



**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**STATES OF DELIBERATION**

**OF THE**

**ISLAND OF GUERNSEY**

**HANSARD**

**Royal Court House, Guernsey, Wednesday, 13th July 2016**

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**The Clerk to the States of Deliberation**

J. Torode, Esq. (H.M. Greffier)

**Absent at the Evocation**

Deputies J. Kuttelwascher (*absent de l'île*), M. K. Le Clerc (*absent de l'île*), J. S. Merrett (*absent de l'île*), J. C. S. F. Smithies (*absent de l'île*), C. J. Green (*absent de l'île*),  
A. H. Brouard (*absent de l'île*), Deputy P. J. R. Roffey (*absent*)

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# States of Deliberation

*The States met at 3 p.m.*

[THE BAILIFF *in the Chair*]

## PRAYERS

*The Greffier*

## EVOCATION

# Billet D'État XXII

### I. Tributes to the Late Deputy David Brian Jones

**The Greffier:** Billet d'État XXII. To the Members of the States of the Island of Guernsey, I hereby give notice pursuant to Rule 2.4 of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees, that a meeting of the States of Deliberation will be held at The Royal Court House, on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2016, at 3 p.m. to receive tributes to the late Deputy David Brian Jones.

**The Bailiff:** Members of the States, I thank you all for attending this special sitting of the States to honour the memory of a very special person, who made an enormous contribution to this Assembly and to the workings of the States, always acting in the best interests of Islanders, even when afflicted by illness, as was sadly the case during the latter part of the previous term, and the early part of this term.

Deputy Dave Jones earned the enduring respect of the Members of successive States and the wider population through his sheer hard work. By listening to the needs and aspirations of Islanders, and always representing their views fearlessly, both in this Assembly and in his wider States' work. Above all, he was a man of great integrity. There was no side to him, no hidden agendas. We knew where he stood on any given topic. He was never afraid to express his views, which he always did with clarity, in his characteristic style. He told it as it was.

His speeches in the States of Deliberation were well received and his sense of humour always shone through. In debate he might test the Presiding Officer by pushing to the limits of what was permissible. However, he never argued against a ruling from the Chair and always showed respect for the authority of the Presiding Officer.

The cancer, against which Dave fought so bravely for the last several years, was but one of many challenges he faced in his lifetime. Most of us can only imagine what he had to endure. Several years ago he wrote this:

'I was taken into care by Barnardo's when I was three years old, after a fairly horrendous childhood, boys homes in the 50's and 60's were not for the faint hearted. I left Barnardo's aged 15 and worked for two years on a farm near Westerham in Kent. The farm bordered Churchill's Estate at Chartwell, where I used to beat for the guns for Lady Churchill, as Winston by that time had died.'

25 At the age of 17 he spent a short period of time with the Royal Anglian Regiment, and in 1971 he came to Guernsey, where he fell in love, not just with the Island but also with Bonnie who was to become his wife, his lifelong companion and his chief supporter.

In the late 1970's he became active in local politics and joined the Guernsey Association, remaining on the periphery of politics he then joined the Environment Council, which was a  
30 voluntary group set up by the then Board of Administration. He was also a founder member of the Status Quo Group campaigning for Island-wide voting. Dave was first elected as a People's Deputy for the Vale in 2000, and was re-elected to that office in the four subsequent General Elections.

In his first term he served on a variety of Committees: the Public Assistance Authority, the  
35 States' Procedures and Constitution Committee, the Civil Defence Committee, the Telecommunications Board and, last but certainly not least, the Housing Authority.

In 2004 and again in 2008 and 2012, he was elected as Minister of the Housing Department. Thus he served on Housing for all but a few weeks of his time as a Deputy. He strove constantly to improve both the quantity and quality of the social housing stock, and for that he will long be  
40 remembered with affection and gratitude by those members of society whose lot in life benefitted from his endeavours.

By virtue of his ministerial office he was also a Member of the Policy Council for 12 years, and he was the only Deputy to have served continuously on the Policy Council. During the last term he was also an acting Presiding Officer.

45 Just a few weeks ago, following the General Election, he was elected as President of the States' Trading Supervisory Board. His first official duty as President was to greet His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent at St Peter Port Harbour, when the Duke visited the Island the day after Dave was elected to that office. He was honoured to be able to fulfil that duty, but sadly it proved to be one of his last official engagements.

50 Dave is survived by his wife, Bonnie, and their two children, Nathan and Emma, to whom we extend our sincere condolences.

In conclusion, Deputy Jones was an honest, hardworking and well-loved politician who made a difference to the lives of Islanders, and without whom both this Assembly and the Bailiwick are a poorer place. He was also a great friend.

55 Members of the States, you will have your own personal memories of our former colleague and on this unique occasion I invite other Members to pay their own tributes.

I start with the Mother of the House, Deputy Lowe.

**Deputy Lowe:** Thank you, sir.

60 Mr Bailiff, sir, paying tribute to Deputy Dave Jones, a caring friend and colleague is not easy, after fitting over 20 years of knowing Dave into a few minutes. There is lots to tell, but time does not allow. Nevertheless, I thank you, sir, for enabling us, through this special States' meeting, to give a brief tribute.

It has been a privilege and an honour to know Dave, even in the early days before he was a  
65 States' Member, when he was a regular caller to *Phone-in*. You were never left in any doubt where the States had gone wrong, and how to put it right. He was special and had a unique way of putting his point across, often using humour.

Through frustration and wanting to keep the Island a pleasant place to live and bring up children, Dave took the opportunity, and succeeded, to be elected a Vale Deputy for 16 years. Not  
70 only the Vale, but the Bailiwick and beyond, have seen a hard working committed States' Member for the last 16 years. And cruelly, when he had still so much to offer, he has been taken away from us and his family.

Dave never stopped caring for this Island, and although Dave was not born here he was passionate about keeping Guernsey history and culture alive, and he certainly let his view be  
75 known if yet another glass building was erected, or something or somewhere was named that did not fit into our local culture. One of his famous rants ... [*Inaudible*] was he did not want Guernsey

to become another UK town. He often felt frustrated when he saw modern changes taking away another part of Guernsey he was so proud to call his home.

80 Dave could easily have been a Guernsey donkey; he was certainly stubborn at times, especially if you did not agree with him. Unlike a donkey, he did not sulk and would move on in the hope that one day whoever did not agree with him would see the light and come to his way of thinking.

The bigger the challenge, the more Dave enjoyed his work. He fought tirelessly for the under-dog and was always there ready to take the awkward questions of individuals or a particular States' Department or Committee. He wanted answers and would not give up until he got them.

85 Dave, as we all know, was a family man. Bonnie was his absolute rock and he adored their children Nathan and Emma, and the grandchildren. His extended family meant so much to him. He enjoyed family life. He would often tell us about his grandchildren, what they were doing, all of whom he was so proud. When I saw him last month he showed me the blanket his granddaughter had knitted for him to keep warm. The big smile and twinkle in his eyes of pride was there for all to see. He adored them all.

90 I will cherish the memories of Dave. For over the last 20 years we have laughed together, we have cried together, we have disagreed on issues, we supported one another, both in States and in our private lives. Dave was so likeable, loveable, approachable, caring, loyal, passionate. He was so passionate about his work, had a wicked sense of humour and, above all, he always made time when I needed a listening ear for advice. Dave was so supportive to me personally. He will be sorely missed.

95 When Dave phoned me up a couple of weeks ago, he was so chirpy – it was great to hear. He fought his illness so hard and with dignity. He was not going to give in and he wanted to keep his States' work going until the end. The memory of that up-beat phone call is a good one to have. Now he is gone, he will certainly never be forgotten by me.

Rest in peace, Dave.

**The Bailiff:** Next, the President of the Policy & Resources Committee, Deputy St Pier.

105 **Deputy St Pier:** Thank you, sir.

Thank you too for convening this special sitting of the Assembly. I think it is a great opportunity for us to pay tribute to a popular and long-standing colleague, and it is an entirely fitting opportunity and tribute to do so, and one which I think he himself would have greatly appreciated.

110 Dave, of course, was plain speaking. I think it is fair to say that outside this Assembly occasionally his language would possibly be described as unparliamentary and possibly even, on occasion, non-politically correct, but he always maintained a smile and good humour, and he never ever had any malice.

115 I, of course, did not know him as well as many Members of this Assembly, having only worked with him for the last four years or so, but he was always supportive of me in my role. He was quite insistent – and I am sure it was the same with my predecessors – as Treasury & Resources Minister, that in his view that was the toughest job of the States, and he frequently said so.

120 We rarely crossed swords, but he was dogged on some issues and one of those was, of course, the question of indirect taxes. I am sure my predecessors, Deputies Trott and Parkinson, will have had the same experience – that he was absolutely insistent that they were always unfair and regressive, but of course, as ever, there were always some exceptions. It was always nuanced, so he recognised that tobacco, of course, based on his own experience, absolutely should be taxed, and alcohol, of course, well 'that's fair enough' would have been his phrase. So he was dogged but always pragmatic.

125 Sir, I have an image of Dave in my mind, and that is in Policy Council and in the Policy Council room. As former members of Policy Council will have known, he always sat in the same place – to the left of the Chief Executive and two away from the Chief Minister – and he would say frequently, 'Mark my words, it is going to be a disaster!' Now, he would often precede that last

noun with an unparliamentary expletive (*Laughter*) and he would say this so often that, of course, on occasion he was right! (*Laughter*)

Sir, I was lucky enough to see Dave at home only a couple of weeks before he died, and as you said, he had only two concerns: he had concerns only for his family at that stage and of course for his role as President of the States' Trading & Supervisory Board and all the work that needed to be done there. He knew at that stage that his time was relatively short. He did not know how short, but he was not remotely focussed on himself, and I think that was the true mark of the man.

As the Mother of the House has said, sir, and as we all know, of course he was not born in Guernsey, but he cared so passionately about Guernsey and gave his time so generously to the Island, the parish and his community. He sought to give a voice to those who he felt did not have a voice, and I think that those are the attributes of a true Guernseyman.

So, sir, I would like to say this to his family, and of course especially to Bonnie, Emma and Nathan: I hope that as you grieve and come to terms with your loss over the coming days, weeks and months, I hope it is of some comfort to you to know that all of us in this Assembly, and many Islanders will be mourning with you.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Paint.

**Deputy Paint:** Sir and Members of the Assembly, I have known David for perhaps 40 years, and we always got on – did not always see eye to eye, but we always got on.

Dave had a real passion for looking after the poor and the underdog, as the Mother of the House was saying earlier. But not only in Guernsey. He sponsored a young lady – young girl, really – in 2003 right to last year, and her mother also. The young lady was called Mah, and the mother was named Yien. The sponsorship was for education, and every time it was due it was paid up by Dave and Bonnie. We have to thank them for what they have done for Mah and Yien.

Now, Yien was a widow and when Bonnie and Dave saw the appalling conditions they were living under, they actually paid to build her and Mah a house in Vietnam. Now, this sounds a big undertaking – the cost of the house; building a new house was less than a garden shed would cost here. For a while it was the best house in the village. The old house was made of branches of trees covered with banana leaves, so you can see how they were really living in very bad conditions.

I am really sad that Dave has left us now, because he was one of my very best friends in the whole Island, let alone the States – I can tell you that. We used to talk things over; he used to help me now and again if I had put something the wrong way in my speeches – he was really good for that. Sometime he would change it and I had to change it back again (*Laughter*) but there we are! But such was the nature of Dave, and Bonnie as well because she supported him all their married life without question.

They sure got on very well, although there was the odd niggle now and again, I must say. I remember Dave saying to Bonnie that no woman could drive a digger, so Bonnie went to have a course on driving diggers! (*Laughter*) I came into it because she asked me and a couple of others if I could manage to get Dave to go to the site, which was a greenhouse site, where she was operating the digger. Of course, he knew nothing of this, which was the intention.

So I and the other couple of people managed to persuade him to go and look at this site on a Saturday afternoon. We were about 100 yards away from where Bonnie was digging. We asked him a couple of questions and eventually he said, 'Who is that driving the digger over there?' We said, 'We don't know. It's too far away.' He said, 'Well, he seems to be doing a pretty good job, so I will go and have a look.'

Now, Bonnie was dressed in a boiler suit, had a cap on and sunglasses, so he went close enough to the digger, told her – well told him, he thought! – to stop and, of course, she stopped, and he walked up just as Bonnie was taking her hat off, and the sunglasses, and he had one terrible shock, (*Laughter*) and of course it was only really last week when I went to see Bonnie and the children that it all came out again. So I am pleased I can share that with you.



But there are many stories about Dave, and you might hear some later, all in fun. He used to be a character to do things in fun and, at times, wind people up in fun. But such is the nature of the man. Bonnie and Dave were always very good – *always very good!* Their home was always open, so that is a good thing for anybody.

185 I know that Dave will be sadly missed by many people on this Island, including myself and my family.

Thank you, sir.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Stephens.

190

**Deputy Stephens:** Thank you, sir.

I would like to offer a tribute to Dave Jones from those who served with the then Minister Dave Jones on the 2008-2012 Housing Board. The board comprised the former Deputies Gloria Dudley-Owen, Graham Giles, Sean McManus and non-States member, Mr Dudley Jehan, and myself.

195 Collectively, we recall his encouragement and advice to new candidates during the 2008 Election campaign, and that his help given to new Members of the Assembly was invaluable, kind, encouraging and inspiring.

Once constituted as a board, Dave repeatedly demonstrated an uncanny ability to assess the capabilities of each of us and to enable us as individuals to contribute according to our strengths. 200 In discussions Deputy Jones always ensured that everyone had their say. He helped us to become an effective team and he helped us to become effective decision makers. Once decisions had been made, he moved matters on and I do not recall losing a key housing-related Proposition or vote in the 2008-12 States' term.

Crucially, he fronted the team, he gained our loyalty and he became our friend. His energy and 205 commitment during the four years we worked together resulted in gaining States' approval for extra care housing, both in terms of the concept and in the creation of two schemes, which were to replace the residential homes.

Also he – and we, the board – supported an increase in the supply of partial ownership housing and social rented housing, so working with the Guernsey Housing Association, the Grand 210 Bouet was demolished and replaced. I remember that this was a cause for great celebration for Dave. Also with GHA, Hougue a la Perre was built, as was Sir John Leale Avenue. These were the first social housing units specifically designed to accommodate living carers, and also Mont Beauvoir, Rue Clouet and the Baubigny Arsenal. Together, this was over 250 units of housing in all.

I have two personal memories of Dave that I would like to recount. Often we would car share 215 to engagements, and he would share my car, and between comments on the activities of the European Union and on my driving skills, he would sometimes talk about his early life and how chance had diverted him from what might have been a far less notable career. He would talk about how, when at times he had to leave the Island to find work, he was desperate to return and to be with his family again. When I had the privilege of sharing his personal thoughts and 220 recollections, it was easy to respect the man beneath the political persona.

Then, on the first occasion when I was asked to take part as a Deputy on the Sunday morning *BBC Phone-In*, I was somewhat apprehensive. But fortunately my partner on that occasion was Deputy Jones, and before the event he said to me, 'Just watch me. I'll show you the ropes.' During the extent of the programme, I think I contributed one or two words, whilst he spoke with energy 225 and enthusiasm for two hours! (*Laughter*) As we left the radio station he turned and said to me, 'There you are, I told you you could do it!' (*Laughter*) But what I witnessed, in those two hours in the confines of a small recording studio was Dave Jones demonstrating his grasp of the political challenge, his concern for the concerns of members of the public, his wit and his focus on what he believed to be right and his courage in making that known.

230 So I and the former members of the 2008-2012 Housing Board are thankful that we had the opportunity of working closely with Deputy Jones, and our enduring memory of Dave is that he was focused, dedicated, fearless and funny, and we are saddened by his passing.

Thank you, sir.

235 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Dorey.

**Deputy Dorey:** Thank you, Mr Bailiff.

240 During my 14 years in the States, I have been on Committees with Deputy Jones for 12 of those 14 years. In those 12 years I got to know him very well, and we usually agreed on most of the matters discussed, but not always. He was a good political friend to me, particularly during the four years when I was his Deputy Minister of Housing. He was always there to give me advice, and he was always keen to involve me in matters, meetings and interviews, and give me the space and responsibilities to help me develop as a politician and build up my experience and confidence.

245 But my lasting memory of him will be from my earliest days on the Housing Authority, back in 2002, when, having only attended Douzaine meetings before, I was surprised at just how passionate he was to improve the housing situation, and his willingness to robustly express his views at the meetings of the Authority. It is often said that successful politicians need a vision, and Dave certainly had a vision to improve the social housing, and the key part of that vision was to rebuild the Bouet, and he repeatedly expressed that. He was absolutely determined he was going to succeed, and when you look back at the size of the task, the number of people that needed to be rehoused, the cost of rebuild, you realise what his focused determination achieved.

250 I have lost a political friend and the Island has lost a politician with the strength of character, passion and drive to achieve his ambition and his vision.

255 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Laurie Queripel.

**Deputy Laurie Queripel:** Thank you, Mr Bailiff.

260 Sir, at times like this words, however genuine or well-intended, somehow seem to be inadequate, and yet they are pretty much all we have when it comes to remembering and paying tribute to someone.

Sir, Dave was not only a valued colleague, he was also my friend and my next-door neighbour. On many occasions I have sat with Dave and Bonnie in their home having a bite to eat together or a cup of tea or coffee, conversing on matters political and beyond. Now, sir, I use the term 'conversing' loosely, because Dave was a larger than life, gregarious character with a great sense of humour, and when he got going he did not leave many gaps, so you had to pick your moment to make a contribution to the conversation, because he was so enthused and so passionate about the issues, and so committed to the wellbeing of Guernsey and its people.

270 It is true to say, as others have said, we did not always agree on all the issues, but that did not matter to Dave. In my experience, he did not do the personality stuff; he was unfailingly friendly, helpful and encouraging towards me, and that was the case from day one, probably 10 or so years ago. He would see that I had written a letter to the *Press* and he would take the trouble to contact me to say 'well done' and to encourage me, especially, of course, if I mentioned the EU.

275 The last time I spoke with him – I am so grateful I saw him a couple of times in the week or so before he passed away – he was clearly very ill. He was clearly very poorly, but his spirit shone through. He was still keen to talk about the issues, and that great sense of humour was still intact. We had a couple of really good chats together, and we laughed together. He was still encouraging; he was still backing and supporting me. That was the stature, the courage and the character of Deputy Dave Jones from day one, until the last time he spoke to me, he was always encouraging and supporting me.

280 Dave was a *tour de force*, whether he was speaking in his lounge, at a Deputy surgery or in this Chamber. What he brought to the States was unique, powerful and effective, and the long service he gave to this Island was immense and wholehearted.

I said a few moments ago that words are all we have at a time like this, but there are a few other things that we can do. As I said, Dave was a one off; he will leave a space that cannot be

285 filled, but as States' Members we can honour his memory by remembering him and being inspired by him.

We can also send our love and heartfelt condolences to Bonnie, Nathan and Emma, and all of Dave's family. We can thank them for the loving and dedicated way that they cared for him. It meant a great deal to Dave to be in the comfort of his own home during his illness. We can thank 290 them because they supported him throughout his political career, and he was so grateful for that.

Sir, Dave has left a positive and deep abiding impression on the States and the community of Guernsey, and I am privileged to have known him.

Thank you, sir.

295 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Lester Queripel.

**Deputy Lester Queripel:** Sir, seeing as I am a poet, I did try on several occasions to write a poem about Deputy Dave Jones to recite in the Chamber today, but I am afraid I just could not do it, so hopefully in the future I might be able to.

300 So what I thought I would do instead is relate the story of the time Dave and I were guests on the *BBC Guernsey Sunday Phone-In*, just after the Elections in 2012. Dave, of course, had been a guest on the *Phone-In* on several occasions, but for me it was my first time and I was absolutely petrified, just as Deputy Stephens said she was when she was on the *Phone-In*.

I told Dave that just before we went on air and he put a reassuring hand on my shoulder and 305 he said, 'Lester, I know you well enough to know that you are an honest man, so just be yourself. Don't pretend to know the answer to a question if you don't. If I see you struggling I will do my best to help you by passing you a note with information on it that might just help you to answer the question, and if you get an awkward customer I will simply interject and say, "Now look, Lester is a new Deputy. He has only just been elected. You cannot expect him to know the answer to every question" and I have been a Deputy for years and even I do not know the answer to every 310 question.'

That is what he did all the way through the *Phone-In*. He helped to relax, he gave me confidence and I felt safe in the knowledge that he was there to help me should I find myself floundering. In fact, I actually ended up quite enjoying being a guest on the *Phone-In* because of 315 his support. That is the kind of man he was. He was always there to offer guidance and support. He cared about people. He built them up and gave them confidence. It was Mark Twain who once said, 'It is a small-minded person who makes you feel small, but it is a truly great person who makes you feel as though you can also become great.'

That captures the spirit of Deputy Dave Jones perfectly, in my view: a big man with a big heart. 320 He never made anyone feel inferior and never talked down to anyone. Even when he and I had disagreements in the previous Assembly, he always listened to my point and not once did he try to discredit or belittle me. He always treated me as an equal, and I really appreciated that.

Yes, he was taken from us at far too young an age, but today as well as mourning his passing we should also celebrate his life, celebrate his legacy and all that he did for the people of 325 Guernsey.

Sir, in closing, I would just like to say that one of the greatest gifts that anyone can give to somebody else is their time. Deputy Jones had time for everyone. He treated everyone as equal and, above all, he valued everyone and of course being valued means so much to us all.

Sir, Deputy Dave Jones may have left the building, but he will never leave our hearts.

330 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Fallaize.

**Deputy Fallaize:** Thank you, sir, and thank you for convening this meeting.

I join those who offer their condolences to Dave's family.

335 Dave was a humorous man and had many interesting quotes and quips. Often he used to say to the States, 'I started life with nothing and I have still got most of it!' (*Laughter*) Which did sort of sum up his start in life, as Deputy Trott said in paying tribute to him at his funeral earlier this afternoon. He had an incredible life story, taken into care, a Barnardo's boy, a digger driver and then of course a States' Member, and ultimately the longest serving member of the Policy Council.

340 I first got to know Dave well when I was a very young *Press* reporter and he was in his first term in the States. He made his mark initially because of his interest in social housing, I think that was probably what, more than anything else, drew him into the States. Many of the ideas he came into the States with ended up as the Corporate Housing Programme.

345 Another way in which he made his mark was that he was the sort of critic-in-chief of the old Board of Administration. You have to picture this, for Members who were not Members at the time, the Board of Administration was led by Roger Berry, sort of elder statesman of the States, he had been in the States for 30 years and represented the sort of political establishment, and Dave was the new boy and was a really very fierce critic of the Board of Administration.

350 One day there was a difference of opinion between the Board of Administration and Dave, over what I cannot remember, but he said something in the States which the board obviously took exception to. We received a letter at the *Press* on behalf of the board signed by its President, Roger Berry OBE. The following day we received another one from Dave Jones, putting his side of the story, signed Dave Jones JCB! (*Laughter*) That sort of captured his sense of humour and his irreverence, which I think helped him considerably in politics, and his pride in where he had come from and what he had overcome.

355 I worked with Deputy Jones on a number of amendments and requêtes. We agreed, probably, on more than either of us often acknowledged. We did also have some quite fierce political disagreements, but it was certainly true of Deputy Jones that the argument always stopped at the door. It was possible to sit down with him over a coffee or have lunch with him. There were several occasions when – I was going to say we would rip shreds out of each other in the States, but normally it was him ripping shreds out of me and then he would come down those steps and say, 'Let's go and get a coffee, or do you want to come for lunch?' Of course, to him, I was the sort of sandal-wearing, soya-milk drinking, *Guardian*-reading, liberal, (*Laughter*) but he did always leave political disagreements at the door of the States' Chamber, and he was an exemplar in that respect. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.)

365 I want to say a word about his popularity, because I think he had a unique popularity in Guernsey among politicians. He, unusually, became more popular the more he was in the States. Now, normally the reverse is true, but the reason for this, I think, was that he did have a common touch in the way that no other States' Member did. He was able to speak for, and to articulate the views of, a particular, quite large, strand of Guernsey society, in a way that nobody else was. He leaves behind as a legacy, obviously, his work with social housing and, as many people have said, his passion for the underdog. Although he was, or certainly became, quite fiscally conservative, he never lost his passion for social welfare and for the underdog.

370 He was steadfast; he was fierce in putting arguments in the States. He was also much more astute than many people often gave him credit for, and that is how I shall remember him. He will for very many years to come be remembered as a great States' Member and a great adopted Guernseyman.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Prow.

380 **Deputy Prow:** Mr Bailiff, may I also thank you for the opportunity to pay a tribute to Deputy Dave Jones.

As you are all aware, I am a newly elected Member of this Chamber and I therefore only had a very short time to have the honour to sit in the States in the company of this great man. For me, 5th July 2016 is in my book the worst States' day ever.

385 I came to know Dave well, not as a Deputy, but in my former role as a public servant with Customs & Immigration. This came about during his very successful 12-year period which has been well outlined today, as Minister for Housing, and due to the interaction between that service and the Housing Department.

390 Although many in this Assembly knew him better than I did, I felt we had become friends over those years. How do I know that? It is because he, as he did with many others, would greet me with the words, 'Hello, my friend.' When he did I felt a foot taller and I believed I could take on the world. He was inspirational, funny and full of courage in his passion for our Island. It is a measure of the man that in the cut and thrust of Government he was so well thought of by his Civil Service staff.

395 In my tribute I would like to quote some views of his senior housing team who worked even closer with him than I did. They said this:

'Deputy Dave Jones was passionate about making the lives of some of the Island's most vulnerable residents better, and his humble beginnings gave him a unique perspective. He would often play devil's advocate when it came to policy development, and this was his way of ensuring the policy position being proposed would stand up to scrutiny. I am sure that many Civil Service colleagues would confirm that Dave could give a verbal grilling that left one reeling, and then give a wink and a pat on the back, and turn the conversation to how well his beloved Ferrari team had fought the last Formula One. He made sure that even after the most heated discussion the meeting did not end on a sour note.'

'Everybody knows that Deputy Dave Jones was a people person, and this filtered through his work as a Minister. He would tour the office regularly, often so that he could tell his latest joke to a captive audience. And the team felt they had personal contact with him.'

'He would remember that person had just come back from maternity leave, or the person had been on a big holiday and spare them a minute to check in with them.'

'When it snowed he would call up the office early to see if anybody needed a lift to work, and he would press his four by four into action and bring people in and get them home safely at the end of this day, which was also another way of ensuring a captive audience for the odd joke or a funny anecdote.'

The team who worked closely with Dave will remember him fondly and always with a smile. That tells us all we need to know about the man whose kind heart matched the size of his personality.

400 Deputy Dave Jones, you are a Guernsey legend.  
Thank you, sir.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Ferbrache.

405 **Deputy Ferbrache:** Sir, there are two words that sum up Dave Jones: he was unique and he was special.

We have heard in the magnificent tributes that were given by Lyndon Trott and Graham Guille much about his background, and the Bailiff also touched upon it. Look at what we have all had, if we are fortunate, young children, young grandchildren. This two or three-year-old was left in a basement with his sister and abandoned by his mother. He rose from that to the zenith that he reached at the end of his life. That is why we are paying tribute to him today.

415 When I stood outside the Vale Church as we were waiting for people to come out, I looked at the grave stones. You had a Collas, you had a Dorey, you had a Brehaut. Jones was every much a Guernseyman as the Collas's, the Brehauts, the Ferbraches and the Le Pages. He proved that abundantly and time after time.

Now, he was unique in the sense that I have been very fortunate to meet so many interesting people in my life; I have never met anybody more interesting than Dave. He was a man for all

seasons really and I described him recently as this, because I first knew him – and the Bailiff referred to his early sort of pre-political career, and his interest in so many things – when I used to be, before I first entered the States in 1994, a presenter for eight to ten years, for about three months a year, of the *Phone-In* that various other people have referred to. Dave phoned up nearly every time I was on and somebody said to sum him up: I said, 'Exactly as he was as a States' Member: impossible, opinionated, abrasive, and magnificent,' and that was Dave really.

Then when I became a States' Member, but before then my day job was as an advocate for many years, and Dave would call me Foxy, and we always went through the same tradition, my secretary Jeanette would say, 'That lovely man, Dave Jones, is on the phone again.' I thought, 'My goodness, what does he want?'

He would come through and he would say, 'Foxy, how much money have you made this week?' (*Laughter*) and I would say, 'Not enough!' 'Well,' he said, 'you are going to make less from going on because Mr X or Mrs Y needs you.' I said, 'Dave, I am really busy. Some of my partners are counting paperclips, others are on their boats to Herm, they are all doing other things.' 'Well, Foxy I am sorry, you are going to have to do this,' and within five minutes I was doing it, I was seeing Mr X or Mrs Y, and those people were people that needed help. Dave would give them help, but when they needed – perhaps legal help – he would occasionally – *more than occasionally!* – send them my way.

From 1994 to 2000 when I was in my first term in the States, Dave would phone me up and he would say, 'Foxy, you are not doing it very well, you really should be doing this, you should be doing that.' I said, 'Well, Dave, perhaps, you should stand for the States and do it better.' Well, in 2000 he did stand for the States and for the next 16 years, he did it a lot of better!

One of the things that was said of Dave was that – because there was the problem with ... somebody else has referred to the social housing interests which he had. I remember when, as I was leaving the States, he was coming in and people saying, 'Oh well, all these people have failed because the States had abjectly failed.' They abjectly failed in lots of things, but they abjectly failed over a number of years to deal with social housing. Dave came in and we have heard he is a digger driver, but a self-deprecating digger driver, and no digger driver has ever had more intelligence than Dave Jones. Dave only had one gear, I think, in his digger because it could only go forward. By going forward and by crushing the civil servants, crushing the politicians and crushing anybody else he needed to crush, social housing was improved vastly in his tenure. So there are lots of people living in Guernsey now that have a home of quality that Dave Jones effectively provided.

Some of the more elderly people in this Assembly and this room – and there are quite a few – will recollect the *That Was the Week That Was* sketch where you had little Ronnie Corbett, who was a working class man, who looked up to Ronnie Barker, who was the middle class man, who looked up to the tall John Cleese, who was the upper class man and, of course, Barker looked down on Corbett, and Cleese looked down on both of them. Well, the analogy I have got in relation to that with class is that Dave had more class than anyone put together, than all of those; he soared above all of that because he was a man of sterling worth, and by that I do not mean money because money never interested Dave. Dave was a person who was just interested in doing well for people.

You could have 10 arguments with Dave; you were lucky if you won two. But what he told me was, and he referred to his abject military service, it did not suit him; and, knowing him, one can see why: who was he going to take orders from? Some boneheaded Second Lieutenant who had just come out of Sandhurst, when Dave had lived the life that he had led? But Dave said, 'figuratively', he said, 'I used to stand to attention when I had an argument with Bonnie, because I never won one with her!' (*Laughter*)

So that was Dave for you, that was the man that we treasure and we will miss, and therefore we come back to this very special person. I once said – and John Gollop reminded me just before – that he should have been a Chief Minister. I was not saying that tongue in cheek; I was saying it sincerely, because he had the qualities of that office. You do not have to be posh, you do not have

470 to go to Oxford, you do not have to have 'ologies'; you just need to have common sense, decency and purpose, and Dave had all of those.

Again, in the course of the speeches that we have heard so far, we have heard two things, the two policies that were specifically referred to: Island-wide voting – well we have got that, hopefully we will not have the referendum, but we have got that; and the EU. I bet Dave was  
475 cheering from his armchair in relation to that. So he should, because that was something that we know he bore as a matter of interest for many years.

Now, the last thing that we sang at Vale Church was that late 19th century Hymn, I Vow To Thee My Country. Well, Dave vowed to this, his Island, because as I said earlier and I conclude by saying, he was as much a Guernsey person as any of us.

480 Thank you very much, sir.

**The Bailiff:** Alderney Representative Jean.

**Alderney Representative Jean:** Thank you, sir.

485 As I pay tribute to the late Dave Jones and send my best wishes to his family, as you know, the Alderney States wishes to be included here today – and my colleague.

My many memories of Dave include walking up the Main Street in Alderney with him introducing him to local people, and Dave took to Alderney well. But that is not all of the picture. Dave began work with Alderney in mind, even before he became a Deputy.

490 The Status Quo Group was previously mentioned. Dave contacted me and I met people straight away, like the later to become Deputy Graham Guille and many other people who were in that Status Quo Group at the time. I was here as a representative, Alderney Rep, in this Assembly, and the battle was fought to save the office of Conseiller. Perhaps I put it the wrong way, and perhaps we should talk about it as Island-wide voting.

495 Dave wanted to have a meeting in Alderney. I organised the venue. Dave and Graham Guille came over, and they were with me there and explained the situation to Alderney's population. That was the start of 'Dave Jones for Alderney'. Dave Jones for Alderney was there with the Housing Association, in later years, as they came into Alderney. I know that Dave was there. I know that Dave was steering the Guernsey Housing Association into Alderney for the benefits that  
500 it could offer in bringing a better standard of accommodation for people in Alderney through the Housing Association. He worked even with Alderney's interests in mind.

In my written tribute, I wrote about an old Marty Robbins song that Dave was teaching me the words to as we rode around Guernsey – as we made our way around, me and Dave. There were two subjects there: one was this song on the radio which we both liked, and I had never heard  
505 before so I was fairly alert to it; the other subject that was talked about a lot, as Dave was feeling quite happy on that drive, was his abiding joy and love of Guernsey, and his love of Guernsey people and what being in Guernsey meant to Dave. By that time he had become a Deputy, when this was going on, and he was very proud to be committed to Guernsey and Alderney, and he was a true friend.

510 There was one particular line in that song that I remember now, they were cutting out a horse in a corral and the line that I remember of the song which really tickled me, and I know it amused Dave, was that the guy who was cutting the horse out of the corral had picked a good one and he knew it could run. What I am saying is that when Dave came into politics he picked a good one, to do for the people of Guernsey. He knew it could run and my goodness he made it run.

515 Good for Dave Jones! I am proud for 20 years that he was my friend and I am proud of the people that I have met through Dave Jones. One of those people was Barry Paint, who I met 20 years ago, opposite Dave's house. We started talking. It was beginning to get dark; in the end I couldn't see Barry any more, but what a lovely conversation we all had together. That was Dave Jones for me: quintessentially, friend to my family. Through him, I met his lovely family whom I  
520 adore and I just say I am sorry he is gone, but I will always remember him and always remember the contribution he made to Guernsey, and to Alderney.

Thank you for letting me have my say, sir.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Soulsby.

525 **Deputy Soulsby:** Deputy Dave Jones – Dave – he was larger than life and someone I was glad to have known. I will miss his speeches, for a start. When even if you were on the wrong side of what he had to say he was always entertaining. He was an absolute natural. He was also a big, tough character and, hearing Deputy Trott's speech in those tributes at the church earlier today, it is probably no surprise why that is.

530 I felt his wrath when I had the temerity to question what his Housing Department were doing. I could feel – even when he wasn't very well, through his emails – this fire eating dragon coming at me: 'How dare you!' But he was someone you would rather have with you than against you. That was politics, it was not personal.

535 He was one of the kindest and most thoughtful people I have ever known. He was incredibly supportive when I first joined the States and took on, what back then was considered to be the poisoned chalice, Public Accounts Committee. And talking about *Phone-Ins*, which seems to have come up quite a lot today, I did my first *Phone-in* with Dave and he was incredibly supportive then, and I could watch him and I felt like I was learning from a master, and it held me in good stead for the future.

540 He was the first person to contact me after I had a slight altercation with a car whilst on my bike, and I think when he saw the picture in the paper, he was absolutely horrified and he was the first one to actually contact me to find out how I was. He was genuinely concerned and continued to be so.

545 On a regular basis he kept telling me 'Look after yourself, girl!' It was always 'girl'. I loved it! The last time I saw him, just a month ago when he was clearly not well, he told me, 'Be careful on that bike, girl, you 'ear me! He was always caring about other people. He had this big bluff exterior, but underneath he was a teddy bear, and I really will miss him.

550 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Gollop.

**Deputy Gollop:** Deputy Soulsby is absolutely right, Deputy Jones was very avuncular and paternalistic to States' Members, including new Members, and we all knew him ... actually I would say the last year, but actually for many years, Deputy Jones struggled against not brilliant health. 555 He suffered from emphysema, for example, and certainly did not like us smokers smoking around him. But he would always enquire after our health and would very much be hoping I was looking after myself, eating properly and looking after myself, and that was very much the case.

I too recall his era at Housing. I sat on his board, and it was a board of strong characters; we had Deputy Brehaut and Deputy Dorey amongst our team. I remember once when Deputy Jones was present and he enquired and Deputy Dorey apologised, he said, 'I have only read all the papers once today rather than twice'. Deputy Jones and Deputy Dorey made a great team; as he did, of course, with his Chief Officer, Dr Steven Langford.

560 I think we all know – and Deputy Trott is nodding at me here – that occasionally in the States we have seen dynamic teams where a Chief Officer or secretary has worked brilliantly with a leading politician. That was true of Deputy Berry and perhaps Mr Kirkpatrick. It was also true of Deputy Jones and Steven Langford. Their housing legacy is considerable.

565 Much has already been said about general issues, but his development of extra care at Rosaire and the other developments of the former perhaps rather old-fashioned older persons homes, was a visionary stroke. Indeed, Deputy Jones was reluctant initially to let the old homes go, because he knew how loved they were in the community, but he had the vision to do so, and some of us today have benefited from the extra care vision. But also he was at the forefront, not just of the demolition jobs that were referred to, but of energy efficiency in properties, of really high quality bungalows for the elderly.



Also work with the Youth Housing Project, he covered a very wide area of ground, and I think the legacy of housing on many levels will be a great testament. Unusually perhaps in our system he had the time to develop an office, because he was in the same political job really for 12 years.

Deputy Fallaize has touched on his popularity, I think what was very noticeable about that was that he was perhaps the only politician, with the arguable exception of the Queripel brothers, who regularly got a good press on *Your Shout* and *This is Guernsey*, because he was extremely, highly, respected – a kind of person that perhaps few of us reach.

On a day when we perhaps celebrate the second woman Prime Minister taking office in Westminster, there was equality in one respect that Deputy Jones shared with Baroness Thatcher, and that was he could be both a leader of Government for many years and also like a leader of the Opposition; because although he was loyal to five, perhaps six, Chief Ministers he also very much maintained his own position.

A reference was made to his initial challenge to the title of the era Conseiller Roger Berry who was President of the Board of Administration, I recall that Deputy Jones had the gall to challenge the President for his job, and got 21 votes, which would nowadays get you the presidency, (*Laughter*) but in those days it was a bigger Assembly.

But I mention that not just because it is a boy and 'anoraky' kind of thing to say, but when one looks back at the Board of Administration and what it stood for, it was a managerial body that really controlled the more trading and corporate side of the States, and included within its significant empire: the Ports, States' Works, the Harbour, the Airport, Alderney issues and Waste Policy, which we mentioned Deputy Jones had an interest in. Deputy Jones' final political role was effectively chairing the Board of Administration, so he certainly achieved his destiny in many respects.

I would refer back to his written wisdom, because at board meetings, they were sometimes quite long, but he blamed me for that, and would sometimes say – perhaps ironically today – that he was 'losing the will to live' as we went on to the fifth hour of debate! (*Laughter*)

But he did have these wonderful expressions. One of them I remember, because he was not a huge fan of perhaps, the recruitment and retention side of the States in every respect; he used to call Human Resources 'Human Remains'! (*Laughter*) Another expression that he liked: when we got frequently a rather unsatisfactory letter from perhaps Treasury & Resources or perhaps Commerce & Employment he would say, 'It is what it is', which I always think was a philosophical way of not wanting everything to be redrafted and corrected and responded to, but just to accept there are limitations to the process on occasion.

Most of the time we got on personally; politically, of course, we had our differences, because he did not share a love of European bureaucracy. He did not believe ordinary people should be taxed more and he very much objected when I implied that motorists should be cash cows, so we had a load of badinage on that level; but nevertheless he was extremely helpful and if you had a personal or political crisis, whether it be with difficult housing cases or tenants or perhaps a media relationship or whatever, he would be very much there to advise and help and assist.

As I say, he had a genuine concern about people and how they were. He was intolerant of bureaucracy where parties had had a raw deal, and I think that very much came across in his mission. He had a vision. He was a friend; we knew each other before the States' era. Of course we heard a moving tribute from Graham Guille today, who served as a Deputy and a Deputy Minister. Both Mr Guille and Dave Jones were members of the Guernsey Association Committee and, of course, we occasionally resigned and got back together again and all that kind of thing, but back in the 1980's, Dave Jones had an enormous commitment to Islanders and helping their welfare. Of course one of the issues within the Guernsey Association was not just protection of the Guernsey environment, but was trying to reform the Housing Law and ensure that local people, even those with an armed forces background, had a right of return, but to stem an unnecessary flow of excessive migration, which would affect local people's living standards and housing options. I think in many ways Deputy Jones achieved that too, as he was particularly influential on Deputy

625 Trott's Policy Council and its successors, relating to the Population and Migration and Housing Law.

So there are certainly many areas to remember Deputy Jones and I will close with one story. We have heard a lot of his past today, but he only occasionally referred to it, except perhaps to close friends. I remember once he was giving me a lift home from a meeting and I referred to his experiences as an orphan. He said, 'How did you know that? Who has been gossiping to you?' I said, 'Well, you said it on *Radio Guernsey* yesterday (*Laughter*) and in the *Press* last week.' He said, 'Oh, well, yes, you know'.

But I know occasionally he would be a little bit naughty, I suspect, and he would sometimes drop a rumour about perhaps a job that he was seeking, like perhaps a quixotic attack on the Health & Social Services Ministry or something like that, and he would tell me, 'It is in strict confidence. Don't tell anyone, John,' and of course that was the way he wanted the information to get around! (*Laughter*)

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Graham.

640 **Deputy Graham:** Sir, I will be brief, but there are only two infantry soldiers left in the Assembly now. Alderney Representative McKinley and I. Dave was the third one, we do not have him anymore. I ought perhaps briefly to comment about Dave's military career, which has been rather glossed over today – (*Laughter*) because, frankly, it was a disaster! (*Laughter*) But, because we shared the sort of band of brotherhood which infantry soldiers have, he was very forthcoming to me when I went to see him earlier on this year at home and I think there are things that he said to me that he would like me to share with you now.

First of all, it was a disaster; it came at a troubled time in his life and really it was a rock meeting a hard place in terms of the Army and Dave Jones. I can understand why it went pear shaped. Although I have to say that I have, in my career, seen young men come from similar backgrounds for whom it has been the making of them. For Dave it was almost the breaking of him.

But he was always in trouble – very often inside. In fact, we did discover that we both shared the distinction of having been placed in close arrest in our young soldier-hood: me just the once, and Dave several times! (*Laughter*) But he did say that although it had been a bad experience for him, it did effectively give him a kick up somewhere behind him, and that it had really been a make or break time for him, from which he did benefit, and I am so, so glad about that.

The end of that particular little story happened here just a few weeks ago, when Dave was in the States for the very last time, as it proved to be, and he turned to me and he said, 'It's a bit rum isn't it, here's you, the Colonel, the brand new Deputy, here's me the ex-private, you know, the experienced politician!' He said, 'Don't forget who the rookie is!' (*Laughter*) He said, 'Just think ... back in those days when I was a young officer at the time that he was a young soldier, but in different regiments.' 'Chances are, knowing what I was like,' he said, 'if I had been in your platoon I would probably have finished up punching you!' So I said, 'Dave, knowing what I was like then, I would probably have hit you back!' (*Laughter*) He said, 'Well, if I don't make it, you can tell them that.' Well, he didn't make it, so I will tell you that now.

While I am on my feet, it has been mentioned about his popularity. I think there was another strand to this too, that we have not talked about. He was very conscious, in a way, of being an adopted Guernseyman. In other words, he was an Englishman who came here and, rather like me, fell for a local girl, married her and, sort of mad about the girl, became mad about the place, warts and all.

That, I think, was the secret of Dave, and he did discuss this with me at some length. He thought the secret as an Englishman making a contribution in Guernsey was to never let it be forgotten that you knew, in yourself, that Guernsey had managed for 800 years as a Crown Dependency without you, you had not come here to save Guernsey from itself and it remained a privilege to live here. I think that was one of the secrets of Dave's survival as a popular politician. It

is certainly a lesson that I take to heart and I think he set a brilliant example in that, and I intend to try and follow it.

680 **The Bailiff:** Deputy Le Tocq.

**Deputy Le Tocq:** Thank you, sir.

Thank you for this opportunity to pay tribute to the late Deputy Dave Jones.

685 Sir, Members will have noted that whenever some remembrance or story or anecdote is told regarding Deputy Jones that it is greeted either with laughter or with at least a wry smile, and I think that is a rare attribute these days – that we can say even when we disagreed with Dave, he would make his point very clear, but at the same time pepper it with humour. That is a lesson that I hope we can all learn, because it helped to remember the point he was making, even if you disagreed with it at the time.

690 Sir, I entered into this Assembly at the same time as Deputy Jones and Deputy Trott and others, in 2000, and I did not know Dave that well at the time and he did not know me, and it would have been very easy for us to have misjudged each other on that basis. Two of my enduring and endearing memories of him come from the very first few weeks and months of our time in this Assembly, when I was getting to know him and he was getting to know me.

695 The first is: we were at an introduction meeting – that was pretty rare in those days, but it was arranged by the then Advisory & Finance Committee and the Board of Administration – to introduce, I think, the nine of us who were brand new States' Members to the things of State at the time. A presentation was made in a fairly informal setting at St Charles Frossard House by the Presidents of these two august Committees, and it was fairly, one could say, anodyne and low level in terms of its presentation.

700 At the end there was an opportunity for questions. Not many of us, being sort of rather rabbits in headlights at the time, had any questions to ask, but Deputy Jones took that as an opportunity to ask many, many questions. The first set of questions was around Dawn, now Baroness, Primarolo's then Chairmanship of the dreaded Code of Conduct Group set up, established by the European Commission's Committee or Council for Economic and Financial Affairs; and he went  
705 hammer and tongs at the two Presidents, asking detailed questions about this group and its threat to Guernsey, leaving all of us in complete amazement that he knew so much detail.

Well, literally it was all of us, sir, because it included the two Presidents, who could not answer his questions without calling down a civil servant, who was not present in the room at the time, to help. I came away from that thinking, my goodness this digger driver really knows a few things.  
710 He had done his research. He was surprising in that way.

A few months later, Dave overheard a conversation that I was having with my parents, who were then approaching their 90th birthdays and were living in their cottage, which was somewhat in need of repair; and at that time, without going in to great detail, they had just received a  
715 quarterly water bill of several thousand, indicating that there was a leak in the pipe that went up their driveway from the road via and across old derelict greenhouses and things. It was going to cost several thousand pounds to fix – money that they did not have, and that my wife and I certainly did not have at the time, and we did not know quite what we were going to do.

He overheard this conversation that I was having on the phone and he offered afterwards his  
720 services. So it transpired that one Saturday afternoon he turned up at my parents' house driving a digger, and instead of having to find the leak, we laid a completely new trench which he dug, and laid a new pipe saving thousands of pounds. He was a man of extremes. He could show exceeding compassion to the ordinary person. He did not want any payment for it. He had it within his grasp to take an interest in matters of external affairs, of great intricate detail and yet also be a man of  
725 the people, as has been indicated by other stories.

Those are two things that come to my mind today when I think of Dave and I hope that they will be the characteristics that all of us who end up with a seat in this Assembly aspire to: to be people who can relate to the ordinary people in Guernsey in need, as individuals, but also people

that take an interest in the needs of State that increasingly dominates our future, and the decisions that we have to make which require us to do the research that Dave was often very concerned and very keen to do himself.

Thank you, sir.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Brehaut.

**Deputy Brehaut:** Thank you, sir.

Quite frequently, we see very old married couples in the paper together, and usually it says they were married for 60 years with not a cross word between them, and you see the woman on the sofa just looking sideways at the partner, (*Laughter*) just wondering whether that was the case. Perhaps that sums my relation up with Dave, because Deputy Barry Paint used a lovely Guernseyism before, which is, 'we fell out but we never disagreed'. Dave and I fell out and we pretty much disagreed! I would open the curtains of a morning and think, 'Oh right, the cat's back home after his night out. Open the curtains. The sun is shining and you've had a disagreement with Dave Jones on Twitter. All's well in the World!' because that was the character that Dave was.

Actually, Dave and I joined politics pretty much at the same time, because Dave was elected politically into this Assembly, I had lost out in an election but I was invited to join the then Housing Department, Housing Authority as it was. Dave joined me. I remember my first Housing Authority meeting, he shook my hand, which was my first referral to the fracture clinic! (*Laughter*) He then gave me a hug and said 'Look, Baz, I'll look after you. I'll have you under my wing for the next four years.' I have to say it probably felt more like a half nelson in that brief moment, but that is the character that Dave was. He was an extremely loyal person, a loyal friend, and generally, we disagreed that black was white and generally, I have to say, not agree that colours were entirely necessary.

Now, I remember also, when we had one of our first presentations on the new Bouet development and a very timid designer from the UK unveiled the existing digi-map picture of the Bouet, and Dave said, 'I know what it looks like. When do we start bombing?' which went down quite well. Then this rather timid designer, throughout the presentation, referred to the Bouet as the Boet and we had to restrain Dave for the remainder of that meeting.

This room will recall lots of 'Daveisms'. Dave did exactly what he said on the tin, which was one of Dave's favourites; but my personal favourite was when Dave would say, 'There are only two groups of people in this room that know what is happening here: the Committee sponsoring it and a small tribe in the Amazon Basin; but nobody other than that knows what it is about!'

I stand here today as a grey suited man. Dave has left this Assembly as an absolute institution. Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** I see no one else – Oh, Deputy Langlois, and then I will invite Deputy Trott to close these tributes.

Deputy Langlois.

**Deputy Langlois:** Thank you.

The Housing Department, with which Deputy Dave Jones became virtually synonymous, is no more. Its function is now divided between three of our new Committees. One function, the provision of affordable housing, comes within the mandate of the Committee for Employment & Social Security. The President, Deputy Le Clerc, is unable to be with us here today, but asked me to say a few words on Dave's contribution.

He was a member of the States' Housing Authority and its successor Department for 16 years, from 2000 until the spring of this year, including a period as Vice-President under Bernard Flouquet, then as a Minister from 2004. What is often forgotten today is that Housing was the election issue in 2000, and Dave became politically identified with the call to do something about the housing crisis.

Impatient to a fault, on his first day as a States' Member he submitted a requête requiring the Housing Authority to report back within months on what would be adopted a few years later, as the Housing Strategy and the Corporate Housing Programme. That is hitting the ground running. It inevitably makes me, and I am sure a few other politicians, feel rather inadequate. The requête having been submitted and approved, Dave was subsequently elected onto the board of the Housing Authority, of which he had been so critical.

The undertaking of regular housing needs surveys, the establishment of the Guernsey Housing Association, the institution of partial ownership, the introduction of extra care housing, and the modernisation and refurbishment of the States' housing stock, and the reform of the States' House Rents and Rent Rebate Scheme were all conceived and undertaken while Dave was a member of the board, many of them while he was a political leader.

Today, there are literally thousands of households whose quality of life has been objectively and demonstrably improved because of Dave's drive. I asked two of Dave's long-term serving officers for information, and it is telling that half of what they provided me with related to Dave's personality, his stories and his relationship with them, founded on mutual respect. Dave did not take all the credit for important developments under his watch, always making a point of crediting his staff for their efforts in designing and implementing the changes he so passionately and determinedly championed politically.

After the last Election when he knew that Deputy Le Clerc, as President of the Committee for Employment & Social Security, would be responsible for affordable housing, he said to her, 'Make sure you look after it for me.' That says a lot about the type of person he was: loyal, fiercely protective and ever so slightly intimidating! *(Laughter)*

Thank you.

**The Bailiff:** Deputy Trott.

**Deputy Trott:** Thank you, sir.

Sir, I doubt there are any superlatives left, following the tribute that this Assembly has given to Deputy Jones this afternoon. But, I shall start, if I may, by repeating one or two of them.

Deputy Stephens described him as 'fearless and fun'; Deputy Laurie Queripel as 'unique, powerful and effective'; Deputy Fallaize says that he 'had a unique popularity and was very astute'; Alderney Representative Louis Jean reminded us of his Bailiwick reach and that he was as popular in Alderney as he was here in Guernsey; Deputy Ferbrache says he has never met a more interesting man, 'abrasive and magnificent' in the same sentence often, 'full of class and as much a Guernseyman as anyone'; Deputy Prow said that he was 'a Guernsey legend' and was a 'people person always keen to tell his latest joke'.

I was the butt of those jokes on a number of occasions! It was part of his incredible charm. I think it was known, sir, that he was a supporter of mine, but he once told me that he believed no one had a higher opinion of me than him, and he said, 'I think you're third rate!' *(Laughter)*

He had a great way of levelling people. But I mean his wit was boundless, wasn't it. I mean, he once said, I think it was in this Assembly – and if it was not in this Assembly, it was certainly on the radio – he said that, 'Bonnie,' his wife, 'often complains. I do not listen to her,' or something like that. *(Laughter)*

Sir, I think this is a fitting way to end because Dave would want to be remembered for the Corporate Housing Programme and for the way he engaged, not only with us as elected officials but also with civil servants; Deputy Gollop referred to dynamic teams and Deputy Jones' relationship with Dr Stephen Langford. Now, Dr Stephen Langford is in this Assembly today and I am sure Stephen will agree with me that this captures Dave's charm, his wit, his style perfectly.

Dave had a great affection for Dr Stephen Langford who, as I say, was his Chief Officer at Housing for many years. He described him as 'a great advisor' and he honestly believed that he 'would not have made anywhere near as many political mistakes without his support!' *(Laughter)*

That, sir, in a nutshell, was our friend Deputy Dave Jones.

**The Bailiff:** Members of the States, will you please now join me in standing for a moment in tribute to Deputy Jones.

*Members stood in silence.*

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**The Bailiff:** Members, thank you very much.

As Dave might have said, *à la perchoine*.

Greffier, if you would close the meeting, please.

*The Assembly adjourned at 4.26 p.m.*