



**CLOSING REMARKS BY
TIMOTHY N. J. ANTOINE
GOVERNOR, EASTERN CARIBBEAN CENTRAL BANK**

**Naming of Phase I Building in Honour of
The Late Sir K Dwight Venner, Former Governor**

*2 March, 2017
(ECCB Headquarters, St Kitts and Nevis)*

There is an old Woodsman proverb that says “**a tree is best measured when it is down**”.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the measure of our late, great Governor is on full display for all to see. Indeed, the towering tree that is Sir Dwight looms large providing inspiration for all whose lives he touched and all those who traverse these fair isles and beyond.

Today, we have assembled to honour Sir Dwight, our longest serving Governor. A record that will not be broken. Indeed, after his retirement, I “conferred” on him the title, Governor Emeritus and continued to call him “Gov”. We laughed about that.

May his name, emblazoned on our ECCB Campus, bear perpetual testimony to his colossal contribution not just to the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank but to our Caribbean people and civilisation.

Benjamin Franklin, US founding father, scientist, philosopher, politician, once said: “*If you want to be remembered, write something worth reading or do something worth writing.*”

Sir Dwight, our Caribbean icon, who we are remembering and honoring today, did both.

Lady Venner, Zinga, the remainder of the Venner clan and John, we are thrilled to have shared this auspicious moment with you. Take continual pride and joy in the life work of your husband, father and brother. The buildings are impressive but his greatest legacy is not the buildings we see but you, his children and the Caribbean sons and daughters whose lives he touched. He continues to inspire a generation to believe that people from small states can dream big things and do big things. That we can craft arrangements for our development that serve us well and can stand the test of time. I am one such believer.

What do Sir Alister McIntyre, Sir Dwight Venner and yours truly have in common?

The GBSS - the Grenada Boys Secondary School.



Whenever, Sir Dwight and I spoke of the GBSS, he would start smiling and his eyes would sparkle. That image is forever etched in my memory. He once told me “Tim, GBSS changed my life. It was a defining moment”. The rest is history.

Do we have any GBSS old boys in the house? I thought so. They just seem to be everywhere. GBSS old boys, I invite you, in honour of our late, great Governor to stand as we recite the final stanza of our immortal school song:

**And when boyhood days are over
Our motto must still remain
For only by earnest endeavor
The highest we shall attain
A truly great West Indies
Be this our constant aim
Surmounting insular boundaries
A people in more than name**

Indeed, a truly great West Indies ought to remain our constant aim, starting with a strong and thriving Eastern Caribbean Currency Union.

May God richly bless all of you.

I thank you.