

Editorial

Well done Sir Florizel

B/N Governor General Sir Florizel Glasspole

Many Jamaicans underestimate the real worth of the service rendered this country by most of our stalwart statesmen and women, teachers, medical personnel, engineers, farmers and labourers.

This stems partly from an inability and an unwillingness to say a generous thank you to those people whose performance has contributed greatly to the building of this country.

In this regard, our Governor

General Sir Florizel Glasspole and Lady Glasspole deserve our thanks, praise and best wishes.

Sir Florizel, who was eighty years old on Monday, has received many accolades from both home and abroad during his tour of duty as Governor General.

However, long before that, he was a trade unionist, politician and a valuable and trend-setting Minister of Education.

He has therefore, served Jamaica at every level and this kind of contribution must be given the recognition it deserves. Sir Florizel has been exemplary in carrying out his duties and in the pronouncements he makes from time to

time. As patron of the Boys' Scout Movement and many other worthy causes, he embodied the epitomy of the father figure and inspired young people to reach for the very best things in life.

Sir Florizel constantly reminded Jamaicans and the youth in particular to love their country and its symbols such as the Flag, National Anthem and Pledge and to live up to the ideals these symbols represent.

On the political scene, this remarkable Jamaican, who himself grew out of partisan politics, being a co-founder of the PNP and a leader in the NWU, the PNP's trade union affiliate,

at all times maintained a statesman-like and non-partisan approach in his role as Governor General and Head of State.

His impeccable conduct, warmth and humane approach to nation building is historic and an indispensable landmark, which has already started to guide and inform even present-day generations of Jamaicans.

Sir Florizel, without doubt, holds a special place in the hearts and minds of his countrymen, many of whom are still unaware of how important his role continues to be in the life of the nation.

The full impact of Sir Florizel's contribution, will only

be understood when it comes to be assessed against the background of any variants from the kind of example he set during his tenure in King's House over the last 16 years.

We recall Sir Florizel's careful management of the King's House response to the turbulent 70s when political factions indulged in excesses which took a heavy toll of life and property.

Our beloved eighty-year-old Governor General is a young man at heart and this can be attested to by his vivacity and energy in joining Jamaicans at every level of society in their celebrations, commemorations,

church services, programme launchings and beauty contests.

His indefatigable energy, wit and enthusiasm for things Jamaican are well known and we wish him every success during the rest of his tenure at King's House.

Sir Florizel says he plans to leave office during the summer of 1990 and for many of us we sentimentally hope that time will be very slow in coming. However, Sir Florizel can be assured of one of many good things - his aura, quality of service and vision of the true Jamaican, will live with Jamaicans for a long time to come.

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