

GLASSPOLE KNIGHTED

Governor-General Florizel Glasspole has been knighted and reggae superstar Bob Marley has been awarded the Order of Merit — the nation's third highest honour — by the Government of Jamaica in recognition of his outstanding contribution to music.

Sir Florizel (Order of St. Michael and St. George) has been Governor-General of Jamaica since 1973 and was reconfirmed in that position last November, after Prime Minister Edward Seaga assumed office.

The Governor-General holds the Order of the Nation (ON) and Commander of the Order of Distinction (CD) which are local honours. He was awarded the Order of Andres Bello (first class) by the President of Venezuela, in January, 1973.

Knighthood of the Governor-General comes after Prime Minister Seaga announced recently that Jamaicans would be eligible to receive foreign honours, in as much as the Jamaican system of honours had not gained sufficient prestige to be able to command its own distinction.

An official release from Jamaica House said that Sir Florizel has enjoyed the widespread respect of Jamaicans for the distinguished and respected role he has played as Jamaica's Governor-General since 1973.

Sir Florizel's political career has spanned four decades, during which time he has held a number of Ministerial, Parliamentary and political posts, all under the Administration of the People's National Party (PNP).

He was Minister of Labour between 1955 and 1957; Minister of Education between 1957 and 1962, and again between 1972 and 1973; and Leader of the House of Representatives between 1955 and 1962, and 1972 and 1973.

The Governor-General was a member of the first House of Representatives under Adult Suffrage in 1944, representing Eastern Kingston and Port Royal, until he resigned in 1973.

In addition, he was a member of the Jamaica House of Representatives Committee which prepared the island's Independence Constitution, and also a member of the delegation which finalised Jamaica's Constitution in London with the British Government.

Sir Florizel was an ex-officio member of the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation (KSAC) between 1944 and 1955, and a member of the Board of Governors of the Institute of Jamaica, during 1944 and 1957.

A statement from the Office of the Prime Minister observed that Marley, who is presently recuperating from illness in a European clinic, had gained international recognition and acclaim not only for himself, but for Jamaica.

On January 27, Opposition Member of Parliament Anthony Spaulding put forward a motion in the House of Representatives seeking to have the internationally-famous singer awarded the Order of Merit.

In tribute to Marley, Prime Minister Seaga said: "Bob Marley's name first became prominent on the Jamaican musical scene in 1964, when with his group, the Wailers, he displayed that he was an artiste of extraordinary talent. His music offered an original mix that made use of diverse elements of both our urban and rural cultures.

"In 1973, Mr. Marley captured the international musical stage with the album "Catch A Fire". This was a significant step in the development of Mr. Marley — a self-taught artiste — a singer, composer and musician of high calibre. Singers of international repute soon began to include Bob Marley's songs in their repertoire.

"The international significance of Bob Marley's music was underlined in February, 1980 when the Government of Zimbabwe invited him to perform at celebrations marking that country's independence.

"Today, his music is heard in the capitals and other cities of the Americas, Europe and Africa, where he has made Jamaica a leading country in popular music, through his records and performances.

"At home, Bob Marley has been equally popular, and has been a friend and adviser to thousands.

"Bob Marley's popularity and true worth were vividly evident on April 12, 1978, when he performed at the Peace Concert in Kingston, seeking to cement the establishment of a Peace Truce between rival political gangs, then joined hands with the country's two political leaders, as a symbol of the necessity of peace, love, understanding and unity.

- The awards are effective today



Jamaica's reggae superstar Robert Marley and the music he pioneered received formal recognition on Thursday when Prime Minister and Minister of Information and Culture Edward Seaga on behalf of the Government and people of Jamaica conferred the Order of Merit on him.

The letter informing the Honourable Robert Marley of the honour being conferred on him was presented on Thursday at Jamaica House to David Marley, the Marleys' eldest son.

The above photograph shows David receiving the letter from Prime Minister Seaga while Mrs. Rita Marley and younger son Steve show their appreciation with smiles. The official citation will be presented to the Honourable Bob Marley on his return to Jamaica.)



Sir Florizel Glasspole



The Honourable Bob Marley

**The OM
for
Bob
Marley**