

Carlton Alexander The Biography

Selwyn Carlton Alexander was born in Montego Bay on May 9, 1916 to Selwyn Augustus and Rosina Alexander. He was the first of nine children.

He attended Jamaica College from 1927-1932. As a student, old boy, president of the Old Boy's Association, member of the Executive of the Parent Teachers Association, Grand Master of the Jamaica College Lodge and Chairman of our Board of Governors for over twenty years, he has done more for our institution than anyone else in the history of our school. Past and present students refer to him as the GODFATHER of Jamaica College and his interest in the welfare of the school was first and foremost in his life.

Mr. Alexander was unquestionably, not just one of the greatest sons of Jamaica College but of all Jamaica. His immense contribution to Jamaica includes his benevolence to young people, education, sports, culture, trade and commerce. His work and commitment to Jamaica College must be considered to be the most concrete of his generosity. His care, love and passion for "all things J.C." never wavered.

He was a giant of a man, whose aim was to make and leave Jamaica College a better place in every word, thought and deed, he was patient, courageous, strong and brave and was equipped with a determination to build lasting legacies we now enjoy in our school community.

His first exposure to business came from his summer and Christmas holiday jobs with Hanna's Hub in downtown Kingston. At age 16, he started working with Grace Kennedy & Co. in 1933 as a Stock Clerk and rose to the position of Chairman of the company.

Carlton Alexander first made an indelible mark on the wider Jamaican public when he became the President of the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce in 1968. During this period and certainly ever since then he made an invaluable contribution by addressing local and national issues affecting commercial trade. In 1976 he spearheaded the formation of the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica, thus all the efforts of the trade and business community was

brought under one umbrella organization the PSOJ. Mr. Alexander over many years has played a leading role in the field of Commerce, Industry and Export. He was one of the masterminds behind the co-ordination of the various segments

of the business sector in a way which enables that sector to make a more positive contribution to the national development. Dr. Hon. Carlton Alexander was said to be among the few Jamaican whose work has been instrumental in achieving aspects of sustainable development.

Selwyn Alexander was involved in many areas of the business sector. He was the:

- Chairman and Chief Executive of Grace Kennedy & Company Ltd.
- President & Life Member of the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ).
- President of the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce.
- Chairman Jamaica National Export Corporation.
- Chairman Jamaica National Investment Promotion Ltd.
- Chairman Kingston Wharves Ltd.
- Chairman Kingston Terminal Operators Ltd.
- Chairman Dairy Industries Jamaica Ltd.
- Director Bata Shoe Company.
- Director Coconut Control Authority.
- Director Jamaica Export Credit Insurance Company.
- Director Caribbean Atlantic Life Insurance Company Limited.
- Director of Pilkington Glass Jamaica Ltd.
- Director of Domestic Sales Ltd.
- Chairman of the Jamaica College School Board etc.

He was the recipient of a Humanitarian Award at the American Friends of Jamaica's. He also received the Order of Jamaica and Commander of the Order of Distinction.

Selwyn Carlton Alexander died at age 73 on May 23, 1989. He is acknowledged as a "rare patriot" to Jamaica.

