

Brian Bishop – a celebration – 28 July 2016, Mowbray, CT.

Those of you who do not know me, I am HK and I helped organise tonight's event.

A warm welcome to you all! A special welcome to Di, who was married to Brian, and to Brian's family: siblings, children, nieces and nephews, some of whom travelled from afar to join tonight's celebration of this worthy man.

Thank you - for coming together, 31 years after Brian's violent and tragic death.

Memory is our way of not forgetting. A friend corrected me recently said it is not just about forgetting, but how we don't forget. Indeed! Brian was a committed activist who confronted risk. Every generation needs those who actively, again and again, defend democratic principle, fight for real equality, demand the implementation of the provisions of the Bill of Rights we have since democracy, and who ultimately build toward a kinder, caring and compassionate society. We learn and get our inspiration from those who selflessly stood up. Learn from the foot-soldiers of the struggle, much more than from the luminaries and those who used the struggle as a stepping stone to power and riches and who now parade on the national stage with arrogant swagger.

I was asked what motivated us to arrange this evening to remember and celebrate Brian. Well, it's rather simple. I have already spoken of memory against forgetting. And when the State honours someone like Brian, as it did earlier this year and awards Brian the Order of Luthuli, - it just seemed right and natural that this should find an echo amongst the community who knew or feel a connection to Brian. The Order of Luthuli for Brian is not merely an

abstract Presidential medal; it should be brought home to the very grass roots that Brian hailed from – here in Cape Town. That is why we are here tonight.

Of course Brian is not the only person who was honoured. There are many others over the years that were honoured with the Order of Luthuli. If they have family or organisational connections, I hope they are honoured similarly in their local ambit. If no one honours them, we should!

Many of you here tonight wrote wonderful testimonies to Brian's commitment, his courage and his dedication. I want to tell you that nearly as many, unable to be with us tonight, sent further, beautiful testimonies.

I regret that I never met Brian.

This evening also belongs to someone else who is very special. This is Di Oliver, then married to Brian, who took Brian into the vital work the Black Sash did – for rural people and farm dwellers. Di, when we remember Brian tonight, we also, very warmly, embrace you!

Thank you!

May I now call upon....

Mary Burton

Nosizwe Ngudlwa

Mamphela Ramphele

Marion Taylor

Peter-John Pearson

Are there others who would like to say a few words

