

REMEMBERING AN AMAZING LIFE

The outpouring of shock, sadness and grief at the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, our Patron, should be of no surprise to any of us. We hoped that she would always be with us through smooth and turbulent times. Well hopefully she will be as her life and its constancy, dedication and devotion to duty will live on not only in our memories but, as he has stated, in her son King Charles III.

I had the privilege of representing RSGS at the Motion of Condolence at the Scottish Parliament when we heard tributes from the First Minister and three of the other political party leaders. In response the King made clear his commitment to following in his mother's footsteps

I only had the privilege of meeting The Queen once when she presented me with an honour at Holyrood Palace. She was surprisingly small in height but greatest in stature of any one in my lifetime. Her constancy and dedication to her role and her devotion to God, the established church, and her people are well known. So many words have been written to reflect on her lifetime of service. What strikes me, in particular, has been her role internationally. She was an apolitical world figure *par excellence*. She straddled the world stage with dignity, composure and authority. Her knowledge of people and places was astounding resulting from her diligence in preparation and her first-hand experience of travelling to so many countries, and at home and abroad meeting so many people from diverse backgrounds and persuasions. She ability to choose the right moment to use the native tongue of the place visited and to use her astute judgement to address long standing issues were her hallmarks.

There are so many lessons our leaders around the world and indeed us ordinary citizens can learn from her example. May her legacy lead to a better world.