

## *LeRoy V. Graham* *Profile*



LeRoy V. Graham was born on November 23, 1929, in Guantanamo Bay Cuba. He was the last of three sons of the late Alfredo and Gwendolyn Graham. The family resided in Cuba for a number of years and left for Jamaica in the early 30's. He completed his education at Kingston Collage, and taught at Alpha Boys School before working for the Jamaica Gleaner.

As a young man in the 1950's Roy developed a social consciousness and became involved in politics. He was influenced by the teachings of Marcus M. Garvey, inspired by Fidel Castro and was a friend of the Honorable Michael Manley of the Peoples National Party (PNP).

In the early 1960's, "Scribe," as he was called by many of his friends, worked as a graphic artist with The Jamaica Gleaner, branching out into writing for the paper, and eventually, with associates, founded the first Entertainment Magazine published in Jamaica called "JukeBox."

He migrated to the United States in 1968, where he continued his career as a Journalist, Graphic Artist, and Printer. While in the United States, he became involved in organizations that advocated for the rights of the disenfranchised such as the Jamaica Progressive League and proactively engaged in community matters and affairs concerning Caribbean Americans. He was a spirited debater, very charismatic, and was sought after by friends and colleagues for advice on political and social matters. Mr. Graham was very passionate about the plight of the Caribbean people, at home and abroad. He thought it imperative that they be informed about common issues and matters that affect them; political and legislative matters such as immigration reforms, which was of vital concern to many individuals who were considered illegal aliens. He believed in proactively engaging in the political arena to affect the changes necessary to address the pressing issues concerning Caribbean Nationals living within the diaspora.

Hence, in 1972, he published the first Caribbean-American newspaper within the New York City area, "The Caribbean-American News". Caribbean-American News provided individuals with news and important information about domestic and international issues relevant to those living in the diaspora, in particular within the Caribbean Communities.

The introduction of this new news format was a catalyst for many publications to come, providing varied source of information relevant to those in the diaspora such as Carib-News, Everybody's Magazine, Caribbean-Life, and many others. LeRoy V. Graham brought visibility and viability to Caribbean influence in the political landscape, through his efforts as a publisher in Brooklyn, in the mid-seventies and eighties.

On December 19, 2004, LeRoy Vernal Graham died of Prostate Cancer. He was seventy-five years old.