

# Tributes to Hon. Carlton Alexander

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*His old school, Jamaica College, has paid tribute to the memory of Mr. Carlton Alexander who, while he lived, was a source of great strength and support for the school.*

*A joint statement was issued by the staff, old boys, and parent teachers association, and the school board added its quota of praise.*

*Signed by Mr. Ruel L. Taylor, Principal; Mr. James Carnegie, president of the Old Boys' Association; and by Ms. Sonia Christie, president of the parent teachers association, the statement said:*

"Mr. Alexander was unquestionably not just one of the greatest sons of Jamaica College, but of all Jamaica. As student, old boy, President of the Old Boys' Association, member of the Executive of the Parent Teachers' Association, member of the Jamaica College Lodge, and most of all, as Chairman of our Board of Governors and Management for almost twenty years, Mr. Alexander, in moral and material terms, almost certainly did more for our institution than anyone not professionally employed to the College in its entire history.

"Indeed, with justice, the institution could well have carried his name also. Our students, anyone else, Mr. Alexander knew and understood our school motto (Fervet

opus in campis). For him, work burnt perpetually in the field and like a true fighter, he was never found wanting there.

"Among Mr. Alexander's many immense contributions to Jamaica were his contributions to education, youth, culture, and sports. His work for Jamaica College can be considered to be the prime concrete examples of these efforts. In due course, the Jamaica College community will do its part in perpetuating the memory of such a supreme servant of the College. His work was such, however, that it will be very difficult to do him full justice."

Mr. H.D. Carberry, vice-chairman of the School board, said in

his tribute: The death of Hon. S. Carlton Alexander has brought to an end a long and close relationship between Mr. Alexander and Jamaica College. Involved as he was with a vast variety of organizations, both public and private, Jamaica College can claim to be amongst those closest to his heart. He attended the College in the 1930's, and never lost touch with his old school. He became a member of the School Board in the late 1940's, and ultimately was appointed Chairman of the Board in April 1971.

The condition and progress of the school was his constant concern. From time to time, at his own expense, he engaged the services of educational experts to review the work and organization of the school and to make suggestions for its improvement. The last such expert made his report at the last Board meeting on 20th April, 1989 — one of the few meetings that Mr. Alexander missed.

So many areas of the school bear traces of his generosity and handwork that one can name but a few: the Alexander Tennis Courts, the Alexander Wall which backs the premises, the Alexander Building

(classrooms).

Hon. Alexander was Chairman of the School Board for some eighteen years, and was unflinching in his attendance at its meetings, save when off the island or ill. He was with us at our meeting on 23rd February, and we welcomed him back with open arms after his recent operation. But further attendance was not to be, and now death has removed a father figure for the whole school, whose like we shall not see again."

#### ●● From the Jamaica Assoc. of Social Workers:

Rarely does one person embody so much that is noble in human beings. Even more rarely is one accorded the accolades due him in his own lifetime. Far rarer is it, that someone of such colossal stature manages to reach the height he reached and yet find time to give attention to the lowliest in his company, community and country.

#### ●● From the Life Insurance Companies of Jamaica:

It can be truly said that Mr. Alexander was a great Jamaican who served his country with a passion and who contributed much to its economic and social development. His life and work is one that can serve as a model for all young

Jamaicans, demonstrating that through diligence and hard work, one can reach the top. This he showed in his company, Grace Kennedy, rising from a clerk to Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

#### ●● From the Professional Societies Association of Jamaica:

Dr. Alexander was a trustee of the Professional Societies Association in Jamaica. Over the years he showed much interest in the development of technology and professionalism and consistently emphasised the key role that they had to play in the development and efficient running of both the private and public sectors.

To this end, he was an enthusiastic supporter of projects to increase training and advance education. Specifically he was keenly interested in the development of the professional centre concept and participated regularly in meetings with the Prime Minister's office and other agencies aimed at making the project a reality.

#### ●● From the Jamaica Institute of Management:

Mr. Alexander was a strong supporter of the effort to improve the managerial competence of Jamaicans, recognizing in this activity a key ingredient in the drive to increase productivity. He was indefatigable in the help and support he gave our Institute and in the wider field of education as a whole.

The Jamaican Institute of Management will be seeking to work with other organisations to which he has given support in the development of a suitable memorial to his life and work.

#### ●● From the National Consumers League:

Carlton Alexander was truly a great friend to the League from its inception 23 years ago. He gave every encouragement to this organisation in its early and formative years and felt that it had a vital function to perform in the society.

#### ●● From the Jamaica Insurance Advisory Council:

Carlton Alexander was a man of exemplary strength and goodwill and was known for his contribution to many aspects of Jamaican life. He was also closely associated with the business of general insurance, and may be said to have represented one of its guiding principles, that of "utmost good faith".

Mr. Alexander will always be greatly remembered for his unstinting service to his country.