

P.J. Patterson celebrates 75TH birthday



PJ Patterson with Portia Simpson Miller, leader of the PNP, who also proposed at toast to Mr. Patterson.

A Life Fulfilled

(Toast to The Most Hon. Percival James Patterson on the occasion of his 75th birthday, April 10, 2010.)

By the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller

To have attained three score and fifteen years is, by any measure, a blessing. Percival James Patterson has been blessed in every single one of those seventy-five-years. It has been a fine long distance run for this Jamaican statesman.

It has been the sort of epic run that keeps the spectator mesmerized, brimming with respect at the form and precision of every step. For, with every hurdle each year presented, with every corner he approached, P.J. Patterson perfected his stride. And oh what a run it has been! From Hanover to Jamaica House and beyond; via Calabar, Mona, London and sojourns across the entire globe!

P.J. Patterson is the quintessential statesman and Caribbean Man. His strength of mind and spirit, firm and steely conviction, quiet soft-spot and a vision of a greater, better, more vibrant Caribbean, caused him to stay his course.

He laid a foundation from which Caribbean men, women and children can, have and will continue to soar. He created the infrastructure that allows Jamaican 'super-athletes' of all disciplines and walks of life, an opportunity to become immortalized.

P.J. Patterson could not be satisfied with merely a track. He envisioned a highway. In fact, his track is a highway — an ultra-modern expanse of road to take his nation faster and more efficiently into its future. Through every stage of his run along life's highway — as student, teacher, lawyer, politician and statesman, P.J. Patterson perfected his form. And even as he passed the baton, I could hear him urge me onwards, a true team player, an inspiration, forever a friend.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you to raise your glasses and to salute the Most Honourable Percival James Patterson on this the seventy- fifth year of a life fulfilled.

PJ more than fulfilled the promise

Tribute by Ambassador Burchell Whiteman

The freshmen who entered the UCWI in 1955 generally speaking became almost instantly familiar with three names if they had not met these individuals before. They were all Jamaicans — Ramsay Blackwood, Rex Nettleford and PJ Patterson.

Ramsay Blackwood left Jamaica shortly after graduation; Rex Nettleford was to leave for Oxford on a Rhodes scholarship and returned to the university and serve Jamaica, the region and in the international community for the rest of his life. PJ Patterson was to write his name in the political and developmental history books of Jamaica and to more than fulfill the promise, which he showed during the campus years. Let me be clear from the outset that it was not his steadfast application to academic pursuits, which particularly impressed his fellow students. The fact is that he managed those — like everything else — with quiet efficiency. But it was his involvement in all else that marked him out as a special individual. He was much less in the mould of the doistered academic and more in that of the student prince (somewhat presaging the later political title of “Fresh Prince”), but at the time associated with the Student Prince of wine, women and song. Let me also be clear that he was not given

to excesses, being very selective and discriminating in terms of the one particular young woman who captured his heart, having a nose for good wine, but generally preferring whisky and appreciating jazz and calypso but as he himself will admit regarding “song” as a subject for audience rather than performer...

PJ demonstrated in those years amazing knowledge of social history and behaviour, a deep interest in politics and social development and a passion for justice in all its forms. He was journalist and writer, organiser of the first campus political party, member of numerous clubs and societies, chairman of the External Affairs Committee of the Guild of Undergraduates and a keen disciple of Sir Philip Sherlock who was his mentor and friend.

Unwavering commitment

His belief in his people and their potential for regional and international leadership was strengthened by his campus experience and it has grown over the years. Throughout his professional life as teacher, attorney at law, parliamentary representative, and Prime Minister, he has shown an unwavering commitment to the service of people, an adherence to principle, an espousal of the wholesome value systems, which in his youth

and early adulthood characterised our nation, and — in the face of the greatest hostility and adversarial posturing — a generosity of spirit for which he continues to be applauded even to this day.

Five years ago when I was a little more confrontational than PJ could ever be, in my toast to him at his seventieth, I mentally wore my Party General Secretary hat, and was perhaps insensitive enough to recall a derogatory comment made about PJ by a leading politician, pointing out the folly and inaccuracy of the statement attributed to that person. Today, I will refer — hopefully less controversially — to a comment by another person — a very distinguished member of the Jamaican private sector — who repeatedly in conversation with me has described PJ Patterson as the most intelligent Prime Minister that Jamaica has had.

As we salute and honour him on this special day, I express the hope that that intelligence, coupled with his abundant energy, his generosity, his patriotism, his loyalty to his friends and his constant commitment to service will continue to enrich his life and inspire all of us and the many others who are privileged to share space with him in our country, this region and on Planet Earth.

To PJ! May you enjoy very many happy returns of the day!

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The Most Hon PJ Patterson (centre front) with friends (from left) Hopeton Caven, Dr. Vin Lawrence, Yvon Desuime, Ralph Fisher, Lance Johnson, Noel Sloley, Horace Clarke, and Roosevelt Thompson.

(Tribute to the Most Hon PJ Patterson, ON, PC, QC on the occasion of his 75th birthday, April 10, 2010 by Dr. the Hon. Vincent Lawrence, OJ)

Ladies and Gentlemen

I have been asked to pay tribute as a friend to our host and the man of the moment, the Most Hon PJ Patterson. This is a task that I undertake with a great deal of pleasure as we congratulate and celebrate with PJ tonight on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

Nearly forty years of close personal, political and professional association with PJ has put me in the privileged position of having got special insight into the person behind the urbane, unflappable, inscrutable, careful and thoughtful figure that PJ projected during his half century in public life.

I am able to say with authority, Ladies and Gentlemen, that the real PJ is ... **urbane, unflappable, inscrutable, careful and thoughtful.**

Many have tried to find the measure of this quintessential Jamaican

PJ

... urbane, unflappable, inscrutable, careful and thoughtful

and Caribbean man. Many have tried to "work out" this cricket-loving leader who has patterned his life and illustrious political career on the valued batsman (be he opening or middle order) who believes in a patient, long and match-winning innings.

However, in putting his innings together, he has not been without dash, and has always shown a natural sense of fair play.

Many have recognized and honoured him for his loyalty, reliability and commitment as a team player, his persistence and tireless determination to get the job done.

He is admired for his ability to see

the big picture, take the long view and tum in the solid performances, which have ensured his success in so many spheres.

Many hats

Ladies and gentlemen ... PJ has worn many hats in his time, and has worn them well. We his friends, associates, colleagues and family members know that over the years he could be depended on to display his usual equanimity and resilience, whether characterized as "**Fresh Prince**" or "**Prophet**"

Whatever his portfolio throughout the years — industry, tourism, foreign affairs, foreign trade, devel-

opment, planning and production, whether labouring tirelessly as the longest serving Prime Minister of our country, or forging strong links within the Caribbean Community, PJ brought to his tasks, special analytical skills, a quiet strength and dignity that could create a comfort zone for even the stoutest opponent.

Friends and adversaries alike have admired his powers of persuasion, tolerance, diplomacy and non-confrontational approach, even in the most difficult situations.

Not surprisingly, some years ago, he was praised in **The Economist** for his "**consultative brand of politics that stood in dramatic**

contrast to the rough-and-tumble governing styles of Jamaica's past leaders". He was further characterized by that magazine as a respected black leader: "**A reticent man in a loud-mouthed country**".

Ladies and gentlemen ... while not taking away from the spirit and verve of the loud, vocal culture characteristic of our country, there is much to be said for the gentler attitude that PJ not just called for, but which he has demonstrated throughout his daily life and dealings with all persons.

There is so much to be said for the values he has upheld, as evidenced by his position among many of us, as a trust-worthy confidant and faithful friend who unfailingly responds with kindness, courtesy, wit and wisdom.

Strong beliefs

Recently, I have had the privilege of being party to work being done in producing a guide to a more spiritual and rewarding life for our young Anglican congregants.

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The Most Hon. P.J. Patterson — The Lawyer

Tribute by David Muirhead OJ, QC

What are the elements requisite for the making of a lawyer?
What are the tools of the trade?

Industry — (hardwork, diligence)

One of the highest compliments a judge can pay to a lawyer is employing the phrase — Industry of counsel "has facilitated ... my decision."

The ability to communicate and in so doing to persuade, requires the mastery of language

PJ possesses these elements in abundance. How come:

A BA Hons. degree in English from UWI was the foundation and he demonstrated the other by being awarded the Sir Hughes Parry Prize and Leverhulme Scholar at London School of Economics where he earned his Bachelor of Law degree and was called to the Bar at Middle Temple 1963.

He was admitted to the Jamaica Bar in 1963 and he practiced law (while engaged in politics) or it is immersed in politics while he practiced law, which he states in his CV was from 1963—1972 and 1981—1988 (coinciding with the period his party was in opposition).

Awarded QC in 1984 in recognition of his legal accomplishments, especially then in advocacy — not only in Jamaica courts and other areas of representation but also in the Councils on the world stage where he was known and respected in CARICOM, Latin America and the wider Caribbean as also in the United Nations to name just a few.

In negotiations EU/ACP African Caribbean Pacific) where members of the African Group even in year 2000 still recounted his exploits and declared his advocacy and negotiating skills on behalf of ACP as "Legendary."

A founding partner of the law firm Rattray Patterson Rattray, which became renown during his period of practice and continuing; he has left a legacy of brilliance and recognition in the

profession, the country at large and beyond.

Live in our memories

I will mention briefly a few matters in the 1980's in which he appeared which live in our memories:

The JBC case, which established the principle that a worker has a right in his job akin to a right in property. (Not unrelated to the reinstatement of a worker unjustifiably dismissed as provided for in the Industrial Relations Act.)

United Motors/Panton vs Jamaica Commodity Trading Company Ltd — A case before a full court — comprised of three judges — in which his then opponent told me he raised the then recently enunciated doctrine of "Legitimate Expectation" for the first time in Jamaica — (meaning a consequence which in the circumstances and the course of dealing one would almost certainly have expected to occur). This gave rise to the contra submission of a "frustrated expectation" illustrating the advancement of the law in its brilliant adversarial contest.

R v Latty et al (1988) 25 Ja. Law Reports 119 — Latty remained silent when his co-accused stated in the presence of the police that the ganja in the house belonged to him (Latty). Both Latty and his co-accused were convicted, the Resident Magistrate finding that his silence in these circumstances amounted to evidence of guilt.

A strong Court of Appeal held, inter alia, that in this case no adverse inference could be drawn from the silence of Latty and his appeal was allowed, conviction quashed and sentence set aside. This has undoubtedly given rise to PJ's now famous quote: "Silence cannot be misquoted."

Finally, I recalled a promise given by him at a Bar dinner to repeal the Vagrancy Act — a law which I characterize as a legacy of slavery, which degraded so many, being the scourge of the less fortunate. He did in fact cause that law to be repealed and thereby gave the "presumption of innocence" true meaning for all.

PJ's attainments in the law, outstanding as they are, were



PJ Patterson with Ryland Campbell, president of the Capital & Credit Financial Services.

only dwarfed by his even more brilliant and successful career in politics, recognized locally, regionally and internationally, as the outstanding Caribbean Statesman as evidenced by the many high honours and awards conferred.

Let me end by recounting Mrs. Wright nee McNeill at the celebration of her 90th birthday last weekend in Negril, as reported in the *Gleaner* having said in reply to toasts, "Old age is a good thing. I trust you will all try it and find out for yourselves."

PJ Here's wishing you god health and long life — if only to find out for yourself.

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So many of the tenets being put forward were clearly internalized by PJ very early, and in turn projected by him in the course of his life.

His has shown a strong belief in:

The Culture of Community as opposed to the Culture of Individualism: This is the genesis of his strong team spirit, with all the implications for respect, loyalty, responsibility, kindness.

He has believed and lived a Culture of Stewardship as opposed to a Culture of Consumerism. Tied to this has been understanding that worth resides in character; and

PJ...urbane, unflappable

all that this implies for accountability, gratitude, honesty and compassion.

He has sought a Culture of Upliftment as opposed to one of debasement, with value placed on the beauty within: on confidence, respect, generosity and esteem.

He has adhered to a Culture of discipline — the determination to affirm right in our society; to be just and fair in dealing with others.

He has embraced the Culture of responsibility, knowing that we have responsibility

for the quality of life to be enjoyed by ourselves and others. And he has **upheld a Culture of the sacredness of Life;** of seeking its true purpose and meaning with all the patience; compassion and gratitude that this implies.

A truer friend could not be found. Whatever the demands of his office and calls on his time, PJ treasured and cultivated his friends seeking, as enjoined by one famous Shakespearean line, to **'grapple them to his soul with hoops of steel.'**

Many are the fond memories of gatherings at his house for family celebrations and

christenings — or simply and regularly for a drink and a chat. The *camaraderie* of the "PJ posse" has been something special, as we have settled in together on numerous occasions to enjoy sporting events — boxing, football, track and of course, cricket.

We congratulate PJ on a well-played, well-contained knock of 75 not out. He appears as fresh as a man who has only recently taken his mark. Thank you, PJ on behalf of all here, for your friendship. Thank you (retirement notwithstanding), for the continued fulfillment of your mission to contribute in meaningful and enduring ways to the welfare of family, friends, country and region.

PJ, we wish you health and happiness, as we cheer you on towards the ton.

Thank you.

Happy Birthday, Mr. Patterson

Family, friends and a wide cross-section of guests journeyed to the Riu Ocho Rios Hotel in Mammee Bay to celebrate with The Most Hon. PJ Patterson his 75th birthday on Saturday, April 20. And it was a wonderful affair.

After cocktails on the terrace, scores of guests repaired to the auditorium of muted gold accents, where they dined on an epicurean buffet of food — lobster, shrimp, beef, lamb, pasta, salads, pork, and dessert — the varieties seemed endless. While guests dined and chatted, Duke provided musical entertainment.

Mike Fennell guided the formalities along with toasts from Opposition Leader Portia Simpson-Miller, Dr. Vin Lawrence, Ambassadors Burchell Whiteman and David Muirhead, PJ's son Richard Patterson and godson Ricky Corrie and the reply from the man himself, the distinguished PJ Patterson.

Veteran vocalist Myrna Hague and the

young Ashley Martin serenaded the former Prime Minister, so too did Judy Emanuel. Tarrus Riley, Dean Fraser and Dwight Richards and Friends also performed par excellence before the dance floor was jammed with guests dancing to the best musical selections.

Toasts

Portia Simpson Miller lauded Mr. Patterson and said that everything he has approached, he has perfected. He laid a foundation from which Caribbean men, women and children can, have and would continue to soar. She spoke about PJ being a true team player and inspiring. "Yuh a seh one," she said to Mr. Patterson, before congratulating him on 75 years of a life fulfilled and wishing him many more years to come. (See text of toast on page 15.)

Ambassador Burchell Whiteman spoke about the promise of PJ Patterson, which has been fulfilled, and his generosity of spirit, unwavering commitment, his adherence to principle and loyalty to friends. He also told the story of an influential businessman describing PJ as 'the most intelligent Prime Minister this country has ever had.' (See page 14)

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Dr. Vin Lawrence and his wife Beverley on the dance floor

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Myrna Hague serenading Mr. Patterson

Happy Birthday

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Dr. Vincent Lawrence spoke about his friend Mr Patterson and the 40 years of close political relationship. PJ patterning his life on that of a batsman, his penchant for fair play, turning in solid performances, his diplomacy, being non-confrontational and the description of Mr. Patterson in the Economist magazine, "A reticent man in a loud mouth country"

Dr. Lawrence spoke about Mr. Patterson being a fearless friend, his strong belief in country and community, discipline and responsibility. "A truer friend cannot be found," said Dr. Lawrence.

Myrna Hague performed "Memories" for Mr. Patterson, before Ambassador David Muirhead told the gathering about the highest compliment a judge could pay to a lawyer, his ability to communicate and in so doing requires the mastery of the English language. And PJ possesses these, and has indelibly left his mark on the profession, Ambassador Muirhead said.

He described PJ's attainment in law as being legendary, and him being the longest serving Prime Minister in the history of Jamaica.

Victim of honour

Ricky Corrie, eldest godson of Mr Patterson was brief in his delivery. He reported what people had to say about Uncle PJ looking good for his age. "What I would like to say is that we are all his favourites and I thank him for how well he has treated all of us. Happy birthday."

Richard Patterson, son of Mr. Patterson, who seemed to be still bucking his head with his father, said that he and his father have never always agreed. His father, he said, gives guidance and always has his best interest at heart. He said they lost their mother 28 years ago, and if they (children) don't know how to deal with things, father is always there.

A huge box was rolled in for a special presentation to Mr Patterson, out of which burst Ashley Martin singing 'Happy birthday, Mr. Patterson, happy birthday to you.'

It was now time for the president of Heis Consultants, Mr. Patterson to reply. He spoke about the movements he has been seeing in his office and from family abroad and he added two and two to make five, to much laughter.

He told the gathering that he was not "the host but the victim of honour." And he applauded the conspira-

tors including the chief conspirator Mavis Bowers "Pinky", who unfortunately was not well and unable to be at the party on Saturday.

Mr Patterson said, that as he sat there listening to what each speaker had to say, he got this weird feeling of what persons would be saying about him, when he was not here.

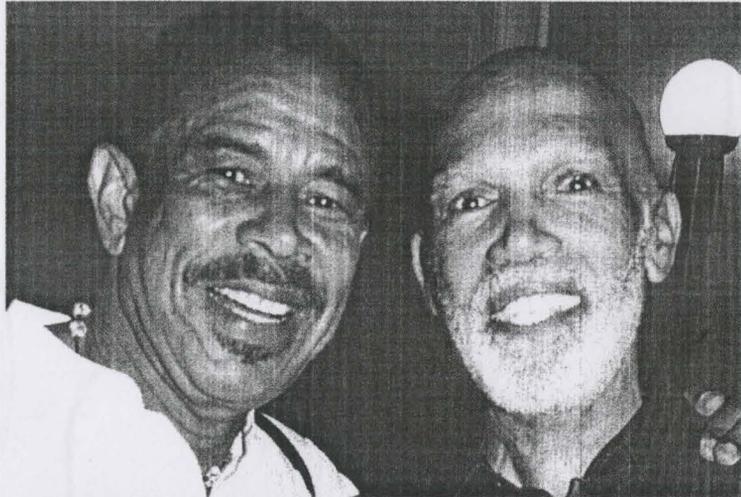
He spoke about those who have served with him in law and his side attraction — politics, and those who have helped him to achieve and contributed as part of the process.

He said his friends have always remained his friends, whether good or bad or up or down. He feels "very pleased as some of you are here to share the occasion." He said he was proving Richard wrong once again. Mr Patterson spoke about his political friend the late Hugh Lawson Shearer calling from the pavilion and the West Indies cricket team going lower and lower.

He said he doesn't need to burnish his music credentials. He spoke of the relationship he has with his children and grandchildren. He says he has vim, vigour, vitality with those who can stay the course.

Judy Emanuel then came out singing, 'Simply The Best'. Tarrus Riley and Dean Fraser also performed par excellence before the dance floor was jammed with guests dancing to the best musical selections.

Some of those we spotted was Ambassador Derrick (who was suffering from a slip disc and his wife Thyra Heaven, Sir Alister McIntyre, former Governor-General Sir Kenneth and Lay Hall, Bob and Ragni Trotta, Sonia Rickards, Norman Grant, Mr & Mrs Barry Watson, Mr and Mrs Howard Hamilton, Mr and Mrs Henriques, Phillip Paulwell, Brian Chung, Arnold & Claire Bertram, Kingsley Cooper and Romae Gordon, Kenny Benjamin and Aloima Suarez, Oswald and Marigold Harding, former Chief Justice Lensley Wolfe, Derrick and Karlene Smith, John and Urla Junior, Professor and Ingrid Munroe, Lisa Hanna, Maureen Webber, Aloun Assamba and her brother Charles Wood, Alston Stewart, Wyvolyn Gager, Professor Denise Eldemire, Julian Robinson, Richard and Cynthia Byles, Spanish Ambassador Jesus Silva, Dr. Peter and Sandra Phillips, Shirley Henry, Yvon Desulme, Christine Steele, Dr. Omar and Mrs Davis, Mr and Mrs KD Knight, Linston and Maureen Charlton, Colin and Karlene Smith, Mr and Mrs Nathan Richard Elombe and Donna Mottley, Noel Sloley, Sam James and scores of celebrated personalities.



Dr. Tony Vendreyes and Colonel (retired) John Simmonds



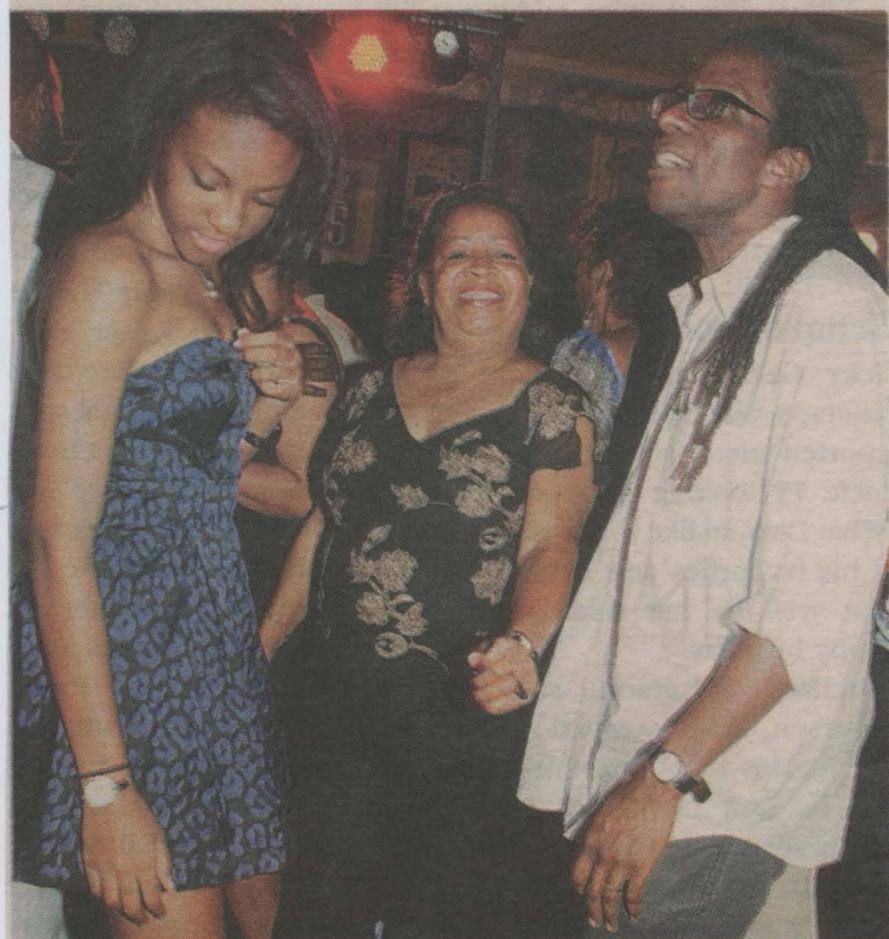
Diane Corrie and husband Ricky Corrie, PJ's godson



Lorna Green (left), Jean Wilmot and Sonia Rickards



Spanish Ambassador Jesus Silva (right) and Shirley Henry are focused on the toasts.



Richard Patterson dances with his daughter Gabrielle and Linda Baldie (centre)



Kenneth Benjamin and Aloima Suarez



Mr Patterson with (from left) son Richard Patterson, granddaughter Gabrielle Patterson, grandson Andrew Hibbert, granddaughter Breanna Hibbert, daughter Sharon Hibbert and her husband, Horace Hibbert.