

Hartford mourns loss of one of its strongest cricket advocate

Caribbean nationals across the United States and Canada are mourning the loss of Keith L. Carr Sr., O.M., one of the most entrenched activists of Hartford, Connecticut. Born in Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies, Carr died on Monday, January 7 at the Newington Healthcare Center, Newington, Connecticut, after a brief illness. He was 77.



Considered by many as one of Hartford's and Jamaica's "favorite sons," Carr was well known for his community involvement and his efforts to maintain and promote Caribbean culture. A former Executive Director of the West Indian Foundation, Inc., he played an integral part in the production and performances in Hartford of world class Caribbean events and international performers including the National Dance Theater of Jamaica, popular comedian Oliver Samuels and the World Calypso Monarch.

The passing of Carr means that the cricket fraternity in Hartford has lost one of its strongest advocates. A staunch supporter for the promotion, development and growth of the sport in the U.S., in 1985, he was recognized for his efforts by being inducted into the Cricket Hall of Fame. Contending that cricket which represents an integral part of West Indian culture, should be preserved in the city, through hard work and dedication, Carr was able to get some well needed improvements done to the cricket fields in the city's Keney Park, which at one time were revered as the best cricket fields in the country.

Possessing a strong interest in youths, Carr was also instrumental in the launching of a successful youth cricket program, which has been in existence for more than five years. His dedication to the program has resulted in Hartford youngsters not only getting the opportunity to showcase their cricketing skills against teams from Trinidad, Barbados, New York and New Jersey, but help from a qualified coach from Trinidad.

His latest accomplishment for the program happened just last summer, when through his help a group of young cricketers from the Holmwood Technical High School of Jamaica, came here along with their well recognized coach to assist with the program. While here, the Holmwood youngsters also participated in the local competition.

Carr's community involvement in Connecticut began four years after he arrived in Hartford in 1959, when he joined the West Indian Social Club of Hartford, Inc. where he served as president and was a lifetime member.

An avid supporter of culture and arts, Carr who is a former Chairman of the West Indian Independence Day Celebration committee, contributions extended to the field of business and as a recruiter for the Connecticut Migratory Children's Program in. In the latter, he helped recently migrated families integrate into the wider society.

Carr, whose passionate love and commitment to community loomed large, was showered with several lifetime achievement awards, the most recent being last May when he was honored as a community legend by the West Indian Foundation.

He is survived by his children daughter, Glynda C. Carr of Brooklyn, New York, sons Keith L. Carr Jr. also of Brooklyn and Kurt D. Carr of Houston, Texas.

In his memory, his family in conjunction with the Foundation has established the Keith L. Carr, Sr. Scholarship Endowment Fund to carry on his legacy of empowering young minds and connecting communities.

More information can be added by contacting (860) 243-8812.