



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
Ministry of Social Development and Sports

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

**THE
NATIONAL HERO INDUCTION
AND PROCLAMATION CEREMONY**

FOR

The Hon. Sir John W. Swan, KBE, JP

Sunday, 19 June 2016
4:00 p.m.
Camden



NATIONAL HERO INDUCTION CEREMONY

Mr. Leopold N. Mills II, CBE, LLD, JP
Master of Ceremonies

Fanfare

The Royal Bermuda Regiment Fanfare Trumpeters

Welcome

The Hon. Sylvan D. Richards, JP, MP
Minister of Social Development and Sports

Prayer

Rt. Rev. Nicholas B. B. Dill, BA, LLB, ODM
Bishop of Bermuda

What is a National Hero?

Ms. Namrata Bisht
Youth Premier - Youth Parliament Bermuda

Performance

Mr. Wendell “Shine” Hayward
“Glorious”

National Heroes of Bermuda

Mr. Leopold N. Mills II, CBE, LLD, JP
Master of Ceremonies

Poem

Mr. Alan C. Smith

“Child of Sunshine” by Grace E. Welch

Biography

The Hon. Sir John W. Swan, KBE, JP

Mr. Robert K. Horton

Performance

Joy T. Barnum

Accompanied by Kofi

“One Moment in Time”

Proclamation

The Hon. Michael H. Dunkley, JP, MP

Premier of Bermuda

Fanfare

The Royal Bermuda Regiment Fanfare Trumpeters

Presentation of Medal

The Hon. Michael H. Dunkley, JP, MP

Premier of Bermuda

Closing Prayer

Rev. Dr. Leonard Santucci

Pastor of Vernon Temple AME Church

Reception to Follow

Reception Musician: Mr. Aaron Spencer II


The Hon. Sir John W. Swan, KBE, JP

The Hon. Sir John W. Swan, KBE, JP enjoys the distinction of being the longest serving premier of Bermuda, having led the United Bermuda Party and the Government of Bermuda from 1982-1995. Real estate developer, political luminary and philanthropist, Sir John is known and admired not only for his astute political and entrepreneurial mind, but also for his warmth, humility, sense of humour and gentlemanly demeanour.

As a child, Sir John was visually challenged and impacted by dyslexia. His parents instilled in him at a very early age that he would need to be disciplined and that he must make sacrifices if he wished to achieve his goals. He learned to overcome obstacles by sheer determination and the belief that he could accomplish anything if he set his mind to it. He has carried these principles throughout his life and they have served him well. Commitment, perseverance and optimism are his hallmarks.

His business career began in 1962 when he founded John W. Swan Agency, a real estate development and savings and loan company. The services offered included architecture, residential construction, land development, rentals and real estate management. Between 1968 and 1978, the company developed 40% of residential homes in Bermuda. Sir John wanted to help average Bermudians to fulfil the dream of home ownership and to offer them the financial tools to achieve it; his company provided him with the vehicle whereby this goal might be realized. During this period, John W. Swan Agency employed more than twenty young Bermudian contractors, many of whom would later become successful business owners in their own right. In October 2012, the company celebrated its 50th year in business.

Over the years, Sir John has helped to modernize the architectural landscape of the City of Hamilton through a number of commercial and residential building projects, including the eponymous headquarters building on Victoria Street, the current home of the Bermuda Monetary Authority, also on Victoria Street, and Atlantis, the first condominium apartment complex on Parliament Street. His most recent project, 141 Front Street, is Bermuda's first ten-storey development, an imposing and remarkable example of state-of-the-art, environmentally-friendly building design and energy efficiency.



Prior to Sir John's involvement in politics, he was a founding member of the Bermuda Monetary Authority, a director of the Bermuda Chamber of Commerce and a director of the Bermuda Employers' Council. In addition, he served on several company boards.

His political career, which spanned some twenty-three years, began when he was elected to Parliament in 1972 and simultaneously was appointed chairman of Bermuda Hospitals Board. In 1975, he was appointed Minister of Marine and Air Services where he oversaw the expansion of Bermuda's aircraft and shipping registries. Just over a year later, he was appointed Minister of Immigration and Labour where he initiated numerous policies and practices that enhanced Bermuda's economic and social development and where he served until his ascendancy to the premiership in 1982. As positioned earlier, Sir John served as premier for thirteen and a half years until his retirement from Parliament in 1995.

An undoubted highlight of Sir John's political career and one of his greatest achievements as premier occurred in 1988 upon successful completion of negotiations of the USA/Bermuda Tax Convention. Bermuda's constitutional position did not allow Sir John or Bermuda to negotiate directly with a foreign sovereign power. However, because of Sir John's close relationship with President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the latter entrusted him with the responsibility to negotiate a treaty between the United States and the United Kingdom that would benefit Bermuda. Led by Sir John, the Bermuda delegation held several meetings with the most senior officials in the U.S. Government, including President Ronald Reagan, Vice President George H. W. Bush, Secretary of the Treasury James Baker, Secretary of State George Schultz, National Security Advisor General Colin Powell and several members of Congress in order to implement successfully a tax treaty between the United States and Great Britain that would be of specific benefit to Bermuda. The USA-Bermuda Tax Convention Act 1986 received assent on 29th August, 1986 and was brought into operation on 2nd December, 1988. That agreement, along with the Financial Services Act 1986, resulted in the development of Bermuda's insurance and reinsurance industries and established the Island as a major offshore financial centre, thus creating a foundation for our stable economy, well-developed infrastructure and strong regulatory framework.

Sir John has been recognized by several organizations for service to his country and community. In 1990, he was appointed Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the

British Empire (KBE) by Her Majesty the Queen. During his long and distinguished career, he has received numerous additional honours and awards. He has been named Outstanding Man of the Year by the Bermuda Jaycees, awarded the Medal of Distinction in recognition of his humanitarian efforts by the International Association of Lions Clubs, awarded the International Medal of Excellence by the Poor Richard Club of Philadelphia and awarded the Outstanding Service Award by St. Paul AME Church. He has been admitted to the Freedom of the City of London, England and made an honorary member of the Hamilton and Sandys Rotary Clubs. He has been admitted as a senator to the Membership and Fellowship of the Senate of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, has been inducted into the Company of Honorary Fellows of Bermuda College and has been inducted into the Bermuda Business Hall of Fame.

Sir John holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, West Virginia. In addition, he has been awarded an honorary doctorate from West Virginia Wesleyan College, an honorary doctorate of law from Atlantic Union College, New Jersey, an honorary doctorate of law from University of Tampa, Florida and an honorary doctorate, Humane Letters from Morris Brown College, Atlanta, Georgia.

Currently, Sir John serves as chairman of the Swan Group of Companies. He continues to play an active role in Bermuda by helping to maintain and revolutionize international trade, politics and property development. Sir John has also been one of the strongest proponents for the development of the Hamilton waterfront. He also remains involved in local charitable organizations and has supported a variety of theatrical productions for more than thirty years.

Sir John and Lady Swan have been married for fifty-one years. They are the proud parents of Alison (son-in-law Robert), Amanda and Nicholas and adoring grandparents of Hayden, Sebastian and Amelia.

Child of Sunshine

by Grace E. Welch

You are stronger than you think.

Like an ocean, you will
in time and with perseverance
turn stones and shards to sand.

You are bruised but unbroken.

Like a banyan tree, you will
weather storms and again grow
leaves to shelter those around you.

You are more fearless than you know.

Like a longtail gull, you will
soar over cliffs then face
the wind to let it lift you.

Face the sun also. Let it fall

Upon your brow to leak between
your lashes and seep into your soul.

May sunshine follow you all the days of your life

May it cast your shadow tall.

May it light your path and guide you home.

National Hero Induction Ceremony Planning Committee Members

Chairperson - Mrs. Heather Whalen, Director, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

Dr. Kim Dismont-Robinson, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

Ms. Tina Evans, Department of Communication and Information

Ms. Carlita Lodge, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

Mr. Graham Mawer, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

Mr. Dean Parris, Parris and Company Events Management

Major Dwight B. Robinson, The Royal Bermuda Regiment

Ms. Veney Sims, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

Ms. Renee Thomas, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

Ms. Clyde-a-Mae Tucker, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

Mrs. Helen (Jardine) Zoellner, Department of Communication and Information

Special Acknowledgments

Department of Communication and Information

Office of Protocol, Government of Bermuda

Department of Parks Staff

Mr. Gary L. Phillips, OBE, JP



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