

Scores bid farewell to Sir Philip

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SCORES OF PEOPLE TURNED OUT yesterday to say "thank you" and "farewell" to noted scholar and historian Sir Philip Sherlock.

Sir Philip, who died on December 4 at age 98, was remembered in a ceremony at the University Chapel at the University of the West Indies (UWI), which he helped establish, and where he retired as its first vice chancellor.

All sectors of society were represented at yesterday's service, including Governor-General Sir Howard Cooke, the clergy, academia and Government officials, among them Deputy Prime Minister Seymour Mullings, who represented Prime Minister P.J. Patterson. Also on hand was Opposition Leader Edward Seaga.

Flanked by her nurse, friends and family, Lady Grace, Sir Philip's widow, listened as Reverend Dr. Claude Cadogan described her husband as "God's man."

"He enlightened minds and widened horizons and fostered the development of his Caribbean people as persons of destiny," Rev. Cadogan said. "A great Caribbean man, Sir Philip has sown the good seeds far and wide from which a rich harvest has grown and will continue to grow."

Similar sentiments were expressed by Vice Chancellor Rex Nettleford, who was happy that Sir Philip, who he described as "a persistent advocate of West Indian integration in spite of an ill-fated federation," had lived to see the hope of integration restored.

'Chosen few'

The vice chancellor ranked Sir Philip, who was cremated prior to the ceremony, among "the chosen few we were lucky to have had...who believed that the intractable problems of underdevelopment and the attendant immiserisation of the masses of the population had to be met by the empowerment of our people through the exercise of their intellect and their imagination."

Rev. Dr. Terence Rose, who ministered to Sir Philip and Lady Philip, explained that UWI and Jamaica could do Sir Philip the greatest honour by simply reflecting the humility and humane qualities that governed his life. The island, he said, has entered into a time of ugliness.

"I believe that the greatest memorial that this great institution can raise up to Sir Philip, is not only a creative arts centre but a return to beauty and to humanness," he said. "Let there be a movement to reculturalise a nation and rehumanise our nation."