

Congratulatory Remarks

Hon. Isaac Rankine

Mister Speaker,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our young Caymanian athletes who have just competed at the World Aquatic Swimming Championships in Budapest. These young people have done an exceptional job at representing our beloved isles.

Mister Speaker, I would like to congratulate and recognize Jordan Crooks, Jillian Crooks and Kyra Rabess on a successful and outstanding representation at these Championships. Jillian and Kyra both set new National and CIASA records. Jillian setting a new record in the 100m Freestyle with a time of 54.13 and Kyra who won the 400m heat in time of 4.14.77 and in the 800m Freestyle with a time 8.46.13. To Jillian and Kyra, I am

delighted to extend congratulations to both of you for a job well done. We are all looking forward to seeing your continued growth in the sport.

On Saturday 14 December 2024, we watched Jordan as he demolished the 50m freestyle short course world record twice in less 24 hours. Finishing the 50-metre freestyle heat in a record time of 20.08 and then returned and shattered his own record in the semi-finals and becoming the first swimmer in history to go sub 20 in the 50m Freestyle with a time of 19.90. Then on Sunday, 15 December, Jordan went on to win gold in the 50m Freestyle with a time of 20.19.

Mister Speaker, it is my great honour to congratulate Jordan Crooks for breaking the world record in the 50 metre short course and successfully defending his 50m Freestyle title at the World Championships.

Throughout his swimming career, Jordan has done an outstanding job at representing the Cayman Islands whether it be at the CARIFTA Swimming Championships, the Central American and Caribbean Swimming Championships (CCCAN), the Natwest Island Games, the Youth Olympics Games, Junior Pan American Games, the World Swimming Championships, the FINA World Swimming Championships and the 2024 Olympic Games where he became the first Caymanian to reach the finals in the men's 50m Freestyle.

Mister Speaker, Jordan's performance over the years is a testament to his faith, family, drive, talent and dedication. I am so immensely proud of this young man, not only for his ability to excel in swimming but also his ability to bring our people together in a show of national pride. It was heartwarming to see persons gathering for watch parties and showing support online for Jordan's win for the

Cayman Islands. I know that Jordan will continue striving for excellence and being a role model for younger athletes not only as our Sports Ambassador but also as an individual.

To our community we invite you to welcome home our athletes at 2:30pm Tuesday 17th December 2024 at Owen Roberts International Airport. The Cayman Islands government will also be hosting an event on Cardinal Avenue on Saturday, 21st December 2024 from 6pm to 8:30pm and we invite you all to attend.

Thank you Mister Speaker.