

NEWS

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MEMORIAL SERVICE IN HARTFORD FOR MANLEY

NEW YORK, March 26 (JAMPRESS):

A wide cross section of the population of Hartford, Connecticut, turned out last Sunday (March 23) at an Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving for the life of former Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Michael Manley.

Tributes were paid to Mr. Manley by political, civic, cultural and educational leaders, with speaker after speaker describing the late leader as "a man of vision", "a man of strong convictions", and "an eloquent advocate for the poor".

Leading the tributes were Jamaica's Consul-General to New York, Kay Baxter-Collins; Hartford City Councilwoman, Veronica Airey-Wilson; National President of the Jamaica Progressive League, Irwine Clare; Professor Harald Sandstrom of the University of Hartford; President of the Guyanese-American Cultural Association of Hartford, Walter Benjamin; President of the West Indian Social Club of Hartford, Raymond Davis; President of the Hartford chapter of the Jamaica Progressive League, Collin Edwards and President of the Caribbean-American Society of Hartford Carlton Harris.

The sermon was preached by pastor of the St. Martin's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Collin Bennett. Greetings were brought by the Rt. Rev. Andrew Smith, Suffragan Bishop, Diocese of Connecticut.

The scripture lesson was read by pastor of the North United Methodist Church, Rev. Robert L. Martin, while the gospel was done in English by the Rev. Canon Wilborn Austin and in Spanish by the Rev. Vernella Brown.

In her tribute, the Consul-General said she was touched by the "diversity of those paying homage" to the late Jamaican leader.

She told the congregation that many of the freedoms that the Jamaican people enjoyed today could be attributed to the work and life of Mr. Manley.

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/2

"I believe that we are who we are today because of the life of Michael Manley," she said, urging those present to teach the youth who Michael Manley was and what he stood for.

"You must become the messengers recalling the struggles that took place and continue today for countries like ours, whose voices may be lost if we do not continue to fight the good fight," the Consul-General said.

In his remarks, the Suffragan Bishop said the outpouring of love which marked the service was, a testament to the life which Mr. Manley led.

A video of the state funeral for Mr. Manley was shown at the Hartford Progressive League's headquarters "Jamaica House" after the service.

The service was organized by the Hartford Chapter of the Jamaica Progressive League.

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