

# John Osborne dies

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noted that one surgeon noted that, "He is a remarkable man," a statement that will and has been appearing in the many tributes that have been pouring in to the media.

**But, on** Sunday morning, January 2, 2010 his daughter Shirley Osborne sent a statement from the family announcing he had passed peacefully. He died in the United States of America in the State of Kentucky at the age of 75 where he was undergoing medical treatment.

Since the news of the 'Chief's' death the media all over the world had published the information and the tributes began immediately and have continued to pour in.

Mr. John A. Osborne leaves with the distinction of being the longest serving legislator in Montserrat from 1966 to 1991 and 1996 – 2009. Of those 38 years he served as Chief Minister the top statesman for this UK Dependent Territory, for 18 years, from 1978-1991 and again from 2001-2006.

He contested every election since 1966, making his political career spanning over 43 years, before he retired and did not contest the 2009 general elections. His son David of his first marriage successfully contested that election.

His last political pronouncement was shortly before he left Montserrat. He sounded his concern at the way the passage of the new Constitution Order of Montserrat had been handled.

The family first tributed their father in the statement

announcing his death. "John A. Osborne, the father with whom we have shared the most intense love and affection, has died... We have lost the irreplaceable centre of our family and an incomparable presence in all our lives, but his wisdom, courage, and irrepressible spirit will live with us forever," the statement added.

**One popular calypsonian in one of the tributes, described Osborne.** "He was not the most polished orator, but he communicated with a common-sense approach and understanding, that appealed to the masses. Tough, candid and focused, John Osborne made up for his lack of intellectual gravitas by becoming a fierce populist," he began.

Dr. George Irish as he memorialised Chief Minister Osborne following his death, said: "...understood that politics was not a toy game. He fought it doggedly and hard.

"He was a winner. He was accustomed to winning and he enjoyed fighting to win. He leaves behind a fan club of several hundreds of faithful supporters and admirers dispersed all over the world. Not even his detractors can dare to erase his name from the corridors of distinction in local business and politics. For me, he ranks in the populist category of W. H. Bramble and Robert W. Griffith, as unforgettable Montserratian icons."

Chief Minister Reuben T Meade said, in a statement from his office: "Mr. Osborne's passing is a national loss of a 'wealth of

knowledge', 'national identity' and a National Icon who was generous, kind and the embodiment of an enduring and unmovable love for humanity."

Messages were immediate from the island's closest neighbours: The Hon. Dr. Denzil L. Douglas, Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis in a message to the

Hon. Reuben Meade, Chief Minister of Montserrat expressed the profound sadness of his Government and the people of St. Kitts and Nevis and extended deepest and heartfelt sympathies to the Government and people of Montserrat.

**In the message the PM further said,** "John Osborne's long and distin-

guished career, where he sought to ensure that the people of Montserrat could stand proudly with their CARICOM Colleagues and make a positive contribution to the debate on the direction of the Caribbean, was an inspiration, not only to the people of Montserrat, but to the entire region... As your country mourns the passing of a Caribbean son, be comforted by the fact that we share in your moment of bereavement."

Meanwhile Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer wrote: "Chief Minister Osborne having been one of Montserrat's longest serving statesman... had a distinguished record as one of Montserrat's finest sons.

"The renaming of the airport in 2005 to the John A. Osborne Airport stands as a testament of his legacy. He will be missed by all who came into contact with him," said PM Spencer."

## A Calypsonian's view

*Cupid's - Before I Die*

Everyone has a dream or a plan, a life long ambition,  
They would like to accomplish before they die  
Some want to own house and land, academic qualification  
Some want to sail the world or reach the sky  
Well for Cupid there's no exception  
I too have an aim, yes a plan  
You'll be shocked but understand why  
I wanna be dead before I die

*I wanna hear nice words spoken about me and take a picture  
Of a monument in de new town built in my honour  
A wanna put on me radio on ZJB all day long  
And finally hear them DJ's playing me song  
Well I know all these accolades  
Are reserved only for the dead  
So I guess what I'm saying, oh my  
I want to be dead before I die*

I can set my aspiration to be a great politician  
A Soca King or House Speaker  
But after investing all them hours, that wouldn't bring me flowers  
Till the master look down and said Cupid it's all over  
When you die you don't know a thing  
You can't hear what they saying  
So when I'm dead I'm not going yet  
I must be alive to enjoy my death

*I wanna read my story front page in the newspaper  
I wanna hear de lady say how she used to kiss up me poster  
I'll be sitting in de pews when my eulogy is read  
And blush at all the glowing words that's being said  
I plan to be in my own motorcade  
If you see me don't be afraid  
When Saga call Basil and cry  
I must be there before I die*

When you are Alive they say you are cheap;  
all you riches you want to keep  
And you wont even spend a bad cent  
When you are dead, the reverse instead, they say  
you have a good business head  
And you manage your resources wise and prudent  
Well all my life, you see  
I keep hearing what's wrong with me  
Time I hear the otherside  
I'm hanging around after I have died

*I gonna get a judge to pass an injunction  
On anyone who sell videos of my song  
I wanna see the shape of the coffin they build for me  
And choose who get to see me bury  
You see man's greatest moment of glory  
Only comes posthumously  
So now you understand why  
I plan to be dead before I die*

**ISLAND OF MONTSERRAT  
A. D. 2010  
[PROBATE]  
LEGAL NOTICE**

**In the Estate of ALPHONSUS CELESTINE CASSELL, deceased.**

**NOTICE** is hereby given that after the expiration of fourteen (14) days from the date hereof, an Application will be made in the Registry of the High Court of Justice for an Order that Probate of the Last Will and Testament of **ALPHONSUS CELESTINE CASSELL** late of Lime Kiln, Montserrat who died on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 2010 domiciled in Montserrat be granted to **VERONICA WALKER** of Olveston and **TSHISHIMBI CASSELL** of Lime Kiln, Montserrat, Joint Executors named in the last Will of the said deceased dated the 9<sup>th</sup> day of November 2009.

**All persons** who claim to be beneficially interested in the said estate are requested forthwith to send particulars to the undersigned.

**FURTHER** any person objecting to the issuance of a Grant of Probate to the said Applicants should notify the Registrar of the High Court of Justice whose address is: **Office of the Registrar General, Brades, Montserrat** not later than fourteen (14) date from the date of this notice.

Dated the 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2010

Allen Markham & Associates

## A man of 'street smarts'

He was not the most polished orator, but he communicated with a common-sense approach and understanding, that appealed to the masses. Tough, candid and focused, John Osborne made up for his lack of intellectual gravitas by becoming a fierce populist who became the longest-serving chief minister in Montserrat history.

The former, many years Chief Minister Osborne died

Sunday January 2 in the United States at age 75 after a long illness. It is said that deaths often come in threes, and Osborne's passing followed the losses of Montserrat soca king Alphonsus "Arrow" Cassell and former house speaker Joseph Meade last September.

Osborne baffled doctors with his fighting spirit, a quality that served him well in his political career as well

as his personal life. He was first known as a builder of boats, and in 1978 he took over from Percival Austin Bramble as chief minister with the task of rebuilding a Montserrat economy that was in tatters.

"John Bassey" – as he was most known by – uses his street smarts to gain support of local colleagues and other Caribbean leaders alike.