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For Immediate Release

SUNSHINE AWARDS' FAREWELL TO PRETENDER

Teaneck, New Jersey, 26 January, 2002..... The SUNSHINE Awards® organization today released the following statement on the occasion of the death of Alric Farrell "Pretender"

The SUNSHINE Awards™ is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of one of Trinidad & Tobago's finest calypsonians, Alric Farrell, "Pretender" who left us at age 84. With a career spanning over 70 years, his is perhaps one of the longest careers in the calypso world. He leaves behind a very impressive legacy, one that would certainly be very difficult for anyone to duplicate.

Pretender was a true calypsonian, one who, throughout his long career, remained faithful to the traditional structure and style of calypso. Unlike many of his peers, who borrowed the structure and style from different music genres, Pretender remained constant in his use of the traditional eight-line verse, four-line chorus or eight-line verse and chorus of calypso. By keeping alive this important aspect of the art form, he has passed on to the younger generation the historical integrity of the music. This is, perhaps, his greatest contribution to the art form.

This illustrious calypsonian will be remembered as being among the first to use calypso to lament the injustices done against minorities. Although he was known as a social commentator par excellence, his songs in fact covered a range of topics. He was a master of words, using similes, metaphors, hyperboles and personifications to shroud attacks or defamatory statements in his songs. As an extemporaneous singer, Pretender was unrivalled. He was an expert at changing lyrics on stage, singing about members of the audience or spontaneously commenting on events of the day.

Pretender leaves behind songs such as "Move your foot leh me pass," "Never ever worry" and "Lock and Key." His career is remarkable for its length but more so for the high standard of excellence maintained throughout those many years. He was twice honored by the Government of Trinidad & Tobago, with the National Medal of Merit in 1972 and the Hummingbird Gold Medal in 1994. In 1989 Pretender was recognized for his outstanding contribution to the music and culture of the Caribbean by being inducted into the SUNSHINE Awards Hall of Fame.

Gil Figaro, Sr., founder and chairman of the SUNSHINE Awards commented, "During the past two years, the world of calypso has lost a number of its premier calypsonians. Pretender now joins that long list of elder statesmen of calypso who have passed on, those who survived the

many evolutionary stages of the music and helped to preserve the richness and integrity of this unique art form. The SUNSHINE Awards extends deepest condolence to his family and friends and joins the Government and people of Trinidad & Tobago in mourning his loss."