



STATES OF DELIBERATION

9th September 2022

Death of Her Most Excellent Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second

Members of the States:

It is with profound sorrow that we meet today, following the death yesterday of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, and to which I add successor to the Dukes of Normandy.

In the early evening, the announcement was made that the Queen had died peacefully at Balmoral that afternoon.

As a consequence, His Excellency sent the following message to His Majesty The King:

We, the Lieutenant-Governor and the Bailiff of Guernsey, the Deputy Bailiff, the Royal Court and the States of Guernsey, the President and the States of Alderney, the Seigneur and the Chief Pleas of Sark, and all the people of this Bailiwick with humble duty beg leave to offer to His Majesty The King and His family our respectful and sincerest sympathy on the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, whose long and loyal reign stands as an inspiration to us all. Her Majesty will always be remembered with great affection across our islands, which she visited on six memorable occasions.

We gather to mourn the passing of our beloved Queen who reigned over us for 70 years – longer than any other Monarch in British history. Her Majesty was much loved, and respected for her sense of duty and her devotion to a life of service.

At the time of her birth in 1926 there was little expectation that the Crown would ever be placed upon her head. But that changed in 1936 on the abdication of her uncle, King Edward VIII, when she became Heiress Presumptive to the Throne following the Accession of her father, King George VI.

In 1947, whilst on tour in South Africa, the then Princess Elizabeth made a pledge in the following words: *"I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong."*

In the more than 70 years since those words were first uttered Her Majesty honoured that pledge without fail.

Her Majesty acceded to the Throne on the 6th February 1952 whilst staying at a shooting lodge in Nyeri, Kenya, following the unexpected death of King George VI. She was crowned in Westminster Abbey on the 2nd June 1953.

Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh visited the Bailiwick on six occasions.

On the occasion of their first visit in 1949, before Her Majesty had succeeded to the throne, she officially opened the new Princess Elizabeth Hospital with a silver key. Her Majesty's next visit, the first as Queen, was in 1957 when she attended a special sitting of the Court of Chief Pleas in St. George's Hall and an island gathering of over 6,000 school children at Cambridge Park.

In 1978 Her Majesty and His Royal Highness travelled to the islands on H. M. Yacht Britannia. They took a walkabout in St. Peter Port, attended a gathering of islanders at Les Buttes, St. Pierre du Bois and visited a tomato vinery.

They also travelled aboard Britannia for their visit in 1989 and that was the only occasion when the Royal Yacht berthed in St. Peter Port harbour. Again there was a walkabout in St. Peter Port. The principal function was the opening of the Queen Elizabeth II Marina. This was the last occasion when Royal visitors appeared on the balcony at the Royal Hotel. That evening Her Majesty hosted a dinner aboard Britannia.

In 2001 Her Majesty and His Royal Highness attended an island gathering at Beau Séjour and made a visit to Castle Cornet and later unveiled a plaque on the memorial stone at L'Ancrese.

Their final visit to Guernsey was in 2005 – on the 60th anniversary of our Liberation from German Occupation. The Queen and the Duke were greeted by hundreds of school children at the airport following which they attended the Liberation Day service at Beau Séjour. They then met representatives of the Occupation generation before Her Majesty unveiled a commemorative stone.

Just a few months ago we were celebrating The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The warmth and affection with which members of our community participated in events to mark such a significant milestone, unlikely to be repeated, were testament to the strength of our feelings for, and loyalty to, the Crown. It was an honour and a privilege for me to light our beacon at Castle Cornet as part of the network of beacons started that evening by Her Majesty from Windsor Castle and, on behalf of the Bailiwick, to attend both the Concert and the Pageant held outside Buckingham Palace. There was much joy and excitement towards the end of the Pageant when the Union flag atop the Palace was lowered and the Royal Standard raised, signifying that Her Majesty was in residence, and at her appearance on the balcony thereafter. A fitting end to a wonderful weekend.

Her Majesty meant so much to so many and enjoyed a long and truly remarkable life, which was rooted in her Christian faith and her devotion, loyalty and commitment to service. We join with others across the world in mourning her loss.