

Increase in US visitor arrivals to Anguilla over 2004

By Clyde Jones

Visitors to Anguilla from the United States during the past year increased by 13 percent, the island's tourism minister has announced.

While delivering the main address at a special anniversary dinner on June 7, the Hon. Victor Banks, Anguilla's new minister of finance, economic development, investments and tourism, said US visitor arrivals to Anguilla from March 2004 to March 2005 "increased from 65,154 in 2004 to 73,637 in 2005.

Banks spoke at a special anniversary dinner in Westchester County last week, to mark the anniversary of the opening, last June, of the Anguilla Tourist Office.

The event, billed as, The Anguilla Experience, was attended by representatives of the tourist industry, the private and public sectors, the news media and the Diplomatic Corps and. White Plains Mayor Joseph Delfino and Mount Vernon Mayor Ernest Davis.

Banks congratulated the Anguilla Tourist Board on its "highly successful operation," and attributed the visitor increase to the opening of Anguilla's first national tourist office in the United States, and the appointment of Marie Walker as the regional director responsible for the U.S.

Joining the minister in making presentations were Hon. Donna Banks, member of the House of Assembly and special tourism advisor; Mayor Delfino and Amelia Vanterpool-Kobisch, director of tourism.

Ms. Banks took the opportunity to give a complete 2005 update on activities in Anguilla, including the launch of the third annual Tranquility Jazz Festival, which is scheduled for November, later this year.

The reception and film presentation took place in the ballroom, the Women's Club of White Plains, where over 100 people packed the elegant Women's Club and feasted on fish, fillet mignon and other delicacies.



L-R: Amelia Vanterpool-Kobisch, Broadcaster Bob Frederick and Journalist Bevan Springer.



L-R: Caribbean Tourism Organization executive, Hugh Riley; Donna Banks, White Plains Mayor Joseph Delfino and Minister Victor Banks.



L-R: Travel World publisher, Charles Gatt; Donna Banks, Marie Walker and Mt. Vernon Mayor Ernest Davis.