was taking, or positions from our people, or the historic nature of why immigration was so emotive and remains so emotive even in our country.

So it is amazing how you reflect on things as time . . . and time is just one of those things where we do not . . . we think we have got so much, so much of it, and we just never . . . we just never ever know.

One thing that Walton always told me, he was that he was going to come on my Saturday walks. And for those that do not know, I do a walk every Saturday morning and he was always coming. He and a few others, but I will not name them here today, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

[Laughter]

**Mrs. Renee Ming:** So I guess he will not make it on that walk now, and that is something, I guess, I will have to take up with him at another time. Because I used to tell him, *I'm gonna teach you some things about St. George's.*

And he would say, *I'm coming MP, but at seven o'clock in the morning, I don't know if I could make that.*

So maybe we should not put off those things we think, because he used to say, *I will come,* but I never got a date, so I would leave it at that.

I do want to say one thing, though. Our colleague was definitely an avid listener. You could be on a rant and complaining about something and Walton would always listen. And he would say *uh-huh*, and give you the shake of *mm-hmm*, and let you get out what it was that you needed to say, and then he might just sometimes give you a very completely different perspective on something.

I know in the House, the last time we sat, there was a Bill that we were debating, . . . and I remember bouncing something off of him, and then I would come back with another question. And I do recall one thing he did say to me many years ago. He always said, *You should trust your gut.* And that is something that I have never forgotten and probably am very true to. Because my colleagues and those persons who have sat on committees know that I will ask a million questions to ensure that I am making the right decision, and always being in the best interests of Bermuda and her people.

I was reading the newspaper yesterday and hearing the update with regard to the land grabs. That is something else that was near and dear to Walton's heart. And I know that the Ming family will be happy to see that that continues to progress. And I hope that

the legacy of Walton lives through that inquiry because there is much information, I am sure, that will be released and garnered and things that the public just needs to know. And so I am hopeful that his legacy continues with that land grab [situation]. And I am hopeful that the Ming family get some of the answers that they too—for many, many years—have looked for.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, life is about relationships. And even in our political realm we create, we build, we develop relationships. And I think that my other colleagues have hit the nail on the head when they said Walton was just one of those people who had relationships on this side and this side. And it is probably something that we could all learn from him, you know, going forward in our behaviours, in how we speak to one another, and how we just address our colleagues who, in the grand scheme of things, are just like us. I do not think anybody believes any different in this room. We have the same common ground of where we want to get to, sometimes it is just how we get there.

And so, if our takeaway could be from our colleague, it would be to remember that as we move through and we navigate this political world . . . because one day I will not sit here. I may sit somewhere else. And I would hope that whatever the legacy I leave behind is one that others would want to follow.

So, in closing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, my question will be for my colleagues: So what now? What will we do to continue Walton's legacy?

And with those comments I thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker recognises the Honourable Minister Wayne Furbert.

**Hon. Wayne L. Furbert, JP, MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office:** Good afternoon, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I stand here this afternoon . . . first of all, let me give condolences to the Brown family, in particular his mother, and to his good friend, the Honourable Kim Wilson.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, to be honest, I was not going to speak. I find it hard to stand this morning or this afternoon to pay tribute to a person I called a friend, the Honourable Walton Brown.

It has just been over two years since I lost another good friend, the Honourable Shawn Crockwell. At that time I remember going home and sitting on my wall and singing the song “Gone too Soon.”

Tuesday when we heard about the loss of Walton, I had to stand strong for my friend Kim Wilson. But I tell you, when I went home, I cried like a baby. It was late that night when I sat on my bed and I said, *If I did it for Shawn, I've got to do it for Walton*. And I put the words . . . and I will repeat them:

“As I lay me down

Heaven hear me now  
I'm lost without a cause  
After giving it my all  
Winter storms have come  
And darkened my sun  
After all that I've been through  
Who on earth can I turn to”

The words go on to say:

“I look to you  
I look to you.  
After all my strength is gone . . .  
I look to you.”

His death has saddened us all. It was unexpected. You see, on Friday night, Kim and I with Walton were together. We were a team that hung out hoping that Cabinet came out early, which was unusual. But when Walton was in Cabinet, Kim and Walton called me. When I went to Cabinet, Kim Wilson and I called Walton. So, every Tuesday we hung out and a lot of Fridays we snuck out of the House.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Hon. Wayne L. Furbert:** Yes, that is true.

*[Laughter]*

**Hon. Wayne L. Furbert:** Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Walton was a good economist, and despite Kim being a lawyer, so was she. Because Mr. Deputy Speaker, they drink wine and they drink wine and they drink wine. I drink Perrier with Rose's lime. And then they divided the bill by three.

*[Laughter]*

**Hon. Wayne L. Furbert:** That is what made them good economists. And so the person that lost out was me. And that is sad.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we were supposed to go away last Friday to New York, the three of us plus our spouses and whoever Walton wanted to bring. But we did not go. It was all planned. We were supposed to go see *The Temptations* Friday night, Saturday we were supposed to go see a play, and eat at a steakhouse, because Walton wanted to go to a steak place in New York. But my wife could not make it so I was not going to go by myself, so we had to cancel.

But Mr. Deputy Speaker, Walton was an amazing individual. He was a deep thinker. He had amazing intellect. He could debate an issue, as people have said, and not get aggravated about it. He had to teach me a few things. Because normally most of us stand up and interpolate. I did not see Walton interpolate many times. He just sat there calm and peaceful.

He was a great pollster. He was such a great pollster. Jamahl may remember the reason why I was kicked out of another place was because they believed Walton's polls. Read my book, I will tell you how I finished that one off. I am revealing some today . . . but that was Grant Gibbons. I said, *Grant, I don't understand it. All these years you believed those pollsters in New York, but you now you are believing Walton's polls.*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I still have the print from Friday night. And Kim just said to me, *When are we going to lunch?* It brought tears to my eyes because it was the same thing Walton used to say, *When are we going?*

That is what Walton wrote on Friday: *What time are we meeting today?*

Kim wrote: *Where?*

Walton wrote: *Lobster Pot.*

Kim wrote: *Okay, what time?*

Walton wrote: *12:30.*

I stuck my thumb up and said *I'll see you.* (I was too busy in the Cabinet doing work).

Kim wrote: *On my way, walking.*

Walton wrote: *Okay.*

I walked in late. And, as usual, I went around shaking everybody's hands in the restaurant. Walton would get angry at me and say some other things which I cannot say in this Honourable House today. But the first word started with an "N."

We stayed together for about five hours that day—five hours. Kim had to go to City Hall and look at some artwork, and I went along with Kim. And we came outside and had my last hug with Walton. Because we hugged each other every time we left. Every time after dinner, every time after lunch, we hugged. So, it was a shock to us.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you will allow me to [sing] this:

*How can we say thanks  
For the things that Walton's done for us?  
Things so undeserved  
Yet he gave to prove his love to us;  
The voices of a million angels  
Cannot express our gratitude  
All that we are, and ever hope to be  
We partly owe it all to Walton.*

My salute to you, brother. May God bless, and his family.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The Deputy Speaker recognises the Honourable Senator Crystal Caesar.

**Sen. Crystal Caesar, JP, Junior Minister of Home Affairs and Economic Development:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Thank you for indulging me.

First, I would like to just say my heartfelt condolences to the Brown family. Legislative colleagues, former and current, friends and family, I debated

whether I was going to follow such a heartfelt tribute to my colleague. But in his honour, I feel it would be remiss if I did not. He had a profound impact on my life and I thought that I should share.

Henry David Thoreau in 1849 wrote an essay with regard to civil disobedience. That essay spoke to the need to prioritise one's conscience over the dictates of laws. And around that ethos is how Walton and I became such good friends. And I actually consider him a mentor. And why I say that is because in . . . I want to say late February, early March 2016, I was sitting in my office doing work, listening to a particular popular show in which Walton was the guest. And he sent out an appeal to the public in general with regard to some legislation that was going to be tabled, which he actually found quite alarming. And I had known of Walton back from my college days and from serving on a couple of boards with him, so I had a lot of time for him and a lot of respect.

But this particular day what he spoke about actually, for whatever reason I still do not know, appealed to me. And this was around the legislation that was called Pathways to Status.

As we all know, Walton was a very learned man on issues of sovereignty. And when I heard him speak, something in me became alarmed, but also it ignited something in myself. So he sent out the call to attend a meeting at the Young Men's Social Club and I did so along with two of my colleagues. And we listened to him and what that legislation could possibly mean for the country. And I must say that it was alarming, to say the least.

And through that meeting I developed a connection with Walton that has actually brought me here to stand as a Senator today. After that meeting he and two of my colleagues put our heads together as to what we could do to heed the call of expressing our civil disobedience. Some of you may not know, but he, myself and the two others came up with the ideas for some of the protests at some of the public meetings that had been held. In addition, I was one of those . . . I am not a morning person, but he convinced me to get up early one weekday morning and stand down on East Broadway and interrupt traffic to make the Island understand and note what this legislation could possibly mean for the country.

I cannot say that I was ever one who was that learned or even that into issues of social justice, but again, he awakened something in me that, still to this day, is alight.

And from those protests one may recall the group IRAG—the Immigration Reform Action Group—being formed in which many young people (people even younger than myself) became very knowledgeable on issues of immigration that would affect Bermuda. Through that collaboration I can proudly say that, along with Walton, we were able to have that particular piece of legislation pulled. It was withdrawn.

During that time I developed a fondness, admiration and appreciation for Walton because I can be deemed somewhat of a spitfire, and he was very calming, very astute. So he would let me have my say and then he would say, *Okay Crystal, now think about it this way*, and I appreciated that.

When I heard the news on Tuesday I was overcome with emotion because I felt as though . . . a deep relationship that had just begun would no longer be. But God knows all and He knows why He brought us together those two years ago, almost three years ago now, and why He would allow Walton to come into my life and the lives of those close to me, so much so that we—the four of us, the other two ladies that I spoke of—sort of called ourselves the “Undercover Panthers,” because we all did things silently, but in a very revolutionary manner.

And so I felt I had to speak on the relationship that we developed and the impact that he had on my life. And I have to thank his family for sharing him with us. I appreciate it, and I can only hope that I will continue the work that Walton has begun and continue to carry and shine that light, that fire, that he lit in me.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Just before have the final speaker, the Premier, I just want to . . . I was just passed a note from Cole Simons [JP, MP, Shadow Minister of Education and Economic Development] who is overseas that he wants me to read. He says:

“Please pass on my regrets to the House on the passing of the Honourable Member Mr. Walton Brown. The House has lost a Member of high intelligence, a Member committed to the development of Bermuda’s young people and a Member who was passionate about Bermuda’s constitutional reform and human rights. He was a gentleman and respected other people’s views and perspectives, even if he did not agree with them. It was, indeed, a pleasure to work with him as a fellow Member of Parliament and he will be sadly missed.”

Mr. Premier.

**Sen. the Hon. Kathy Lynn Simmons:** I would like to speak.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Oh, Madam Attorney General, you have just got to let us know now.

Please, continue.

**Sen. the Hon. Kathy Lynn Simmons, JP, Attorney General, Minister of Legal Affairs:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think it would be remiss of me not to rise today and give credit where credit is due. So I would like to take this time on behalf of all Honourable Members and women to honour Mrs. Brown. There would be no Walton without his mother. She, in my mind, is the most singular important per-

son who should be honoured today. As a mother of three young men, I honestly believe that in our children’s eyes we actually are God. We are the providers, we are the protectors, and we are the bearers of life. So, Mrs. Brown, I hope to never walk in your shoes too early.

I would also like to thank the OBA for bringing their Pathways to Status legislation because it was through that exercise that I am standing here today. And the gentle giant that you have all portrayed is unknown to me because in debating that legislation in a private conversation with Walton he shouted at me and insulted me and called me a “backseat protestor.”

I did not sleep that night. I was actually a consultant down at the Cabinet Office, and I went to work the next morning and corralled the staff and we marched up at the House. And from that moment I was branded a troublemaker. But I am happy to stand in this Chamber and be a troublemaker because what we have chosen to do, what I have been called to do by the man sitting in the front row, is to engage in a very particular and special type of service.

And my challenge to my colleagues today is to consider the portrait of the man that you have painted today quite eloquently, but not just to continue to speak, but to actually do, because oftentimes we find ourselves commemorating our colleagues only to return the next session to continue business as usual.

So to colleagues who have stood today and made quite heartfelt speeches about what I would characterise as the way forward in terms of our preparation, our narrative, our respect for each other . . . I encourage you to put your money where your mouth is and to serve in a way that can be commendable and not just say, but to do.

Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Final speaker, Mr. Premier.

**Hon. E. David Burt, JP, MP, Premier:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there has been a lot that has been said today in honour of someone who we will all dearly miss. The only thing which I would ask of Honourable Members and the listening public is to keep the Brown family in your thoughts and in your prayers. Make sure you recognise that there are three young men that no longer have their father, there are siblings that need love and healing, and there is a mother who wants so desperately to be with her son. And so for us to remember and to recall them and to provide them with the love and support, not only up until next Friday, but thereafter.

A lot, as I said, Mr. Deputy Speaker, has been said, but I think it is incredibly touching the comments which were said by the two Senators who spoke last, because I remember Pathways to Status. And I remember speaking to Walton, and Walton said quite

plainly and simply, *If we do not take action, this will pass.* It is because of *him* it did not. And the country, in my view and in our view, owes him a tremendous debt of gratitude.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. E. David Burt:** So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move that this Honourable House do now adjourn until November 1<sup>st</sup>, [2019].

**The Deputy Speaker:** The House stands adjourned until—

**Hon. E. David Burt:** November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**The Deputy Speaker:** —November 1<sup>st</sup>.

*[At 1:35 pm, the House stood adjourned until 10:00 am, Friday, 1 November 2019.]*