

**Statement in recognition of Mrs. Penny Palfrey and Mr. Charles Whittaker**

**by the Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP**

**Presented in the Legislative Assembly on the**

**15 June, 2011**

Madam Speaker, I wish to use the forum of this Honourable House to draw attention to two notable achievements over this past weekend, both in the sporting world, but both resonating far beyond.

Madam Speaker, I refer to the record-setting solo unassisted open-water swim, referred to as "Bridging the Cayman Islands", by Mrs. Penny Palfrey. For some 40 hours and 41 minutes Mrs. Palfrey used her deepest physical and mental resources to complete the 68 mile distance between Little Cayman and the East End of Grand Cayman. This almost superhuman effort resulted in her breaking the previous record of 63 miles, a feat which has drawn wide international attention both to her as a swimmer, and to the Cayman Islands. As people have known for years, many wonderful things happen in the waters of the Cayman Islands.

Madam Speaker, the supporting team behind Mrs. Palfrey are all to be commended for helping to make this possible. I am told that outstanding support came from a number of sources, including her husband Chris; the Flowers Group of Companies; and Steven Munatones, of the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame, amongst many other achievements.

I am proud to say that both the Department of Tourism and Cayman Airways Limited provided valuable sponsorship and support in kind. They have also supported the upcoming Flowers Sea Swim, an event that has grown quite large on the international ocean swimming calendar, and which occurs this weekend. We take this opportunity to congratulate the Flowers family for their continued hard work and dedication, in managing the swim as well as in other areas.

Madam Speaker, the second event that I wish to highlight for this past weekend is the victory by our very own Charles Whittaker, who won two belts, the World

Boxing Council (WBC) Continental Junior Middleweight, and the USBA Junior Middleweight titles.

Boxing is also a solo sport, and as such also demands that one pull on ones reserves of courage and stamina, as well as the best use of one's training and experience, to not just keep going, but to overcome.

We congratulate Charles, and wish him continued success, for his own career's sake, but also for the sake of the young men he might inspire to find disciplined ways and means to handle themselves.

Consideration is being given to the conferral of suitable Awards on both Mrs. Penny Palfrey and Mr. Charles Whittaker in recognition of their respective achievements; this Honourable House will be further advised on this in due course.