

Guyana Public Service Union

"RIGHTS AT WORK - ENDING POVERTY & INEQUALITY"

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Bro. Lee Saunders
President,
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Tribute on the Passing of Brother William "Bill" Lucy, a visionary and Champion of Human and Civil Rights.

The President, Executive Council, Staff and the General Membership of the Guyana Public Service Union are deeply saddened on the death of a dear Brother William "Bill" Lucy, a Visionary as well as a Champion of the Labour Movement, Human and Civil Rights of Workers.



Inset: Bro. Lucy, Bro. Yarde and other Colleagues of the Fraternity.

During his tenure within the leadership of the Trade Unions of America, he worked tirelessly to advance economic justice, he not only wanted the best for his fellow Americans, but across the entire world. Over the many decades, Bro. Lucy, as a fearless leader, transformed the Labour and Civil Rights Movements. He advanced many initiatives which uplifted the vulnerable workers, thus enhancing their communities as well as advocating for justice equality and freedom.

Bro. Lucy's role in the "Great March" in his hometown of Memphis was indeed a turning point in expanding Labour Union activities and economic justice for all Black Workers.

He was a founder-member of many organizations which are testimonies of his organizing and leadership abilities. His values greatly influenced change and he made strenuous efforts to defend desegregation and the advancement of political participation within black communities.

Over the course of his leadership I have had the honour of meeting Bro Bill Lucy. From my interaction with him I found that he was indeed my friend and also genuine and committed to Trade Union Rights, fair and equal treatment of members of the Guyana Public Service Union. He demonstrated that Working-Class and Civil Right Issues are deeply intertwined, and he continued to work feverishly to strengthen the role of the American Workers in the Union as well as to dismantle Apartheid in South Africa.

In his capacity as President of PSI, he visited Guyana twice. In 1996, he was the Guest Speaker at the Annual Caribbean Public Services Associations Conference at the Ocean View International Hotel and later declared opened the said conference. Later, he visited Guyana with other Members of PSI's Executive Council and addressed the General Council of the Guyana Public Service Union. His address was most inspirational and educative and members were encouraged to support and work for the benefit of their Brothers and Sisters in the Movement.

I was also privileged and proud to serve under his leadership on the PSI's Racism and Xenophobia Committee of the Americas.

The Guyana Public Service Union and the other Public Servants of the Caribbean are truly indebted to Bro. Lucy for his lifelong work, his commitment and his many contributions to the Trade Union Movement and the world at large. His legacy will live on. His selflessness, his dedication in his pursuit of justice and equality will continue to shape and inspire our future Trade Unionist.

Patrick M. Yarde
President/Chief Executive Officer
Guyana Public Service Union

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