

TRIBUTE TO BE PAID TO HER LATE MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II –
PRESIDENT, POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE –
AT A MEETING OF THE STATES OF DELIBERATION ON 9th
SEPTEMBER, 2022

Thank you Sir.

As you said, this meeting of the States of Deliberation is convened to mark the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Second. Of course, I am saddened that Her Majesty has died, but am honoured to be asked to pay tribute to her in this assembly. My speech will be quite short, but in it I will refer to the length of Guernsey's links to the Crown, the length of Her Late Majesty's life and the length of her reign. I will also touch on the depth of feeling in this Island for the Crown as an institution and for Her Majesty The Queen as an exemplar of duty and devotion to public service.

The constitutional links between Guernsey and the Crown date back nearly a thousand years and pre-date, by hundreds of years, the Act of Union in 1707 which created the United Kingdom. Guernsey is a dependency of the Crown. We owe allegiance to the monarch in his or her capacity as successor to the Dukes of Normandy. It is through this link that we have developed the strong relationship with the UK that exists today. Our proud ties date back to the ever-familiar date of 1066 when William the Conqueror added the Crown of England to his existing possessions. In 2004, we celebrated 800 years that had passed since we pledged to remain loyal to King John of England when he lost continental Normandy to King Philippe Auguste of France. Others, from outside this island, might be surprised at how important our history, constitution and culture are to the people of this place. Our roots are deep and stretch back through centuries of history. Guernsey continues in its strong allegiance to the Crown as the title and responsibilities of monarch pass to Her Majesty's successor.

In the coming days we will observe many marks of respect and mourning and we will hear many well-deserved tributes to Her Majesty The Queen. We will reflect on a long life, lived with a strong and deep sense of purpose and public service. We will measure the length of our lives against a life that lasted for more than nine decades. We will perhaps reflect on our own mortality. In the case of Her Majesty, her loss will be felt by her closest family, by those who knew her well - and by those who had never met her but to whom her face, her voice and her noble qualities were instantly recognisable.

In 1947, in the speech she had made on her 21st birthday, the then Princess Elizabeth made her dedication to the people of the Commonwealth as heir to the throne. At that time, Princess Elizabeth could not have known how long and full her life would turn out to be, but her intention to devote her life to the service of her people was clear. More than 70 years later, we now know that she truly lived up to her promise.

Her Majesty had the longest reign of any monarch in British history. She acceded to the throne in February 1952, upon the death of her father King George VI. Her Late Majesty immediately took on all the responsibilities that came with her new title.

A large proportion of Guernsey's population will never have known another sovereign - Her Majesty was our monarch for most of my life. For more than 70 years, her presence as our Queen offered unchanging reassurance to many in an ever-changing world. She represented continuity, constancy and commitment to people in this Island and around the globe. It is sad, strange and unsettling to hear that Her Majesty is now lost to us.

I never had the privilege of meeting Her Majesty The Queen, but was present when Her Majesty visited the Island during her reign. I was struck by her total attention to the event. Some people from the

Bailiwick will have met Her Majesty and I am sure that they will treasure their own personal memories of those meetings. And there are those in this Island who were lucky enough to see Her Majesty during one her six visits to the Bailiwick, or at other times and places. Even people who did not meet her or see her in person had the opportunity to see images of her and to understand something of her character through the intense media coverage throughout her life. It seemed to me that she had a sincere and natural interest and curiosity about the lives, work and wellbeing of her people.

We know from all reports that Her Majesty was fond of the Bailiwick. It seems that she had a genuine personal interest in these islands.

Her Majesty embodied the monarchy and demonstrated admirable personal qualities. Her Majesty was well known for her incredibly strong sense of duty and public service. She continued to undertake official engagements until the end. I think that many people would aspire to be as devoted to charities, to their community and to improving the wellbeing of others.

Her Majesty was a figurehead for the UK, Crown Dependencies and the rest of the Commonwealth for decades – we too can strive to have a sense of purpose and meaning in our own lives.

Her Majesty was the president or patron of more than 600 charities, military associations, professional bodies and public service organisations - we can of course volunteer or donate to causes which have personal significance for us as individuals.

Her Majesty encouraged and supported achievement, and contributions to communities, through the award of honours and through events she hosted and attended – in our own way, we can each recognise and thank those who help and support us, our family or our community.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Second was an inspiration to many in her lifetime and her example can continue to inspire for long years to come.