

GB/1890/00

SIR FLORIZEL LAID TO REST BESIDE LADY GLASSPOLE

KINGSTON, Dec. 5 (JIS):

The bleak weather added to the sombreness of the occasion, as numerous mourners lined both sides of Old Hope Road in front of the Providence Methodist Church, St. Andrew, to witness the burial ceremony in which Sir Florizel Glasspole, former Governor-General was laid to rest, beside his wife who predeceased him.

The stillness of the afternoon was shattered only by a 10-gun salute given at five-minute intervals by members of the Jamaica Defence Force and the quiet whispers of mourners discussing the merits of the late former Head of State.

Children, eager to catch a glimpse of these important procedures, stole a look over the walls that surrounded the cemetery where Sir Florizel had specifically requested that he be buried beside his wife, Lady Josephine Glasspole who died in January 1999.

Upon arrival of the funeral cortege at the Providence Church, the coffin was conveyed by the bearer party to the graveside through an Honour Guard formed by Reserves of the Jamaica Defence Force. The bearer party was followed by the clergy, the family and other official mourners, whilst the Providence choir led the singing of several popular hymns.

A short interment ceremony was led by Rev. Dr. Byron K. Chambers, Minister of the Coke Methodist Church from where the funeral procession had wound its way to the burial site. The benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Stanley Clarke, President of the Provisional Elders Conference of the Moravian Church, followed by the sounding of the "Last Post" and "Reveille" by the Jamaica Defence Force buglers.

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The ceremony ended with the laying of 10 wreaths by Sara Lou Mena, Sir Florizel's daughter; Governor-General, His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Howard Cooke; Prime Minister P. J. Patterson; Edward Seaga, Leader of the Opposition; Syringa Marshall-Burnett, President of the Senate; Violet Neilson, Speaker of the House; a representative from the Office of the Chief Justice; Chief Justice; Major-General John Simmonds, Chief of Staff; Francis Forbes, Commissioner of Police and Her Worship the Mayor of Kingston, Councillor Marie Atkins.

Other mourners who paid their respects included, Education and Culture Minister, Senator Burchell Whiteman; Water and Housing Minister, Dr. Karl Blythe; Foreign Affairs Minister, Dr. Paul Robertson; from the Opposition, Senator Ryan Peralto, Audley Shaw, Olivia 'Babsy' Grange and Senator Anthony Johnson; and a contingent of Wolmer's sixth form students.

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