

Jamaican Honours and Awards System

The National Honours and Awards Act, promulgated on the 18th of July 1969, made it possible for the nation to recognize those who, by their service and contribution, have had a meaningful and significant impact on national life.

National Honours and Awards are administered by the Chancery of the Orders of the Societies of Honour in the Office of the Prime Minister.

Formal recognition of service to Jamaica and its citizens may be given by the conferment of the Honour of one of the Orders of the six Societies of Honour established under the provisions of the National Honours and Awards Act, namely:

- The Order of National Hero
- The Order of the Nation (ON)
- The Order of Excellence (OE)
- The Order of Merit (OM)
- The Order of Jamaica (OJ)
- The Order of Distinction
 - Commander Class (CD)
 - Officer Class (OD)

and by the award of

- Badge of Honour for Gallantry [BH(G)]
- Badge of Honour for Meritorious Service [BH(M)]
- Badge of Honour for Long and Faithful Service [BH(L)]

and

- Medal of Honour for Gallantry
- Medal of Honour for Meritorious Service
- Medal of Honour for Long and Faithful Service
- Medal of Honour for Efficient Service

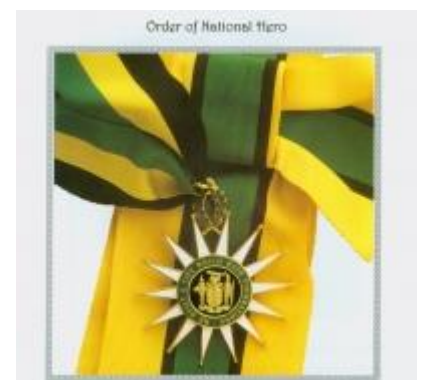
Description of Jamaican Honours and Awards

Order of National Hero

The Order of National Hero is **the most senior Order**. The honour of the Order of National Hero may be conferred upon any person who was born in Jamaica or is, or at the time of his or her death was, a citizen of Jamaica and rendered to Jamaica service of a most distinguished nature. A member of the Order is entitled to be styled “Right Excellent” (which may be abbreviated to Rt. Excellent) and the motto of the Order is “He built a city which hath foundations”.

The insignia of the Order of National Hero consists of a gold and white enamelled star of fourteen points, the centre of which shows the heraldic Arms of Jamaica in gold on a black enamelled medallion.

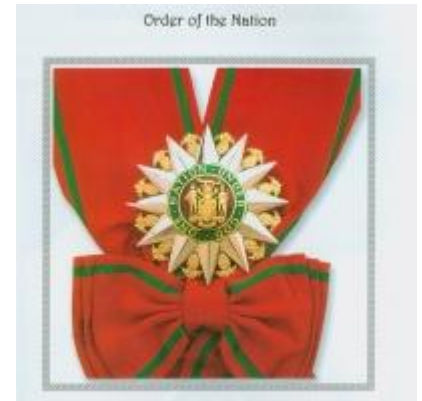
This is surrounded by the motto of the Order in gold lettering on green enamel. The collar badge is suspended from a black, gold and green neck riband by a gold and green enamelled laurel wreath.



Order of the Nation

The honour of the Order of the Nation (ON), **the second most senior Order**, may be conferred upon any Governor-General of Jamaica and upon any person who has been appointed as Prime Minister of Jamaica, not being a person upon whom the honour of the Order of National Hero has been conferred. Members of the Order are styled "the Most Honourable" and the spouse of the member is also entitled to be so styled. Members of the Order are entitled to place the letters "ON" after their name. The motto of the Order is "One Nation under God".

The insignia of the Order of the Nation consists of a magnificent breast star bearing the heraldic Arms of Jamaica on a red enamelled background in the centre and surrounded by the motto of the Order in gold lettering on green enamel. Between the points of the star are gold representations of pineapples. The broad watered silk sash is in a brilliant red with narrow green edging.



Order of Excellence

The honour of the Order of Excellence (OE) is **ranked equally, in the order of precedence, with the honour of the Order of the Nation** and may be conferred upon any foreign Head of State or foreign Head of Government, and upon any foreign former Head of State or foreign former Head of Government. Members of the Order are styled "The Most Honourable" and are entitled to place the letters "OE" after their name. The motto of the Order is "Excellence through Service".

The insignia of the Order of Excellence is a twelve-pointed breast star in yellow gold, interspersed with representations of pineapples in white gold. In the centre is the Coat of Arms of Jamaica in yellow gold, superimposed on a red enamelled background and surrounded by the motto of the Order in gold letters on royal blue enamel. It is worn with a yellow shoulder sash edged with a narrow band of green and black in equal proportions.



Order of Merit

The honour of the Order of Merit (OM), **ranked third in order of precedence**, may be conferred upon any citizen of Jamaica or distinguished citizen of a country other than Jamaica (an honorary member) who has achieved eminent international distinction in the field of science, the arts, literature or any other endeavour. It is not conferred upon more than two persons in any one year. Members of the Order are styled "Honourable" and are entitled to place the letters "OM" after their name. The motto of the Order is "He that does truth comes into the light".

The insignia of the Order of Merit is also a collar badge suspended from a deep maroon silk riband. The six-armed white enamelled star with twelve points has superimposed on it a lesser shaped star in silver. Between each of the outer six points of the star is the blue Lignum Vitae flower of Jamaica. In the centre is the



Coat of Arms of Jamaica in gold on a contrasting silver background, surrounded by the motto of the Order in gold lettering on red enamel.

Order of Jamaica

The honour of the Order of Jamaica (OJ), **ranked fourth in the order of precedence**, may be conferred upon any Jamaican citizen of outstanding distinction or upon any distinguished citizen of a country other than Jamaica (honorary member). Members of the Order are styled "Honourable" and are entitled to place the letters "OJ" after their name. The motto of the Order is "For a covenant of the People".

The insignia of the Order of Jamaica is made in solid gold and consists of a white enamel collar badge, the ends of which represent the ackee fruit and leaves, suspended from a deep green silk riband. The centre shows the heraldic Arms of Jamaica against a gold background and this is surrounded by the gold lettered motto of the Order on green enamel.



Order of Distinction

The Order of Distinction has two ranks, namely *Commander* and *Officer*. The Order may be conferred upon any citizen of Jamaica who renders outstanding and important services to Jamaica and upon any distinguished citizen of a country other than Jamaica (an honorary member). The motto of the Order is "Distinction through Service".

The insignia of the **Order of Distinction (Commander)** is a triangular badge with curved sides. In the centre is a black medallion bearing the Arms of Jamaica in gold. The words of the motto of the Order are in black. The Badge is suspended from a silk collar riband of black, gold and green by a silver finial of two intertwined letters "J" attached to the uppermost point of the triangle. Commanders of the Order are entitled to place the letters "CD" after their name.



The insignia of the **Order of Distinction (Officer)** is suspended from a breast riband of similar colours without the finial. The triangular silver badge has in the centre a yellow enamelled square on which are placed the Arms of Jamaica in silver. Officers of the Order are entitled to place the letters "OD" after their name.

Badge of Honour

The Badge of Honour may be awarded to civilian residents of Jamaica and to foreign nationals who are employed in Jamaica's Diplomatic and Consular Missions overseas in the following three categories:

- **Gallantry** - awarded to persons who have performed acts of gallantry or acts of heroism or who have shown great courage in circumstances of extreme danger;
- **Meritorious Service** - awarded to persons who have rendered loyal and meritorious service beneficial to Jamaica;
- **Long and Faithful Service** - awarded to persons who have rendered long and valuable service worthy of special recognition.



The Badge of Honour is made of silver and is circular in design bearing on the obverse the Arms of Jamaica, the word "Jamaica" and Lignum Vitae leaves and flowers around the border; and on the reverse the words "For Gallantry", "For Meritorious Service" or "For Long and Faithful Service" as the case may be-

- **The Badge of Honour for Gallantry** is supplied with a riband one and a half inches in width in green with black borders of one-eighth of an inch, and centrally a gold stripe three-eighths of an inch in width divided in the centre by a red stripe one-eighth of an inch in width.
- **The Badge of Honour for Meritorious Service** is supplied with a riband one and a half inches in width in green with black borders of one-eighth of an inch and centrally two gold stripes of one-eighth of an inch in width, one-eighth of an inch apart.
- **The Badge of Honour for Long and Faithful Service** is supplied with a riband one and a half inches in width in green with gold borders and a central black stripe, all one-eighth of an inch in width.



By regulation approved by The Governor-General in July 1996, holders of the above-mentioned Badges of Honour are entitled to place the following letters after their names:

- Badge of Honour for Gallantry – BH(G)
- Badge of Honour for Meritorious Service – BH(M)
- Badge of Honour for Long and Faithful Service – BH(L)

Medal of Honour

The Medal of Honour may be awarded to officers and other members of the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF), Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), Island Special Constabulary Force (ISCF), Department of Correctional Services (DCS) and Jamaica Fire Brigade (JFB) for Gallantry, Meritorious Service, General Service (JDF only), Long Service and Good Conduct, and Efficient Service (for the National Reserve of the JDF and ISCF only). Awards to the Uniformed Services may be made on the recommendation of the Head of each Service. Recipients of the Medal of Honour for Gallantry are entitled to place the letters "MG" after their name.



Medal of Honour – Jamaica Defence Force (JDF)

The Medal of Honour is awarded in the following categories:

- **Gallantry** - May be awarded to officers and members of the JDF who have performed acts of gallantry or acts of heroism or have shown great courage in circumstances of extreme danger. The Award may be made during the lifetime of the recipient or posthumously. A bar may be added for any further award for gallantry, and a rose on ribbon shall denote a bar.

- ***Meritorious Service*** – May be awarded to officers and members of the JDF who have performed distinguished service or have displayed distinguished conduct or bravery. A bar may be added for any additional meritorious service, and a rose on ribbon shall denote a bar.
- ***General Service*** - May be awarded to officers and members of the JDF who have been engaged in military operations overseas or in other areas as may be specified by The Governor-General on the recommendation of the Chief of Defence Staff. A bar with the name of the theatre of operation may be added for any further award for general service and a rose on ribbon shall denote a bar.
- ***Long Service and Good Conduct*** - May be awarded to warrant officers; non-commissioned officers; soldiers of the Regular Force who have completed eighteen years of continuous service in such Force, or in such Forces and the Jamaica Local Forces, the Jamaica Battalion, Jamaica Regiment and the West India Regiment, and whose conduct and character have been exemplary. A bar may be added for each further period of six years continuous service as aforesaid, and a rose on ribbon shall denote a bar.
- ***Efficient Service*** – May be awarded to persons who have completed twelve years of voluntary service in the first class of the Reserve Force and performed such service efficiently. A bar may be added for each further period of six years continuous service as aforesaid, and a rose on ribbon shall denote a bar.