

Good Afternoon, Senator Carla Joseph Chairperson of Government Operation, Veterans Affairs, Consumer Protection and Other Committee Members. Good Afternoon to all other senators, family and friends who are here today in support of Mr. Benny Stephens.

Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is Ariel Brathwaite. I am very honored to be here today on behalf of Mr. Benny Stephens who I knew for many, many years, over fifty years. Mr. Stephens was a man I always held in high esteem. He was my mentor and a father figure to me. He was a family man to his wife and children. I learned so much from him and everything was fruitful, it came out to be good. Mr. Benny was a lover of these islands, a lover of his people and the community in which he lived.

Ladies and Gentlemen, being the type of gentleman Mr. Stephens was made it easy for his daughter Beverly Samuel and her husband Gurvin Alexander Samuel better known as "Sam the Man" to get those signatures needed for this road naming. Mr. Stephens was an early riser and had twice the loving, for horseracing. His favorite horse was Expectation. When Expectation was running these three islands, he came from the bottom to the top winning 19 straight races. On my way to the track 5:30. 6:00 in the morning, Mr. Stephens would always be up saying Good Morning to those early risers like himself. He would pick up paper, cans, or bottles off the street. One morning as I was about to enter the track, I looked towards Mr. Stephens house and saw the next door neighbor house had burned to the ground. I quickly turned my car around and went to Mr. Stephens' site and saw Mr. Stephens looking at the burnt site and shaking his head. I said, "Good Morning Mr. Stephens what went on here?" He said, "Boy, God bless me with a big nose and sense to smell. Last night the scent of smoke woke me up and the smoke led me next door to Miss Daniel. They were trapped inside and the door was locked. I went to a window that was partly open and I pulled those louvers apart like a wrecker was pulling a car. I was able to rescue Miss Daniel and her five boys."

Ladies and Gentlemen, I can't think of any other person that is more deserving of this prestigious honor and road naming than Mr. Benny Stephens. This road naming will also show that, if you are hard working in your community and love and look out for the people in your community, you too, could receive a recognition such as this. I want to thank you all for listening.

Ariel Brathwaite
Business Owner