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THE JAMAICAN CONSULATE IN NEW YORK, THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF JAMAICA INC. AND THE ST. GEORGES SOCIETY HONOR FORMER AMBASSADOR TO JAMAICA: BRENDA LA GRANGE JOHNSON

NEW YORK, NEW YORK (JUNE 11, 2009) The American Friends of Jamaica Inc. (AFJ) a non profit organization established to support social and economic development in Jamaica; along with the Jamaican Consulate in New York, teamed up with the St George's Society of New York ~ a British charitable organization established to assist elderly and disabled residents in the New York area of British and Commonwealth heritage ~ at a fabulous champagne cocktail reception to honor outgoing Ambassador to Jamaica, and friend of the AFJ, Brenda la Grange Johnson.

The reception held in Ambassador la Grange's honor emphasized her contributions and significant humanitarian service to the island of Jamaica during her tenure as Ambassador. The officers and Board members of the St. George's Society were the special guests of the American Friends of Jamaica, and the Consulate General of Jamaica. The reception provided the background for creating exciting synergies and partnerships between the three entities.

Hon. Edmund Bartlett, Minister of Tourism of Jamaica encouraged the continuation of service to mankind by both the American Friends and the St. George's Society, and lauded their efforts as leaders in philanthropy. He invited all to make Jamaica their home away from home, as Ambassador Johnson and her family had done during her years as US Ambassador to Jamaica: 2005-2009. Minister Bartlett spoke highly of Ambassador Johnson, who will be honored as international humanitarian by the American Friends of Jamaica on October 5 2009, at their annual fundraising gala to be held at the Plaza Hotel.

Having been introduced by Michele Rollins, Chairman of Rosehall Developments ~ herself a recent honoree of the American Friends of Jamaica in May 2009~ Ambassador Johnson graciously accepted a gift from the Consul General of Jamaica, Geneive Brown Metzger, and became teary eyed in reminding her well wishers that it was the strong support of her husband and family, and friends that had made her a successful woman. She invited her family to stand with her, and indicated that they were all 'Jamericans' after falling in love with the island. She thanked her friends for

turning out in such great numbers to demonstrate their continued support of her work.

It was clear that the evening's cocktail reception was indicative of greater things to come, and in that light, the American Friends of Jamaica anticipate a star-studded fundraiser on October 5th 2009. See their website for details at www.theafj.org.

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