

**TRIBUTE TO
LADY BUSTAMANTE, O.J., J.P
AT THANKSGIVING SERVICE
SAINTS PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH
Saturday, August 8, 2009**

Nestled in the quiet, verdant hills of Eastern Westmoreland is the tiny village of Parson Reid, where the one whose life we gather here to celebrate first saw the light of day.

Properly nurtured by her adoring and industrious parents James and Rebecca Longbridge; imbued with faith in God; well tutored by the Teachers at Ashton Elementary School and fully trained in the graces of music, gardening, culinary skills and fine deportment; Miss G. was no country bumpkin by the time she arrived in Kingston to further her education at Tutorial College.

This demure lass, chic and with her beguiling smile turned many a head but no man had the ghost of a chance once Alexander Bustamante set his eyes upon her. Their scintillating romance became the foundation stone for a life-long partnership that renders it virtually impossible to separate completely the one

from the other, the legendary contribution which both have made to our nation.

It is, however, incontrovertible that the combination of their commitment to a single cause, the blending of their special talents and differences in temperaments, pooling their kinetic energy and enduring courage were an enabling source for catalytic changes in the political, social and industrial landscape of Jamaica.

We all called her Lady B in pure affection, for she was truly a lady in every material respect by virtue of her decorum, dignified carriage and elegance.

She was the quintessential woman:

- Radiant, caring and generous
- Strong and full of purpose without ever seeking the spotlight for herself;
- Firm and fearless, yet endearing and considerate;
- Instinctively maternal to her innumerable sons and countless daughters.

She was the consummate conciliator without ostensibly engaging in the political or industrial affray. She held steadfastly to her cherished beliefs and never compromised her exacting standards. Lady Bustamante deservedly earned the admiration and fully commanded the respect of everyone, regardless of social grouping, Union affiliation or political support. That accolade is reserved only for a select few.

With her passing, no spouse of any National Hero now remains alive. As one chapter is finally closed, let us be inspired as a nation to build on their rich legacy and like them surmount whatever obstacles may appear.

Let us give this blessed Matriarch, as Proverbs exhorts us, ***“the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her as she enters the gate of the celestial city.”***

P. J. Patterson, ON, OCC, PC, QC
Former Prime Minister,
Jamaica, 1992-2006