

LOCAL HEROES

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Sir Roy Marshall

Submitted by: All's Fair

Location: Hull

Sir Roy Marshall was Vice Chancellor of the University of Hull between 1979 and 1985. Sir Roy was born in Barbados in 1920. One of six children, he had to endure the trauma of losing his father at the age of ten to be brought up solely by his mother Korine.

World War II interrupted Roy's education but by 1947 he had graduated and begun teaching law at University College London, later teaching at Sheffield University, the University of Ife in Nigeria and the University of the West Indies.

He was instrumental in the writing of the Barbadian constitution acting as a constitutional advisor to the Government of Barbados at the Independence Talks with the United Kingdom in 1966. He subsequently acted as one of the Law Revision commissioners responsible for the edition of laws published in 1974. In 1979, he drafted a comprehensive package of statutes on property and related matters for the island.

Sir Roy's public service included the sphere of human rights, chairing the Yorkshire Committee of the Race Relations Board and an all-party body called Equal Rights. He was also a member of the Police Complaints Board. After his retirement Sir Roy served as High Commissioner for Barbados in London from 1989 to 1991.

In 2006, The University of West Indies Cave Hill Campus Teaching Complex was renamed the Roy Marshall Teaching Complex in his honour.

Sir Roy died in 2015. At his funeral service the retired Bishop of Croydon, Sir Wilfred Wood said "many people in this country may not be fully aware of the massive contribution to the wellbeing of black people and others in Britain who may be able to live in peace and security and play a full part in the life of their country, because of his work".