

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS The Right Excellent Sir Garfield St. Auburn Sobers, Knight Bachelor, National Hero of Barbados, Officer of the Order of Australia and Member of the Order of the Caribbean Community, passed this life on the 17th day of July, 2026, eleven days shy of his ninetieth birthday;

AND WHEREAS this distinguished son of the soil, born in the City of Bridgetown on the 28th day of July, 1936, the fifth of six children of Shamont and Thelma Sobers, rose from the humblest of origins to become, by universal acclaim, the greatest all-round cricketer the game has ever known;

AND WHEREAS he first represented the West Indies in March, 1954, at the age of seventeen years, and in a Test career spanning twenty years amassed 8,032 runs at an average of 57.78 and took 235 wickets in 93 Test matches, and in first-class cricket scored in excess of 28,000 runs and captured more than 1,000 wickets;

AND WHEREAS at Kingston, Jamaica, in 1958, at the age of twenty-one years, he made 365 not out against Pakistan, then the highest individual score in the history of Test cricket, a record which stood for thirty-six years before it was surpassed by another son of the Caribbean, Brian Charles Lara;

AND WHEREAS at Swansea, in Wales, on the 31st day of August, 1968, playing for Nottinghamshire against Glamorgan, he struck six sixes in a single over, a feat of audacity and mastery which endures among the most celebrated moments in the annals of the game;

AND WHEREAS he captained the West Indies from 1965 to 1972 and was chosen to lead the Rest of the World XI in 1970, and by his conduct both on and off the field of play carried the name of Barbados and of the Caribbean with honour into every cricketing country of the world;

AND WHEREAS at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in January, 1972, leading the Rest of the World against Australia, he scored 254 runs in an innings which Sir Donald Bradman described as the best innings he had ever seen;

AND WHEREAS he was created a Knight Bachelor by Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at the Garrison Savannah in February, 1975, and was named a National Hero of Barbados in 1998 and accorded the style and title of “The Right Excellent”;

AND WHEREAS he was adjudged the Cricketer of the Century by Wisden Cricketers’ Almanack in the year 2000 and was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame in 2009;

AND WHEREAS his name is borne in perpetuity by the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy, awarded annually since 2004 to the ICC Men’s Cricketer of the Year, and by the Sir Garfield Sobers Sports Complex in this island;

AND WHEREAS in the years when this country moved from colony to independent nation, his genius gave to a young people the priceless gift of belief, standing as living proof that excellence of the highest order could come from these shores;

AND WHEREAS for all the magnitude of his achievement he remained a man of singular humility, courtesy and generosity, who greeted the Head of State and the taxi driver, the celebrated and the child seeking an autograph, with the same smile and the same respect, and who gave freely of his time to the encouragement of young sportsmen and sportswomen;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House pay the accolade of its highest tribute to the late The Right Excellent Sir Garfield St. Auburn Sobers, National Hero of Barbados, as an exemplar of excellence, dignity, humility and grace, and record its profound gratitude for a life which brought unmeasured honour and joy to this Nation and to the people of the Caribbean;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Honourable House share the sorrow felt by a grateful Nation and extend its deepest sympathies to his children Matthew, Daniel and Genevieve, to his brother Cecil, grandchildren, and to his other relatives and friends, and express its wish that they be comforted by the memory of a life lived selflessly and in the service of his Nation and his people.

Dated the day of , 2026.

SPEAKER