

# Amy Bailey' champion of human rights' laid to rest

Before her death Amy Beckford Bailey made a request that no eulogy be read. at her funeral.

But despite the absence of this, glowing tributes were paid to "Miss Amy" by many well-wishers and friends who turned out to pay their last respects at the service of thanksgiving for her life, held yesterday at St Matthews Church, Allman Town.

Although the clouds above threatened to rain, hundreds of mourners headed by Governor General Sir Florizel Glasspole, Prime Minister Michael Manley and Leader of the Opposition, Edward Seaga, were present.

The tribute which was read by a long-time friend, Dr Joyce Robinson, recounted "the extraordinarily great contribution made to education and the nation on a whole" by "Miss Amy".

Patriot, social worker, and a champion of human rights, was how she was described. Her work in the classroom, with womens' organisations and support groups was also praised.

She had motivated people to excel, and spared no effort in encouraging them "and helping others over rough spots". Hard work, commitment and loyalty to justice, truth and freedom was a

first in the life of "Miss Amy", Robinson said.

And the seeming endless tributes kept flowing, as Robinson recounted the life and work of the "grand first lady of the teaching profession".

Canon Weevil Gordon, in offering words of comfort to the bereaved family, reminded them that christians should have no fear of death, "as it is a transition to a better place."

Manley read the first lesson taken from Revelation 7:9-17, with the second taken from St John 14: 1-6 and 27, being read by Seaga.

A guard of honour was formed by students of the Kingston Technical High School where "Miss Amy" was a teacher, Sistren and a number of other groups which she was associated with.

Amy Bailey who was awarded the Order of Jamaica (OJ) and the Marcus Garvey Award for Excellence, in 1988 was born on November 28, 1896. She died last week Wednesday in the Nuttall Memorial Hospital. She is survived by her sisters, Elise and Paulette.

A private interment is expected to take place this morning for the 95-year-old educator.