

# **Fawkes Family Is Outraged with Government's Inaction with Regard Sir Randol's Legacy**

## **Press Release**

### **Issued by the family of the Late Sir Randol F. Fawkes**

The family of the late Sir Randol F. Fawkes has expressed disappointment and dissatisfaction with the Government's blatant neglect and disregard for the legacy of the late trade unionist and labour leader.

Lady Fawkes stated that she last spoke with the Prime Minister, the Honorable Perry Christie in June of 2004 at a ceremony that was held at Workers' House to launch the Memorial Edition of *The Faith That Moved the Mountain*, a book authored by her late husband. Lady Fawkes recalls that on that occasion, the Prime Minister made an appearance at the conclusion of the ceremony and when she inquired about national recognition for the contributions that her husband had made to this country, she was told by Mr. Christie that the Cultural Commission had made a recommendation with regard to memorializing Sir Randol's contributions to the nation and that he (Prime Minister) was trying to get the unanimous support of parliamentarians for legislation to be brought before the House of Assembly. Lady Fawkes says that she never heard from Mr. Christie again and the family has not been successful in obtaining an appointment to meet with him.

Since Sir Randol died in June of 2000, the family has been appalled at the historical revisionism that has been happening all too frequently in the country. They are calling on the Government and others to cease and desist in the use of selective facts to distort and manipulate the historical record. The Fawkes family said that they lived through a great history making period in the Bahamas and is shocked at the Government's frequent omission of known facts. Many people in the community have complained to them that even in death, unfair treatment is being meted out to the legacy of Sir Randol. When reporting the history of the nation, his name is intentionally left out or passed over in a great haste.

The Fawkes family is asking that Sir Randol's contribution not be ignored or misrepresented. The years of service and sacrifice given to the country should be acknowledged at some point by a grateful people. The freedoms and privileges that Black Bahamians now enjoy and the right to govern themselves should not be taken for granted as they were not given to the people but obtained for them through the personal sacrifice of courageous individuals. The bravery of all who left the comfort of their homes to challenge the governing and repressive regime of the day, who fought to break down barriers, who were ostracized for the stance that they took, and who put their lives and the lives of their family on the line must not be forgotten.

The family has asked that as we prepare to celebrate Majority Rule Day, we ask that the country take the time to reflect on the fight and the struggle that caused our forefathers to have to rise up against a system that did not recognize the dignity and self worth of each individual. The values that these men displayed should be enshrined and preserved so as to be a source of inspiration to the young people who will have to continue with the nation building that was started so many years ago. Carter Woodson, better known as the Father of Black History, once said that, “*Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.*”

The family is also requesting that the Government enact legislation to rename Labour Day as ***Sir Randol Fawkes Labour Day***. This will be a fitting way to celebrate and honour Sir Randol’s legacy and would also be a testament to Sir Randol’s work with the oppressed labouring masses and to the Labor vote that he gave to the Progressive Liberal Party in 1967 which enabled them to form a co-alition government and obtain Majority Rule in The Bahamas.

May we, “Speak the truth and speak it ever!”

The family salutes and remembers all who fought the fight to enable us to have the quality of life that we enjoy today. ***Happy Majority Rule Day*** to everyone!

Thank you.

***The Family of the late Sir Randol F. Fawkes***