


**IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**
**OF**
**THE CAYMAN ISLANDS**

# GOVERNMENT MOTION NO. 9/08-09

## COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE SEX DISQUALIFICATION (REMOVAL) LAW, 1958

**WHEREAS** on 19th August, 1948 24 courageous women of George Town, Grand Cayman wrote to then Commissioner Ivor Otterbein Smith declaring "*that it is our intention to exercise our Constitutional Right to vote today, August 19th, 1948, according to our conscience, in the Election of Vestrymen for the District of George Town*" but despite their stated intent were denied that opportunity because at that time the law did not permit women to vote in the Cayman Islands;

**AND WHEREAS** the women of the Cayman Islands, undaunted, continued their struggle for equal rights and in 1957 presented to the Legislative Assembly of Justices and Vestry a petition bearing 358 names of Caymanian women which prayed that:

> "*women should be permitted from henceforth to exercise the right of voting in elections, that they should be permitted to hold public office, and that in any new law or consolidation or codification of the law of the Constitution of the Cayman Islands the rights of women should be safeguarded, so that we be not regarded by you or by the world as less worthy than the women of other lands who have been accorded those rights*";

**AND WHEREAS ON** 16TH October, 1958 a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly of Justices and Vestrymen recommended to the House that the petition of the 358 women be granted;

**AND WHEREAS** on 8TH December, 1958 the Legislative Assembly of Justices and Vestrymen passed the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Law, 1958 thereby according women the right to exercise any public function, including the right to vote, and to be entitled to hold any civil or judicial office or post and to enter into or assume any civil profession or vocation in the Cayman Islands.

**BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the Legislative Assembly does acknowledge and record the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Law, 1958 and its seminal role in according equal rights to women by permitting them to exercise any public function,

including the right to vote, and to be entitled to hold any civil or judicial office or post and to enter into or assume any civil profession or vocation in the Cayman Islands;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Law, 1958 the Legislative Assembly does acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of the several women who serve or have served in public office as elected members and/or as Speakers of this House, whose names are now inscribed on a tablet inside the Legislative Assembly Building and who are as follows:

**ELECTED MEMBERS**

**Miss Evelyn Wood – Bodden Town, (1962- 1965)**
**First Elected Woman to the Legislative Assembly**

**Miss Annie Huldah Bodden, OBE – George Town (1962 -1984)**
**Mrs. Esterleen L. Ebanks – West Bay (1976 -1980)**
**Mrs. Daphne L. Orrett – West Bay (1984-1988)**
**Mrs. Berna L. Thompson-Cummins, MBE – George Town (1992-1996)**
**Hon. Edna M Moyle, JP, MLA – North Side (1992 – Present)**
**Miss Heather D. Bodden – Bodden Town (1995 – 2000)**
**Mrs. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, JP, MLA - Cayman Brac and Little Cayman (1996-Present)**
**Miss Lucille D. Seymour, BEM, JP, MLA – George Town (2005 – Present)**

**MADAM SPEAKERS**

**Hon. Edna M Moyle, JP, MLA**
**Mrs. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, JP, MLA**
**Hon. Sybil Ione McLaughlin, JP MBE, National Hero**

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Legislative Assembly records its gratitude and pays tribute to the contribution of the women of the Cayman Islands to the social, political and physical development of the country and to its continued progress and prosperity.

MOVED BY: Hon. Alden McLaughlin, JP, MLA
Minister for Education, Training, Employment, Youth, Sports and Culture

Received in the Office of the Clerk this 5th day of December, 2008.

Passed by the Legislative Assembly this 8th day of December, 2008.

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.