



Sandy Cay Is Back!!

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The people of BVI turned out in their numbers at the Joseph Reynold O'Neal Botanic Gardens, on Thursday May 1, to witness what was described as a historical moment at the handing over of the Sandy Cay Island back to the Territory.

For many years the residents of Jost Van Dyke and all BVI islanders waited for this moment to arrive.

The 'two legal instruments', namely the transfer of the Island from the estate of the late Laurance Rockefeller to the National Parks Trust, and having the park gazetted as a protected Habitat Management Area, were signed by Clayton Wes Frye Jr., Executor of the Estate and the Minister of Natural Resources and Labour, Honorable Omar W. Hodge.

The transfer is in keeping with the wishes of the late Laurance S. Rockefeller, who managed the island as a botanic garden and was nature reserved for over 40 years. This 14-acre undeveloped island located between Tortola and Jost

Van Dyke was personally owned and managed among other things by the late Rockefeller. He also contributed by placing the British Virgin Islands on the road to prosperity after completing the Little Dix Bay Hotel, the Territory's first major five-star hotel in 1964.

In Recognition of these contributions, he was granted Belonger Status by the Government in September 2003.

The Permanent Secretary, in the Ministry of Natural Resources Clyde Lettsome during his speech as chairman gave spirited remarks and assured members of the Rockefeller Foundation that the island will be looked after and cared for by the National Parks Trust.

The audience was entertained by the Jost Van Dyke Primary School, who delivered a Skit and a song entitled 'Oh Sandy Cay, We Are Happy You've Come Back to Me' and the H. Lavity Stoutt Community Flute Choir.

Among those in attendance were Premier Ralph T. O'Neal, and William S. Moody, Former Programme Officer of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.