GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

PRESS RELEASE

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Hundreds Gather to Honour the Life of Eileene L. Parsons, OBE

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Hundreds gathered at the Multi-Purpose Sports Complex on Thursday, July 17, to pay their final respects to the late Mrs. Eileene L. Parsons, OBE, former legislator and cultural icon.

The official funeral was held at the Multi-purpose Sports Complex. The day began with a solemn procession from the House of Assembly Chamber at 8:00 a.m., followed by a pre-service at 8:30 a.m.

The funeral service commenced at 10:00 a.m., with tributes from family members, government officials, and community leaders to a life dedicated to public service, education, culture, and community. The Interment took place at the Road Town Methodist Church Cemetery. In her honour, official flags across government buildings were flown at half-mast.

On the previous day, Wednesday, July 16, Mrs. Parsons' body was laid in state at the House of Assembly Chamber, where government officials, family, friends and members of the public had the opportunity to pay their respects.

Mrs. Parsons passed away on Saturday, June 22, at the age of 94.

Premier of the Virgin Islands, Honourable Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley described her as “a trailblazer, a cultural icon, and a patriot” who “shattered barriers and opened doors for future generations of women leaders.”

Mrs. Parsons’ public career reached its height in 1995 when she was elected At-Large to the then-Legislative Council. She became the first female Government Minister as Minister for Education, Health and Welfare and also served as Deputy Chief Minister and Deputy Speaker. She championed vocational education, sports development, and women's leadership and was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 2013 for her exceptional service to the Virgin Islands.

Mrs. Parsons cultural contributions were equally significant. She was a proud defender and promoter of Virgin Islands heritage and traditions, often lending her voice, writing, and organising skills to national celebrations and historic commemorations.

The House of Assembly, in a special sitting, honoured her lasting contributions and her distinguished role as a parliamentarian and advisor.

The Government of the Virgin Islands has joined the family and people of the Territory in mourning the loss of one of its most influential daughters.

To view the official funeral programme, view here.

Gallery









