

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR CLIFFORD DARLING, KT., J.P.

Former Governor-General of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas 1992 - 1995

His Excellency Sir Clifford Darling, KT., J.P., is the fourth Bahamian-born Governor General of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Sir Clifford was sworn in at Government House on January 2, 1992, by Chief Justice Joaquim Gonsalves-Sabola, succeeding His Excellency Sir Henry Taylor, Kt., J.P who retired on January 1.

Sir Clifford served as Speaker of the House of Assembly from 1977 to November 13, 1991, when he resigned.

A former Progressive Liberal Party Member of Parliament for Englerston, Sir Clifford was born on February 6, 1922, at Acklins Island to Charles and Aremilia Darling. He attended the Acklins Public School and public schools in New Providence.

The former taxicab driver served as general secretary of The Bahamas Taxicab Union for eight years and as president for 10.

In the early 1950s Sir Clifford bargained with hotels for better treatment for taxi drivers. The hotels had their own buses to transport visitors to and from the new Nassau International Airport and other destinations. As a result, many taxi drivers had no passengers, except residents to take from the airport.

The problem reached a boiling point in November 1957, when the cab union, with Sir Clifford as president, blockaded and closed the airport. A general strike followed in January 1958. With Sir Clifford's help, an agreement among hotels, tour services and taxicab operators was reached.

Sir Clifford was an early member of the PLP. He served as a Senator from January 1964 to January 1967, when, in a general election, he was elected to the House of Assembly for the Englerston Constituency. He served from January 1967 to October 1969, when

he was appointed to the Cabinet as Minister of State.

In November 1971, he was named Minister of Labour and National Insurance. He was responsible for the introduction of the National Insurance programme on October 7, 1974. Sir Clifford was re-elected to the House for the Englerston Constituency in the 1977 general election and was elected Speaker of the House of Assembly. He was also knighted by The Queen the same year.

In the general elections of 1982 and 1987 Sir Clifford was re-elected as the Member of Parliament for the Englerston constituency and re-elected as Speaker. He served as Stalwart Councillor, the highest honour that can be bestowed on a member of the Progressive Liberal Party.

He is a member of Zion Baptist Church, of the Masonic Prince Hall Lodge and of the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks in the World.

Sir Clifford died on December 27, 2011. He was 89-years-old. He is survived by his wife Igrid Lady Darling, children and a host of other relatives. A State Funeral was held on January 5, 2012 at Zion Baptist Church, East and Shirley streets.