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PRESS RELEASE

May 10th, 2022

Opposition is saddened to learn of the passing of National Hero – Sybil Ione McLaughlin.

This week has started with great sadness for members of the Opposition, the Progressives family, and indeed the entire Cayman Islands. On Monday, May 9th, we learned of the passing of respected parliamentarian A. J. Miller. Today, Tuesday, May 10th, we received the sad news of the passing of beloved National Hero Ms Sybil Ione McLaughlin.

Ms Sybil, as we all knew her, was a quiet but strong Caymanian woman who broke many barriers and rose to be recognised by her country as a National Hero. She is a Caymanian of many firsts – The first Clerk of the Legislative Assembly (now Parliament); the first woman in the commonwealth to serve as a clerk in a Legislative Assembly or Parliament; and Ms Sybil was also the very first Speaker in the Legislative Assembly. Over the coming days, we will read and hear much about Ms Sybil and her remarkable life and contributions to her people and country.

So respected was she that she assisted and worked in Parliaments elsewhere. In the run-up to the 150th anniversary of parliamentary democracy in our Islands, Ms Sybil's expertise in

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parliamentary matters made her the perfect candidate to Chair the committee to plan and commemorate that momentous occasion.

“ Our Islands have been greatly blessed by her service and achievements. She was an inspiration to all and a true National Hero. Ms Sybil will be greatly missed. May her soul rest in peace, and may her memory be a blessing to all who knew her”, said The Hon Roy McTaggart; “On behalf of the Progressives, I offer deepest condolences to the family and friends of Ms Sybil.”

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