

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Well-Known And Respected Virgin Islander Irvin Brown Passes. He Was 83.

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Irvin Brown Sr., a respected and celebrated Virgin Islander who was made ubiquitous through his radio personality and music, died at 83 on Friday.

Governor Kenneth Mapp issued the following statement on Mr. Brown's passing.

"It is with deep sadness that I extend sympathy to the family, loved ones and friends of Irvin Brown, Sr. on the occasion of his passing.

"'Brownie", as he was affectionately known in our community, dedicated himself in service to the people of the Virgin Islands throughout his life and career.

"Growing up in Savan on St. Thomas, "Brownie" always had a keen interest in music, securing his first opportunity to play the drums with the popular Lad Richards band. He went on to share his talents with other groups, leading him to Miami Beach in the 1950s. Not only was he known for playing the drums, but he also developed a love and affection for comedy. When he returned home to St. Thomas, he joined Milo and the Kings, and later launched a career as a radio personality.

"Brownie" worked as a radio host on 1340 AM WSTA for many decades with the likes of veteran announcers Addie Ottley and Lee Carle. Every day his fans enjoyed hearing his refrain "Good Ting" as he shared stories, spinned the latest tunes and informed the public about community events.

"His popularity led to his hosting Carnival shows, playing Santa Claus in the garden and becoming one of the most loved and cherished members of our community.

"I met Brownie during my earliest days in politics. At times, we would speak about some of the issues affecting our people and community. Some of my fondness memories of Brownie were times spent with him on the radio and at cultural events. He was truly a Virgin Islands icon and I admired and held him in the highest esteem.

"Recently, it was my honor to sign Bill No. 32-0146, commending "Brownie" for his vast contributions to the culture and music of the Virgin Islands by renaming a portion of General Gade "The Irvin 'Brownie' Brown, Sr. Street". The street runs from the intersection of Veterans Drive up to the intersection of Silke Gade.

"Brownie" leaves an indelible mark on this community and his six children, including musician Pressure Busspipe, who continue to walk in his footsteps.

"As Irvin "Brownie" Brown is taken to his final resting place, I join the Virgin Islands community in remembering this great man who touched us with his dedication to communications, music, cultural heritage and service to our beloved Virgin Islands. I ask all Virgin Islanders to pause and reflect on the life of this magnificent human being as we embrace and support his family and loved ones during this difficult time. May his soul rest in eternal peace."