

every possible way conceivable. Should the government and the people of St. Lucia, take one slice of memory from Sir John's closet of great achievements, they would make St. Lucia a model Caribbean nation, where intergenerational prosperity and quality of life development, orders the day. Aung San Suu Kyi is right, "the spirit of a man can transcend the flaws of his own nature."

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THE LAST OF THE REGION'S CHARISMATIC LEADERS

It was a time most people in the Caribbean abhor.

The British Empire stretched from India, Ceylon, Fiji, Malaya to Singapore, Southern Rhodesia, the Gold Coast, Nigeria and Kenya to Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua, the Bahamas, Jamaica, British Guiana, Barbados, St. Lucia and the islands in between. England ruled over almost every aspect of life, from the cradle to the grave, usually with a heavy hand.

Poverty was everywhere and the white minority population ran the affairs of the islands with little regard for the role of the Black majority. Although lynching wasn't a part of the Caribbean picture, Blacks faced an unresponsive social and economic system that stifled creativity. The trade union movement was in its infancy; schools were few and far between; and health care was so inadequate that the Caribbean's life expectancy rate was less than 50 years, at least years shorter than it is today.

That was the world, more specifically the Caribbean into which John George Melvin Compton was born in 1926 in Canouan, a sparsely populated place in the Eastern Caribbean country that is now known at the United Nations and around the world as St. Vincent & the Grenadines in 1926. But by the time the man who rose to become one of the longest serving Prime Ministers in the English-speaking Caribbean died last weekend after a lengthy illness, the area in general and St. Lucia in particular had emerged as a viable sub-region in the Western Hemisphere with an enviable record of human development.

This archipelago of mostly sovereign states within the Commonwealth of Nations, at the UN and its network of specialized agencies, the World Trade Organization and the Organization of American States had demonstrated that they may be small in geography and population and economic size but they were large in intellect and accomplishment, countries to be reckoned with.

Sir John Compton, 81, on his death in his "beloved" St. Lucia contributed immensely to Caribbean development and was in the pilot's seat when St. Lucia took off and became the place that the United Nations ranked as 76th out of 177 states on its Index of human development.

Interestingly, St. Lucia was 12th out of 103 developing countries when it came to measuring human and income poverty, quite an accomplishment.

Sir John, often called the "father of St. Lucia" for his pioneering work in leading the fight against the oppressive nature of British colonialism, the racism that had an impact on almost every aspect of life in his adopted country and against the roadblocks erected to block self-determination was the man with the vision that led to the island's independence from Britain.

This staunch and unrepentant anti-colonialist was at the forefront of the struggle for respect for the masses of Black St. Lucians, dating back to the 1950's. He used his skill and training as a lawyer and as an economist to chart a course that culminated in his island's record of success as the center of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, OECS.

Sir John who had moved to St. Lucia as a child, and had entered the legislature in Castries in 1954 at the young age of 24 as an elected independent member served as a cabinet minister for several years after the introduction of the ministerial system of government in the 1950's. And when his United Workers Party won a landmark victory at the polls in 1964, he became the head of government or Chief Minister as it was called.

This visionary kept his eyes on the prize for both St. Lucia and the rest of the Caribbean. After Barbados and its eastern Caribbean neighbors couldn't agree on the formation of the "Little Eight Federation" that was being fashioned to replace the defunct West Indies Federation and Barbados moved onto independence, Sir John and many of his counterparts in the Windward and Leeward chain of islands articulated the need for advanced constitutional status labeled Associated States or States in Association with Britain. It was a step towards the sovereignty, which eventually came in 1979 when the island was granted independence from Britain with Sir John as its first Prime Minister.

It wasn't long before the electorate decided to change governments, turning out his United Workers Party in favor of the St. Lucia Labor Party. But when the Labor government imploded after a prolonged period of public squabbling over who should be Prime Minister, in 1982 St. Lucians turned to the man with whom they had developed a bond based on trust.

He returned to the Prime Minister's office and remained at the helm until 1996 when he stepped down and left politics.

The people turned to him once again last year when they became disillusioned with the Labor Party government of Dr. Kenny Anthony in 2006, seeing Sir John as the person who could rescue them from high unemployment, rising crime and uncertainty about where the country was heading.

This stalwart came out of political retirement to take the SLP into the election and in the process shocked the region with a victory but even at age 80. St. Lucians felt he was the person most capable of taking charge.

He tried to put the issue of his age and fitness for high public office in proper perspective when he told the electorate after his stunning victory "age is not a factor here. I am not here running for the Olympics. Age is really a state of mind. I am giving my experience and my intelligence that God gave to me" to the nation.

Unfortunately, his health didn't allow him to fulfill his promise of serving out his term as Prime Minister. Of the many stars in his political constellation one of the brightest was his championing of the regional cause. He was among such towering regional political leaders as Vere Bird, Prime Minister of Antigua, Forbes Burnham, President of Guyana, Michael Manley, Prime Minister of Jamaica and Errol Barrow of Barbados, who saw regional integration as the way forward for the small islands.

When he was admitted to the Order of the Caribbean Community in 2002, Caricom's highest honor, Sir John was acclaimed as "the liberator of his nation."

The OCC citation also paid tribute to his success in modernizing St. Lucia's utilities, reforming the social landscape and dramati-

cally improving conditions in the urban and rural communities of his country.

That's how the Caribbean and this newspaper will remember him.

"He gave us all and up to his death was giving to St. Lucia and to the Caribbean," said Sonia Leonce-Carryl, a former top St. Lucian diplomat at the United Nations for more than a decade.

That's a fitting epitaph, which can be inscribed in our consciousness as we mourn his passing and the Caribbean's great loss.

EULOGY FOR EDWARD J. MAHONEY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, Friday September 28, 2007, was a sad day for south Buffalo, where we lost one of our proudest sons—former Erie County Elections Commissioner Edward J. Mahoney. A political and personal contemporary of my father and so many of our friends, Ed Mahoney personified south Buffalo, and personified all that is honest and good about public service. Ed taught many of us many life lessons, and I was proud to call him my friend.

Ed's family honored me by asking that I deliver a eulogy at his funeral mass, which I did proudly on October 3, 2007. Below is the eulogy that I delivered that day. Although mere words cannot truly express the man that Ed Mahoney was to all of us, it is my hope that they can serve as a lasting tribute to Ed's life, his family, his public service and to the great impact his service had on our community and our region as a whole.

EULOGY FOR EDWARD J. MAHONEY

Good Morning. On behalf of Barbara Mahoney, and Eddie's children Debbie, Mary Jo, Kevin, Eileen and Christopher and Robert, thank you all for your extraordinary friendship and generosity over the past several days.

In times of grief and sorrow, you again remind the Mahoney family and all of us that we are a community; a family that supports and loves one other in the most difficult of times.

I really shouldn't be here delivering this eulogy. So many others are more worthy than I. Dennis Dargavel, who shared a most special bond of friendship with Eddie, and Michael Millitello, who remains one of Eddie's closest and dearest friends, are two most worthy candidates. I am honored to have been asked, and am humbled by the charge that I have been given.

To Father Greg Dobson, Eddie's loving nephew and devoted priest, thank you for leading us this morning in this celebration of Eddie's life. Your beautiful words of introspection provide context to the meaning of his life and through scripture his new and everlasting life.

Thank you Monsignor Bill Gallagher for welcoming all of us and making us feel at home here at St. John Vianney Church, otherwise known as the southtowns campus of St. Teresa's parish. This is a beautiful and welcoming place of worship, and our hearts are here with you today, as is our hope.

I am convinced that Ed Mahoney would have loved St. John Vianney—because John Vianney was a wonderworker who was loved by the crowds, but who maintained a child-like simplicity. We all know that St. John

Vianney experienced great difficulty as a student studying for the priesthood, but through humility and hard work overcame adversity, eventually becoming a priest and the patron saint of parish priests in the Catholic Church. His days were filled with works of love and charity, he became a ward healer of sorts, and, if you will, a great leader of small democratic institutions.

In fact, I am certain, that had St. John Vianney—no doubt a good Democrat—lived in our time, while studying for the priesthood, he would have worked his way through seminary at the Erie County Board of Elections for Commissioner Ed Mahoney.

A review of Ed's life shows an unparalleled dedication to public service. A decorated veteran of the United States Marine Corps, a Detective Sergeant in the Buffalo Police Department, South District Councilman, Buffalo Recreation Director, membership on the Buffalo Civil Service Commission and 25 years of service as Commissioner of the Erie County Board of Elections. What a record.

Ed served as an active Democratic committeeman for an incredible 54 years, as a city zone leader for 40 years, serving in that capacity with distinction under four Buffalo Mayoral administrations, and serving in other capacities within the administrations of Buffalo's two most recent Mayors, incumbent Mayor Byron W. Brown and the immediate past incumbent, Anthony M. Masiello, both of whom honor Ed with their presence here today. Thank you, Your Honors, for joining us in paying tribute to Ed here this morning.

A proud graduate of South Park High School and Empire State College, Ed Mahoney's life and influence transcended generations, reaching far beyond every conceivable boundary.

Ed loved young people and they loved him. Throughout his career, Ed Mahoney dispensed more patronage and put more young people to work than virtually anyone else.

Kids from South Buffalo's working class families—particularly kids from Seneca Street—would work in the city parks and pools throughout the summer. Ed's influence helped thousands of kids reach their potential and go beyond—helping families pay for school and other expenses that turned their generations into doctors, lawyers, and business leaders that remain active today.

Ed's lifelong friend, retired Assemblyman Dick Keane once speculated that after Mercy Hospital and Sorrento Cheese, Ed Mahoney was the third largest employer in South Buffalo. My father—one of Ed's successors as South District Councilman—would often say publicly that Ed Mahoney helped more young men and women get to and through college than anyone else.

And Ed's willingness to help wasn't confined to kids from South Buffalo. According to his friend, former Erie County Democratic Chairman Joe Crangle, Ed broke the color barrier at the Erie County Board of Elections by hiring its first African American employee—our friend George Campbell. George is here today and he along with dozens of current and former BOE employees join with us to mourn Ed's passing.

Ed Mahoney was many things to many people; a colorful and lively character to be sure. A loving husband to Barbara, Ed was crazy about his kids, his fourteen grandchildren, his brothers and sisters, and many nieces and nephews. But more than anything else, Ed Mahoney was the Commissioner—"The Commish"—always and forever, the Commissioner. This was his public title and what came through his public identity was his great personal qualities, personal qualities that defined the public person. For you see, it wasn't the title of Commissioner that defined Eddie; in reality he would forever define the title.

Our dear friend Assemblyman Mark Schroeder talked often of Ed Mahoney's humility. The word humility is derived from the Latin word, *humilis*, meaning "from the earth." St. Augustine taught us that humility is the foundation of all other human virtues. Ed knew that well.

Dick Keane's statement over the past several days about Eddie's generosity was the shortest and most defining, most revealing. Dick said that "whatever Eddie had, you had half of it." What a testament to friendship, what a testament to love and loyalty, the characteristics that defined Eddie's life.

Dick Keane and Don Kane—spelled "K-A-N-E"—shared a special friendship and bond with Eddie. Don Kane coached Dick and Eddie in the Catholic Youth Council baseball league many years ago.

The scouting report on Eddie was that he could hit the ball but didn't field very well. So, solid coach that Don Kane was, Don put Ed in right field.

Halfway through the game Eddie missed a couple of fly balls. Sensing a problem, Don Kane went out to right field and suggested that Eddie needed to better position himself. He placed a stick on the ground to show Eddie where approximately he should be standing. Well, sure enough, the next inning comes and a fly ball goes out to right. Eddie misses it.

Don Kane goes back out tells Ed that the pop up was a catchable ball and asks, "Why didn't you go after it?" Eddie looked at him and said, "You're the one who told me to stand next to the stick."

Ed Mahoney loved his friends and they loved him. As kids, his social engagement began on Seneca Street and Mineral Springs with Dick Keane, Don Kane, Jack Fahey, Jimmy Morgan and many others.

At DiTondo's with Dick and his son, Judge Kevin Keane, with Dennis Dargavel, Al Roloff, Jack Fahey and his sons Chris and Mike, Johnny Hannon and a variety of special guests like Ray Gallagher, Alan Lewis, and a cast of many others, depending upon the day.

Eddie Mahoney was all about loyalty and friendship. In the Democratic Party, Eddie stated consistently and clearly that he was with the candidate that the Chairman was supporting. The tone and tenor of his voice made the implication clear: that was where he expected you to be as well.

Asked about a hotly contested neighborhood campaign that took place thirty, forty or fifty years ago, Eddie remembered vividly who was with him and who was against him. Eddie he could be forgiving, but he never forgot.

Ed Mahoney was all about loyalty and friendship, but he was a learned man as well. Eddie knew and loved the great Irish poet William Butler Yeats. It was Yeats who wrote that "The lover pleads with his friends for old friends, though you are in your shining days and voices among the crowd and new friends busy with your praise. Be not unkind or proud, but remember old friends the most. For times bitter flood will rise; your beauty perishes and be lost, for all eyes but these eyes."

Alas, Butler Park in South Buffalo—Seneca Street, of course—situated as it is the shadow of the elms bounded by Pawnee and Roanoke Parkways, was not named for Yeats but was instead named for the family who owned the Buffalo News. But Eddie Mahoney had many friends, and kept the old ones from that historic neighborhood particularly close. Pat and Don Kane, Dick and Mary Keane, Dick and Nancy Kreiger, Jack and Mickey Fahey, and many, many others.

Ed's life was not without tragedy and loss, as we all know. Ed and Clare, the loving and devoted mother of his six children, Debbie,

Michael, Timothy, Mary Jo, Kevin and Eileen, suffered the staggering loss of two of their boys, each killed during their teenaged years. That Eddie is now reunited at long last with his sons, Michael and Timmy allows us to accept our loss of him just a bit easier.

As I said, Ed Mahoney was a learned man, and as a good Democrat he had a particular fondness for Robert Kennedy. Eddie campaigned for Bobby Kennedy when he ran for the Senate and for President. They shared a love of politics and they shared the loss of those they each loved dearly.

Triumph and tragedy. The scriptures say that your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. And where there is no vision, life shall perish from the earth.

One of Kennedy's favorite poets—the Greek tragic poet Aeschylus, reminded us that God's law commands that he who learns must suffer. And even in our sleep, pain that cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart, and in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom to us by the awful grace of God.

Ed Mahoney knew deep pain and boundless joy. He gave and received joy from family, friends and fellow patriots who loved their community and their country. Rest in peace, Commish. Your work on earth is done but your life and the lessons you taught us will live on.

ROFEH INTERNATIONAL—NEW ENGLAND CHASSIDIC CENTER ANNUAL DINNER

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, for many years I have had the honor of sharing with our colleagues information about a very important event not just in greater Boston, but from a national perspective. It is the annual dinner of ROFEH International—New England Chassidic Center. Under the leadership of Grand Rabbi Levi Y. Horowitz of the New England Chassidic Center, ROFEH International does extraordinarily important work in the medical field. Rabbi Horowitz is himself a distinguished authority on medical ethics, and plays an important role in helping medical professionals in Boston deal with the ethical issues that modern science encounters. Project ROFEH also plays a very important role in helping provide access to the medical care that is available in Boston to people around the world.

Annually, under the leadership of Rabbi Horowitz, these organizations have a dinner in which leading citizens who have contributed to the work that they do are honored. Without exception they are men and women of great distinction and generosity. This year the awardees are Dr. Kenneth C. Anderson, who receives the ROFEH International Distinguished Service Award, and Keevin Geller, who receives the Man of the Year Award.

Madam Speaker, I was pleased to receive biographies of these two distinguished leaders and I ask that they be printed here along with my congratulations to the people who do the important work of ROFEH International and the New England Chassidic Center, under Rabbi Horowitz's leadership.