

Valedictory Ceremony for the late the Hon Mr Justice R R Douglas RFD

Monday 9 December 2002, 9:15am
Banco Court

The Hon P de Jersey AC Chief Justice

I at once again express our profound sympathy to Mrs Jennifer Douglas, Mrs Marjorie Douglas and our late colleague's children and siblings. We are joined in that by a number of Judges and former Judges who cannot be present today.

The Hon Mr Justice Robert Ramsay Douglas RFD was a member of this court for a tragically short period, from 17 June 1999 until his untimely death on 26 November 2002. In the view of many, he was larger than life; his passing very starkly reminds us of life's evanescence.

He was a willing and hard working Judge whose judicial approach was replete with robust commonsense. That drew many expressions of public support for the way in which he discharged his judicial role. He had an enviable instinct for what was the right result in a case. He brought to his work a vast experience of life, indeed a zest for life. He was a person who thrived on love of family and friends: their respect and admiration for him were vibrantly demonstrated by the massive attendance at his funeral service last week. The diversity of his life is commemorated in the display mounted in the corridor outside by the Supreme Court Library.

It is particularly distressing that a Judge die while in office, and especially a Judge so comparatively young. We poignantly recall the passing in office of the Judge's own father in 1984, of Mr Justice Dunn in 1983 and before that Mr Justice Hart in 1974.

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With Mr Justice Douglas, the State has lost a fine Judge; we have lost a fine friend.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Mr Attorney

Mr Solicitor

Mr Glynn

Mr Sullivan

Let these proceedings be recorded.