



# Hairouna Times

A quarterly newsletter from the St. Vincent & the Grenadines  
Nationals Association of Washington, D.C.

Winter 2009

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## Next Meeting

January 9, 2010

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*Hairouna Times*

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## Vincentians Celebrate Independence

Vincentians celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Independence of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) with a gala event at the ornate and historic "Hall of the Americas" of the Organization of American States (OAS) headquarters building in Washington on Saturday, October 31, 2009.

The annual Independence Dinner/Dance, under the distinguished patronage of the Ambassador of SVG, Her Excellency La Celia Prince, was organized by SVGNA, and attracted nationals and well-wishers from neighboring states, and as far away as South Florida. The glamorous event marked the culmination of celebrations which began on Sunday, Oct. 25 with a Thanksgiving Service at Holy Comforter Church in Washington. The Embassy of SVG hosted a reception at OAS headquarters on Tuesday, the 27<sup>th</sup>, Independence Day.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Wendell Samuel, a native of SVG. Dr. Samuel is Senior Economist and Mission Chief in the Caribbean 1 Division of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Western Hemisphere Department. Dr. Samuel spoke about "recent economic developments in the

Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) countries, and the prospects for the year ahead." The eminent Caribbean economist stated that the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SVG's independence is turning out to be the worst year of the post-independence, post-colonial era for OECS countries, with the global economy going through the worst recession in 60 years, the collapse of the Trinidad based CL Financial Group spilling over to the OECS, and SVG in particular, thereby threatening to wipe out 1 billion dollars in savings in the sub-region. Looking to the future, Dr. Samuel said that 2010 would be another year of belt-tightening, and emphasized the enhanced role of remittances in this scenario.

The highlight of the evening's formal proceedings was the presentation of awards to five distinguished Vincentian nationals for their outstanding contributions in the professions, diplomacy, and the development of the Vincentian community at home and abroad. SVGNA's five honorees on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the political independence of SVG follow:

*(continued on page 2)*

**Her Excellency Betty Eileen King**, for her work in the U.S. philanthropic and health sectors, and her service as U.S. Representative to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (1997-2001).

She has recently been nominated, by President Barack Obama, as US Representative to the Office of the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador. She is awaiting confirmation by the Senate.

**His Excellency Kingsley C.A. Layne, CMG**, for his many-

faceted contributions to SVG; Distinguished international public servant; established SVG's Embassy in Washington, DC; First resident Ambassador to the US; Permanent Representative to the UN and OAS; negotiated establishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba; First Ambassador of SVG to Cuba; spearheaded the formation of COSAGO, the Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Organizations USA, Inc; Dean of Caribbean Community and OAS ambassadors; OAS Director in the Republic of Suriname (2001-2004); international consultant.

**Dr. Baldwin King**, for his contribution to science; Senior Chemistry teacher, St. Vincent Grammar School, (1964-65); Research Fellow, DuPont Chemical Co., Parlin, New Jersey; Lecturer in Chemistry, University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica (1971-79); Professor of Chemistry, Drew University, Madison, NJ; Chairman, Department of Chemistry, (1983-88 & 2003-

2005); Research in Inorganic Medical Chemistry, especially inorganic anti-cancer agents; major supporter of education in SVG, and fundraiser for the St. Vincent Grammar School.

**Mr. Clemon M. Dopwell**, for his consistent contributions in sports, culture and community activities; co-founded the Gladiators Cultural Club of Layou, with Alston "Beckett" Cyrus; captained the first team from outside the boundaries of Kingstown to play competitive soccer in SVG, Gladiators FC; Member, Cavaliers Sports Club, New York; Co-founder Swansea Soccer Club, the first soccer club to represent SVG in the Brooklyn Soccer League; Founding member SVGNA; Founder of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Florida in 1997, while working in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

**His Excellency Dr. Roy L. Austin**; Teacher, sportsman, and Carnival bandleader in SVG before emigrating to the U.S. in 1964 to study sociology at Yale University, where he was a classmate of the future president George W. Bush; Ph.D., University of Washington, 1973; Associate Professor of Sociology, Justice and African American Studies; Director of the Crime, Law and Justice Program at Penn State, (1994-1998); Director of the African Research Center, July 2001; US Ambassador to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (2001-2008).

The evening's formalities concluded with the presentation of prizes and the drawing of the raffle for the traditional Grand

Prize, a basket of goodies from SVG, and then dancing through the night.

*"Although my focus was properly representing the United States, I believe that my contributions to my adopted homeland were also a benefit to the country and region of my birth."*

-- **H. E. Roy Austin**, as spoken by his son

*"I'm not rich. I don't have a lot of money. But I'm doing a lot of groundwork, and just like you can see, I'm being appreciated for it now."*

-- **Mr. Clem Dopwell**

*"I feel like a very lucky man to be given the opportunity to develop my potential, and I wish that for every Vincentian boy and girl."*

-- **Dr. Baldwin King**

*"It is always an honor when one's humble contributions are recognized. It is particularly so when they are recognized by ones who are the recipients of those efforts."*

-- **H. E. Kingsley Layne**

Her Excellency Betty King was unable to attend the event.

**Merry Christmas  
and many wishes for a Prosperous New Year!!**



**From the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Nationals  
Association of Washington, D.C.**

### Piña Colada

3 oz. Sunset Light Rum  
3 tablespoons cream of coconut  
dash pineapple juice  
1 slice of chopped fresh pineapple

Blend all the ingredients with a cup of crushed ice until smooth.  
Garnish with a pineapple wedge and cherries.

### Sunset Rum Punch

2 oz. Sunset Strong Rum  
1 oz. Sunset Premium Rum  
juice of 1 lime  
2 oz. orange juice  
2 oz. pineapple juice  
1 dash angostura bitters  
½ oz. Grenadine syrup  
1½ tablespoons powdered sugar

Shake or mix ingredients and pour into a glass filled with ice.  
Garnish with a slice each of pineapple, orange, and lime. Sprinkle nutmeg on top.

-- Recipes provided by Calypso Imports.

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