

'Great Jamaican' Evon Blake buried

TRIBUTE to Evon Blake, journalist and author, as a great Jamaican was paid at his funeral service at the Methodist Church, in Port Antonio, on Saturday, November 19.

Mr. Blake died on November 7.

Mr. Dudley Ball, a close friend of Mr. Blake for many years, gave the eulogy, in which he recounted highlights of Mr. Blake's career in newspaper and news-magazine journalism, describing him as "a courageous and colourful writer" who made an outstanding contribution to the profession in the roles of reporter, editor and publisher.

Mr. Ball said he was "proud and honoured" to have been a friend of "this great Jamaican" whose service to Jamaica went beyond the bounds of journalism into the wider sphere of community service.

Special mention was made of Mr. Blake's work for the parish of Portland, where he went to live after he retired from active journalism. His service to the Portland branch of the Jamaican Red Cross Society, of which he was chairman for many years, was singled out for praise.

Mr. Gregory Reid, president of the Jamaican Red Cross Society, who was unable to attend, sent a message of tribute to Mr. Blake for his contribution to the society, in which his widow, Mrs. Viola Blake, is an executive member.

A capacity congregation, headed by the Custos of Portland, the Hon.

C.V. Turnbull, and the Mayor of Port Antonio, Councillor Hezekiah Molloy, accompanied by their wives, attended the service, which also drew mourners from Kingston who made the 60-mile journey, despite the heavy rain that day, to pay their last respects to Mr. Blake.

Pastor Fed. Beason, of the New Testament Church of God, preached the sermon at the service, at which the other officiating clergymen were the Rev. Dr. S.U. DunMoodie, the Rev. Glen Prince, Frs. Ramsay and Fitzgerald. Both Pastor Beason and Dr. DunMoodie paid their own tribute to Mr. Blake and offer condolence to his family.

Mrs. Barbara Blake-Hannah, eld-

er daughter of Mr. Blake, read the first Scripture lesson, and one of his sisters, Mrs. Johanna Burt Williams, sang two solos in tribute to her brother. The second lesson was read by Dr. Sam Street, who added a personal word of acknowledgment to his departed friend.

Family mourners included Mrs. Blake, Miss Jean Blake, daughter; Messrs. Paul, Peter and Michael Blake, sons, who were also pallbearers along with Mr. Ball, Mr. George Reynolds and Mr. Rudy Moore.

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