Senator Rouss Mourned, Rites Set For Thursday

by Monique M. Cleedman
4th Staff
Flag in the Virginia islands will fly at half mast on all government buildings until Saturday, February 18.

Rudolph Rouss, known as Rubi, was a Trojan warrior who served his country with distinction and honor. His passing on Tuesday, March 2, 1999, left a void in the hearts of many.

Friends (Continued From Page 1)

Senator Ruby Margrett Rouss, who preceded her only Sunday morning at the St. Croix Hospital.

The veteran 4th Senator will be buried on Thursday, May 27 at the Virginia Company of London, an honor reserved for distinguished Virgin Islands leaders.

Ruby Rouss 1912-1998

...Remembered By Colleagues, Friends

by Monique M. Cleedman
4th Staff

Rouss’s passing saddened hearts of all, including former Island Administrators, who had the honor of working with him.

A tribute was held at the St. Thomas Economic Development Corporation, with a special mention of his contributions to the island.

Commemoration Senator Holland Redfield.

"It personally learned so much from this great lady; her grasp of the legislative process was unmatched."

"With her passing, the Virgin Islands political landscape will never be the same," said Governor Alexander Farley. "She brought to the Virgin Islands politics a commitment to integrity, based on fact-finding, that was heartening," said the chief executive.

"The people will miss Ruby in the Legislature and in public life, for she kept us all on our toes," said V.I. Delegate to Congress Ron de Lugo. "Ruby Rouss always had a strong, powerful voice. And she used it to fight for integrity, excellence and real service in government, the delegate said.

"Although one might not always have agreed with Senator Rouss," said Senator At-Large Robert O’Connor, "one could not help but admire her. She had tremendous wit, a gifted way with words and a deep love for all Virgin Islanders, whether adopted or native born."

"She nobly served her country, her territory and the people of St. Croix," said Senator Douglas Can- ton, "and was always ready to oppose human frailties such as government waste, corruption, as well as racists in all its forms."

"Virgin Islanders are the richer for having lived alongside Ruby Margaret Rouss, said Commissioner of Education, Dr. Linda Crecque. "Our young people have lost a fine role model, just as we all have lost a hero and a friend."

And from the neighboring island nation of St. Kitts-Nevis, where

Ruby M. Rouss (3 December 1921 – 8 May 1998) was an American citizen born on Saint Croix in the US Virgin Islands. Her career was marked by a series of firsts. She was the first Virgin Islander in the Women’s Army Corps (WAC), first African-American woman to serve on General Eisenhower’s staff, and first black woman assigned as a permanent staff of Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. After a 20-year military career, she retired from service and became the first woman parole officer in St. Croix. In 1973, she was elected as one of the first women to serve in the Virgin Islands Legislature. In 1981, Rouss served as the first female President of the Virgin Islands Legislature, becoming the first black woman to lead a legislature in the United States. She was elected to serve a second presidency of the Senate in 1987 and died the following year. Posthumously, she was inducted into the Virgin Island’s Women’s Hall of Fame and a housing project in St. Croix was renamed in her honor.

After completing high school in New York, in 23 January 1943, Rouss joined the Women’s Army Corps (WAC), as its first Virgin Islander. She became a member of the drill team at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and was assigned as the first black woman to General Eisenhower’s staff during World War II. When the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) was organized in 1951, Rouss was the first black woman permanently assigned to it. In 1953, she married a civilian and continued her service until 1 May 1963, when she was honorably discharged and returned to the Virgin Islands.

Ruby M. Rouss, 1921-1998

Commemoration Senator Holland Redfield.

"It personally learned so much from this great lady; her grasp of the legislative process was unmatched."

"With her passing, the Virgin Islands political landscape will never be the same," said Governor Alexander Farley. "She brought to the Virgin Islands politics a commitment to integrity, based on fact-finding, that was heartening," said the chief executive.

"The people will miss Ruby in the Legislature and in public life, for she kept us all on our toes," said V.I. Delegate to Congress Ron de Lugo. "Ruby Rouss always had a strong, powerful voice. And she used it to fight for integrity, excellence and real service in government, the delegate said.

"Although one might not always have agreed with Senator Rouss," said Senator At-Large Robert O’Connor, "one could not help but admire her. She had tremendous wit, a gifted way with words and a deep love for all Virgin Islanders, whether adopted or native born."

"She nobly served her country, her territory and the people of St. Croix," said Senator Douglas Can- ton, "and was always ready to oppose human frailties such as government waste, corruption, as well as racists in all its forms."

"Virgin Islanders are the richer for having lived alongside Ruby Margaret Rouss, said Commissioner of Education, Dr. Linda Crecque. "Our young people have lost a fine role model, just as we all have lost a hero and a friend."

And from the neighboring island nation of St. Kitts-Nevis, where

"The late Senator Ruby M. Rouss, speaking the campaign button of a political rival, shows a light moment with Senator Holland Redfield.

File Photo.