

HERB MCKENLEY DAY DECLARED IN NEW YORK

- "I salute you Herb,..." *B/N - Herb*
- Former athletes presented with special awards
- Jamaicans seem not to respect National Anthem

From Pauline Johnson

"Herb McKenley's Day" in the city of New York? Yes, indeed. Sunday, April 29, was declared "Herb McKenley Day in the Big Apple".

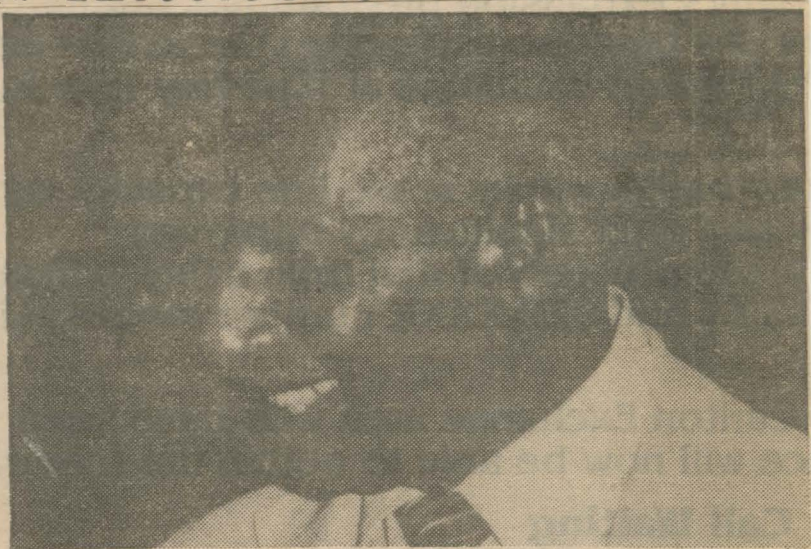
The proclamation declaring April 29, 1990 as belonging to such an outstanding Jamaican was read by the Jamaica Ambassador to Washington, Hon. Keith Johnson, at a reception held in honour of Mr. McKenley, at the exclusive Antun's restaurant, Queens N.Y. last Sunday.

It was heart-warming to see the large numbers of past and present athletes, friends and well-wishers who crammed the restaurant to pay tribute to this outstanding sportsman.

The Jamaica Olympic Overseas Committee must be commended for the effort in making Sunday April 29th so momentous in the life of Mr. McKenley. Jamaica's Prime Minister Michael Manley could not make it to the function. He did send a congratulatory message which was delivered by the Minister of Labour, Welfare and Sports, Miss Portia Simpson.

In paying tribute to Mr. McKenley, the President of the Jamaica Olympic Association, Mr. Mike Fennell, said that Mr. McKenley had set a standard in the area of Track and Field. He said those who are young should understand that he is a disciplinarian and one who believes in what he has to do. Mr. Fennell said that unless you understand him (McKenley), you will never be able to achieve your full potential.

International Sports Specialist, Foreign Service Officer, Professor Mal Whitfield said, "America has



learnt a lot from Herb who is not proud but warm and friendly." He added that Mr. McKenley had brought the United States and Jamaica together with common understanding and respect for each other. "I salute you Herb for the role you have played in bringing Jamaica and America together," Professor Whitfield said.

Thirty seven athletes who were coached by Mr. McKenley, and who participated in the Central and American and Caribbean

Games, Pan Am Games, Commonwealth Games and the Olympic Games, were presented with special awards commemorating Herb McKenley's Testimonial.

Among them were; former Mannings High School long jumper, Attorney-at-law, Trevor Brooks, Twin quarter milers, Mel and Mal Spence, sprinter and quarter miler, Dr. Una Morris Chong; sprinter Vilma Charlton; sprinter and Quarter Miler, Lennox Miler; sprinter, hurdler Keith Gardener, Quarter Miler,

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P.T.O

Byron LaBeach, Quarter miler,
George Kerr, Hurdler,
Raymond Harvey.

Invited to share in the occasion were members of the Calabar Penn Relay Team. Others paying tear-jerking tribute to this outstanding and dedicated Jamaican athlete were; Una Morris, Keith Gardener, Vilma Charlton, Byron LaBeach and Donald Philbert.

Mary Isaacs, Jamaica's song bird seranaded Mr. McKenley. Herb was overwhelmed. Speaker for the evening was Jimmy Carnegie.

While at the function it was observed that many Jamaicans do not hold their National Anthem in high regard.

During the singing of Jamaica's National Anthem, which was led by Mary Isaacs, a number of distinguished-looking Jamaicans arrived. Instead of entering the room and participating in the singing of the Anthem, these late comers proceeded to greet each other, hugging kissing and whispering.