

VICTOR STAFFORD REID

For outstanding contribution to the literary movement in Jamaica and to Jamaica's cultural development

The attributes of the patriot committed to the development of a positive and accurate portrayal of the magnificent historical heritage of the Jamaican people, are embodied in the life of this articulate Jamaican.

His multi-faceted contribution to the growth of national awareness of the many epic struggles waged by the masses against exploitative social, economic and political relations in the past is expressed in his work as journalist and writer, cultural anthropologist and historian.

Through the medium of the historical novel he proclaimed to the world his conviction of the legitimacy of the struggles of his countrymen in a way that led to the recognition internationally of these struggles as outstanding examples of the triumph of the human spirit over adversity.

"The Leopard", an account of Mau-Mau activities in Kenya as seen from an African perspective; "Mount Ephraim", set in the era of the Sam Sharpe Rebellion;

and "The Jamaicans", a moving account of the Juan De Bolas story, defied the attempts of the European colonizers to assimilate our history to their perspectives for the purpose of maintaining passive power.

Victor Reid's novels for children have won wide acclaim here and abroad and illustrates his recognition of the reality that permanent attitudinal change must begin in earlier youth.

As Chairman of the National Trust Committee, he conceived and implemented the "Wayside Historic Marker" programme and was the founder of the historical archaeological "Museum of the Jamaican Man" at Port Royal — the first of its kind in the West Indies.

His contribution to the sum of national and international cultural heritage will be itself indelibly written on the pages of history.