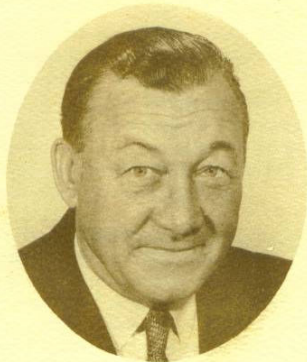


See Website



In Loving Memory



Omar Ovaldo Brown
1909-1988

VIEWING

John Thomas Memorial Chapel . . . 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.

SERVICE

Sts. Peter & Paul Cathedral . . . 10:00 a.m.

INTERMENT

Lady of Perpetual Help Cemetery, Mafolie
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Wednesday, April 27, 1988

Survivors

SONS

Omar, Jr. and Rudolfo Brown

STEPDAUGHTERS

Doris Smalls and Rachel Thomas

STEPSONS

Alfred Raimer and Roy Raimer

SISTER-IN-LAW

Virginia Gardner

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

Ju-Ana Lockhart Brown

GRANDCHILDREN

Omar Brown III and Raymond Brown

NIECE

Linda Boyle

COUSIN

Paul LaPlace

Many other relatives and friends

Pallbearers

Walter Niles / Reuben Melchior / Alturo James
Etienne Massac / Roy Raimer / Clinton Donovan

Honorary Pallbearers

Honorable Ralph Paiewonsky / Judge Alphonso Christian
Honorable Carlos A. Downing / Honorable Earle B. Ottley
Mario A. Watlington / Raphael Wheatley / Henry Richards





OMAR OVALDO BROWN
August 4, 1909 - April 23, 1988

When Omar Brown, together with such public figures as Roy Gordon, Carlos Downing, Valdemar A. Hill, Sr., Henry Richards, Reuben Ramsay and Oswald Harris, initiated the meteoric rise of the V.I. Progressive Guide in 1937, they inscribed in its by-laws the organizational watchword: "There is a life of duty far beyond the life of mere pleasure and profit." This native from the Northside kept faith with this statement throughout his life. He always gave fully of himself, physically and emotionally, to anybody and every cause he fostered.

Omar Brown was born on St. Thomas on August 4, 1909. He attended the parochial and public schools here. He was compelled to leave his homeland in 1927 because of the severe depression to live in the United States. In 1928, after a period of eight months in New York City, he joined the U.S. Army. He served with the 16th U.S. Infantry for 5½ years and later with the Coast Artillery in Panama for 2½ years. This period of outside experience and travel weighed against the insular life behind, created a great urge within him to return and upgrade his homeland. Thus, after his discharge from the Army in 1937, he returned to St. Thomas. Quite timely, for the islands were on the brink of economic chaos. The economic and political powers were held closely in the hands of a certain few who had very little interest in the long-range welfare of the poor. Observing the many serious social dislocations confronting his fellow Virgin Islanders, Omar joined the group which started the Progressive Guide, the first real politically active organization serving all islands. At first it was the intention of the organizers to have a purely social group. But the times demanded otherwise. They were forced to become involved in political issues. After many political battles and the passage of the 1936 Organic Act by the U.S. Congress, The Progressive Guide was able to get some of its members elected to the St. Thomas Legislature, then called the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John. Among them was Omar Brown, who served with distinction for 14 years. During his legislative career from 1938 to 1952,

he sponsored and supported many important bills, among which were the Hill's Wages & Hours Act and the Kean's Workmen's Compensation Act.

When he left the Legislature in 1952, Omar Brown was appointed Fire Chief for St. Thomas by Governor Morris F. de Castro. Under his leadership, from that time to 1966, the Fire Department developed into one of the best functioning public services available in St. Thomas. Also due to his efforts, the firemen were able to get uniforms, adequate training and up-to-date equipment.

After 14 years of service as Fire Chief, he ran for the legislature on the Republican ticket, but lost.

As State Chairman of the V.I. Republican Party, he played a very important role in getting Dr. Melvin H. Evans appointed Governor of the Virgin Islands in 1968. On July 1, 1969, Governor Evans chose Mr. Brown to be his administrative assistant for St. Thomas. After serving in that capacity for 3½ years, he retired from politics and government service in February, 1973. He then confined his efforts to the management of the popular and well situated Midtown Guest House.

Omar Brown never failed to give his service freely to his community. He was one of the early promoters of the St. Thomas Carnival and was a popular figure in the annual parades. On the annual Christmas programs sponsored by the local radio stations, he brought merriment to the folks at home and kept the local customs alive.

