

**Eulogy for Dr A Bert Davy:** Today, we gather here to celebrate the life of Dr A. Bert Davy. Bert was called home to be with our Lord, on Saturday November 3, 2012 after a hard fought battle with health challenges. Bert was the sixth of seven siblings born to Samuel and Daisy Davy of Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines on May 7th, 1948.

Bert is survived by his loving wife (Penny), children (Adonis, Safiya and Khalid), grandchildren (Alexis, Oliver, Layla and Spencer), brothers, (Clifford, Leslie, Austin, Cecil, Michael) sister (Louise), nieces and nephews. At the age of 5, Bert attended the Richmond Hill primary school, eventually moving onto the Boys Grammar school in Kingstown. Bert sailed through his years at the Boys Grammar School; passing seven "O" levels subjects at the age of 16, and completing his "A" levels two years later. He passed "A" levels in Physics, Mathematics and Chemistry with distinction.

During his time in high School, he was a competitive athlete, who specialized in high jump and hurdles, medaling in both events. I first met Bert when he was about 16 years old. On Sunday afternoons, Bert and his buddy Mike Brown would hang out with Ken Debique and Erle my older brother, at our home in New Montrose. Over time, I got to know Bert, as he taught me Mathematics in the sixth form, and supervised the Educational Tour club, of which I was a member, that visited Barbados in 1968 for a three week summer camp. Later on that same year, Bert received a scholarship to attend the University of the West Indies at Cave Hill.

By 1971, he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Physics with honors. Upon graduation, he returned to St. Vincent where he took up his second teaching assignment at his Alma Mater, the Boys Grammar School. During this period Bert became involved in political activities, participating in rallies, forums, public meetings, discussing national and international issues affecting the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Bert eventually left St. Vincent and moved to Barbados where he met and married Miss Freda Nicholls. His marriage to Miss Nicholls was later dissolved. Bert taught high school while he lived in Barbados.

By 1976, Bert had migrated to Canada where he was admitted to Queens University of Toronto, and pursued a second undergraduate degree in Civil

engineering. He once again graduated with honors. Two years later, Bert moved to the Washington DC area to join his sister Louise. There he became close friends with Chris Anderson, my younger brother who was a student at Howard University. It was through his association with Chris, that Bert was introduced to Penny Richards a fellow student at Howard University. On March 28th, 1981, Bert and Penny were married. At the time of his passing, they had been married for 31 years.

In 1984, my family and I moved to the Washington DC area. Once here, I re-established contact with Bert. Through the years that followed, our young families grew up together celebrating many of life's important moments. In fact, we became a village of five families: the Davys, the Simms, the Simons, the Bruces and the Andersons. Those years were very memorable and have bound our families together in ways that only time can.

Professionally, Bert had a very successful career. As a civil engineer, he worked for Bethel Corporation for ten years, DeLong Hampton and Associates for five years and Daubery and Davis for three years. He also completed his Master's degree in Structural Engineering at the University of Maryland. In 1992, Bert accepted an offer from Morgan state University to teach Civil engineering, where he later became a tenured professor.

While continuing to teach at Morgan State University, he completed his doctorate in Civil Engineering in 2004, earning the title Doctor of Engineering, an accomplishment for which he was justly proud. This was an outstanding achievement that made all of his family and friends equally proud. Bert is one of the few Vincentians to have attained a PhD in Civil Engineering. Feedback from students reveals that Dr Davy was an excellent professor, who demanded a lot from his students. He was a strong role model who set a high standard for himself and for the students he taught.

Bert was a founding member of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Nationals Association of Washington DC. During his time of active service with the association, Bert held several positions on the executive, which included the office of President and Vice President. It should also be noted that Bert

designed the logo used by the Association. His leadership within the association helped to place it on a firm foundation.

Bert was a very multi-talented individual who had many interest and hobbies. Bert loved photography. He always travelled with his camera. In St. Vincent, he would perch himself in a front row seat in Victoria Park, to film and photograph the entire parade of costumes on Mardi Gras Tuesday. Bert could always be counted on to capture significant moments at important events. Indeed he captured some very memorable and personal moments that occurred between my daughter and I, on the day of her wedding three and a half years ago.

What many people do not know is that Bert was also a handy man with an electrician's license. He used this skill and others to complete projects which included finishing the basement of the family home. Bert is known to have built a computer from scratch after purchasing all of the various components. This accomplishment was a source of great pride to him. While teaching in Barbados, Bert became an avid scrabble player. He would routinely complete a game during his lunch hour with scores in excess of 300. He was known to be a keen competitor that did not like to lose.

Another hobby of Bert's that was greatly appreciated by family and friends was his skill for making a wicked rum punch. Bert made and bottled rum punch in his kitchen, using his own special recipe. He often provided it to family and friends for special gatherings much to every one's delight. His most recent adventure was in the world of baking. He believed he could do it all. At Christmas, he found time to make his own black cake. And Penny is known to have said that Bert's black cake was as good as hers, so there was no need for her to duplicate his efforts.

Bert loved life and loved to enjoy himself to the fullest. He looked forward to the annual carnivals. Bert and Penny would travel to St Vincent, Toronto, New York, Barbados, Trinidad, Atlanta, Baltimore and Washington DC to

enjoy the festivities and meet fellow Vincentians. This August even though he could not fly due to his heart transplant, Bert and Penny drove from Maryland to Canada to participate in the Caribana celebrations. It was exactly four years ago, that Bert joined forces with five of his friends, including yours truly, to organize an Obama Inaugural celebration ball in the Washington DC area. The event was a rousing success, and took the opportunity to recognize and honor Caribbean American nationals, who had made outstanding contributions to the political development of the United States of America through the years.

Bert's personal accomplishments as a loving husband, father, relative, friend, engineer and professor touched the lives of those who were fortunate enough to have known him in these roles. In concluding, a poet once said that many people will enter in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints on your heart. Bert was a true friend.

Rest in peace Bert.