

Passing of Prince Philip

The recent passing of Prince Philip brought back a few memories of my parents, Kenneth and Elaine Chaplin, who passed in 2019 within a month of each other. They had been married for 58 years. Jamaica for many years was a British colony and achieved independence in August 1962. In fact, Jamaica's Head of State is Queen Elizabeth to this day; a situation that will hopefully change in the future.

As Head of State, Queen Elizabeth would visit Jamaica every 10 years or so and Jamaicans always greeted these visits warmly and enthusiastically. My father, a journalist since he was 17 years old, served for many years as Press Secretary under different administrations. He also served as the head of Jamaica's news agency. It was in these roles that he managed the media in relation to the visits of several dignitaries including Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip.

I especially recall the two pictures taken in 1983 that you see here. They show my father introducing members of the press to the Queen and Prince Philip and my mother being introduced to the royal couple. For his services, my father was made a Lieutenant of the Victorian Order (LVO) by Queen Elizabeth.

I thought I would share these memories with you, my fellow members of our Consular Corps, in the hopes that you may also share some of your memories.