G.G. pleased Amy Bailey gets Garvey Award for Excellence

GOVERNOR GENERAL, the Most Hon, Sir Florizel Glasspole, said he was pleased that Miss Amy Bailey, whose life has been a conduct of hope of place and purpose to the hundreds of girls who have come to know "self", and whose lives have had changes far beyond their wildest expectations, is the recipient of the Marcus Garvey Award for Excellence.

For, he said, like Marcus Garvey, the "freedom fighter", her spirit has always been free and her life unreservedly selfless. He saw the Award as being "in her mind, the greatest she has ever had".

Sir Florizel was paying tribute to Miss Bailey, retired educator and social worker, last Friday night at the presentation banquet for the award, held at the Oceana Hotel, downtown Kingston.

Champion

Sir Florizel said: "Amy Bailey was a champion for technical education, an agitator that technical school students should be allowed to sit the Civil Service Examination, to emerge into the mainstream of the system - she fought and conquered.

"For years she gave her service free gratis and for nothing to countless under-privileged girls in the field of education and social service training".

The Governor General recalled his association with Miss Bailey for countless number of years and said "It is inspiring to know that as the Marcus Garvey Centenary celebrations conclude, we honour one of our most outstanding individals, who throughout her lifetime contributed so much to Jamaica's development".

Her sacrifice for the upliftment of Jamaicans, her admiration for Marcus Garvey and his policies, and her determination to gain black self-pride and dignity, no doubt were among the factors that qualified her for this prestigious award. he said.

Philosophy

Sir Florizel recalled that Jamaica has had had a year of celebrations in which Jamaica paid tribute to the memory of Marcus Mosiah Garvey, first National Hero, champion of the black race, innovator, initiator, liberator, philosopher, artist, traveller, visionary, orator and prophet.

He said Garvey was one of Jamaica's greatest thinkers and speakers,

"His philosophy is adopted and upheld by many in the society, for he was a powerful activist against racism, a visionary for a world where blacks would hold full recognition as equals and would foster methods of self-reliance in a deeprooted religious brotherhood, unity and self inprovement; and, above all, his strong and steadfast belief in 'One God, One Aim, One Destiny"

Sir Florizel said that in this Year of the Worker, it was appropriate that the centenary year celebrations end, leaving Gorvey "fresh in our minds - for he was a champion of workers' right. Garvey's fight for racial equality extended to the work arena."

He welcomed "Queen Mother"

Moore, of Harlem, New York, USA, a long-time associate of Marcus

Garvey, and a dedicated Garveyite; as well as other members of her delegation - Miss Delores Blakely, Deputy Mayor of Harlem, and Mr.

Robert Harris, Chairman of the Garvey Centenary Committee in New York.

The award was presented by Lady Bustamante, widow of National Hero, the Rt. Excellent, Sir Alexander Bustamante.

The citation to the award was read by Mr. Carey Robinson, General Manager of the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation.

Dr. Patrick Bryan, a member of the Selection Committee, outlined

the criteria for the award.

There was a musical programme before and after the presentation ceremony.

Mr. Mike Henry, Minister of State for Culture, chaired the function which was organised by the Office of the Prime Minister and the Marcus Garvey Centenary Committee.

Please see picture of the award presentation on the Centrespread. -CHERICE BROWN

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