

SIR FLORIZEL, PATRIOT EXTRAORDINAIRE



November 25, at the age of 91, will be given a State funeral.

The funeral service will be held at the Coke Methodist Church, downtown Kingston, on Tuesday, December 5, commencing at 10:00 a.m. The body will lie in state on Monday, December 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

To mark Sir Florizel's passing a period of national mourning from Saturday, December 2, until Tuesday, December 5, was declared by Prime Minister P.J. Patterson. During the period uniformed groups will wear black armbands and flags will be flown at half-mast.

Condolence books were opened on Friday at King's House and at the office of the Office of the Prime Minister in Montego Bay.

Interment will take place at the Providence Methodist Church on Old Hope Road in St Andrew where Sir Florizel's wife, Lady Josephine, is buried.

Sir Florizel was born in Kingston on September 25, 1909, the son of Rev. Theophilus Glasspole, a Methodist minister, and his wife Florence. He attended Buff Bay Elementary, Central Branch Primary and Wolmers Boys schools. An accountant by pro-

fession, he married Josephine Kinlocke and they later had a daughter, Sara Lou Mena. A founding member of the People's National Party (PNP) in 1938, Sir Florizel was a major player in the fledgling trade union movement and in 1944 won a seat in the first elections to be held under Universal Adult Suffrage.

In 1955 he became Minister of Labour, but is remembered for his stints as Minister of Education from 1957 to 1962 and from 1972 to 1973. In 1973 he became Governor-General, a post he held for 17 years.