

IN HONOR OF MRS. JUEL MOLLOY

My name is Whitman T. Browne, born on Nevis, but now residing in the US Virgin Islands. I have lived on St. Thomas longer than I have lived in any other place. Shortly after migrating here, back in the early 1980s, I started to hear, and become familiar with the names of some people who stood-out, and did outstanding things in the US Virgin Islands. Later, I did meet, and got to know a number of the politicians. Yes, there were some I came to know well, admired, and worked with, because of my interest in politics. In time, because of a very good relationship with Dr., later Governor Charles W. Turnbull, now deceased, I eventually met, and worked closely with Mrs. Juel Molloy. When Governor Turnbull won his first election, I was assigned to work at Government House as one of the Special Assistants. It was after I reported to work at Government House, on St. Thomas, that I met Mrs. Juel Molloy, worked with, and over time, came to know her.

There are seven things I will highlight about how I saw, came to know, and in time learned about Mrs. Juel Molloy, when I worked with her, and beyond that time. I am also taking this opportunity to convey some special wishes for God's blessings, on Mrs. Molloy.

(1) GOOD LEADERSHIP SKILLS:

Mrs. Molloy possess a very good sense of leadership and its responsibilities. My experiences with her when I worked at Government House were enlightening and rewarding to my career as an educator, and to my life as a leader. Although I had worked with other leaders in education before, none of them touched my life, or inspired my personal growth in the manner Mrs. Juel Molloy did. She is one who plans well, sets goals, reviews them carefully, then works at achieving them successfully. As staff members in the Office of the Governor, we had frequent meetings, and there was an unusual, very positive, sense of teaming. Everyone in the office under Mrs. Molloy's leadership, always had some assignment to learn and grow from. My Ph. D., studies were done in the area of Leadership and Organizational Change. Yes, the choice was influenced by my interests in history, politics, and sociology, but, my experiences in the varied dimensions of leadership, during those two years I worked with Mrs. Molloy, have never been forgotten. My autobiography was published recently, and one person I wrote about as having touched my life profoundly as an effective leader, was Mrs. Juel Molloy.

(2) PROBLEM SOLVING:

One of the things I heard about Mrs. Molloy, long before I met her in person, was how effectively she worked as the leader of the Human Services Department, solving big problems, and helping to keep the government working efficiently. I became aware too, about how people who had big pressing problems, some political, often turned to Mrs.

Molloy for help. In most cases, she helped them to find solutions. Quite often, Mrs. Molloy has been able to look beyond herself and the office she held. Seemingly, she always looked at matters carefully. Usually, she saw the broader community and would ask the question, “How can I make it better for everyone?”

(3) CARIBBEAN WOMAN:

Most of us in the Caribbean area share DNA, and a very special history, some of it very sad. Migration has, and continues to impact the stories of these islands. Frequently, despite the island of birth, many of us share both some history and blood. We are Afro-Caribbean people. However, at one time, it was a horrible discriminatory experience here, when one migrated to the US Virgin Islands from other Caribbean islands such as Nevis, St. Kitts, or Antigua. I have experienced some of that sad reality here too. While I worked at Government House, there were some people who forgot we all originated from Africa, but were forcibly exiled to the Caribbean. A number of Virgin Islanders did all they could to get the Nevis-Man out of Government House. However, whenever I reflect on that matter, I remember Mrs. Molloy including me in activities, and treating me with respect. She played the role of a good, people-sensitive, responsible leader. Over time, I came to respect Mrs. Juel Molloy as a very committed and faithful, Afro-Caribbean Woman.

(4) COMMITMENT TO FAMILY, FRIENDS, COMMUNITY:

After years at Government House I returned to education. I did not meet Mrs. Molloy often anymore, but I continued to hear about her. In time, we also became friends, based on mutual respect. As time progressed, and drawing on my conversations with her, and my observations, it was impossible to miss-out on Mrs. Molloy’s caring commitment to her family, both on St. Thomas, and in the BVI. Another point that became obvious is that her community, church, and friends do matter. Only a few days ago, Mrs. Molloy was sharing with me the sadness she is experiencing, because a number of her close friends in the community, have passed on.

(5) NOT MOTIVATED BY ARROGANCE:

I have no doubts. Mrs. Molloy is an intelligent, strong woman. She can, and at times has pushed back when she saw it as necessary. However, the Juel Molloy I have known, and continue to know, is usually a humble woman. She goes to Walgreen’s to get her discounts too, she mixes with, and helps others. She goes to church, attends funerals, and attends special functions organized by family and friends. Mixing with, seeing, and

greeting friends, are still on her to-do list. There is no arrogance or haughtiness in Mrs. Molloy's every-day dealings with others.

(6) A TREASURED RELATIONSHIP:

I feel very honored to have known, learned from; and that I continue being a friend of Mrs. Molloy. Over the years I have watched her, treasured the relationship we share, and I will always love her as a sister. I cannot forget those special ways in which she touched and inspired my life many years ago. I also admire, and continue to appreciate her sense and awareness, that we share a common and connected humanity.

(7) A WISH FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS:

I appreciate the fact that Mrs. Juel Molloy has been chosen to be honored while she still lives. This is always a best time to give awards and flowers. My very sincere congratulations are extended to Mrs. Molloy. Today, we can all pause, reflect, and say. "Thank you, Mrs. Molloy, for your committed service, and unique contributions to the US Virgin Islands." Be assured that God has been watching you. Despite the challenges of this life, He has kept you too. Do continue to hold on to Him, and to trust Him, as you walk the journey of life. Expect and appreciate His blessings too. Remember, you can always stand on His promises. They are always sure!

Whitman T. Browne, Ph. D.