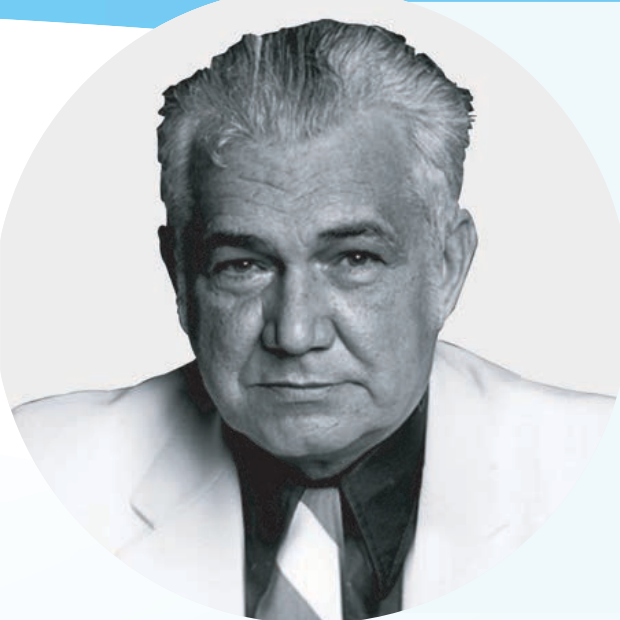


# The National Heroes of the Cayman Islands



THE HONOURABLE  
**James (Jim) Manoaah Bodden**  
5 OCTOBER 1930 – 7 MAY 1988

Our first National Hero, The Honourable James (Jim) Manoaah Bodden, could be regarded as a pioneer in tourism himself. Mr. Bodden was a visionary leader, who directed Cayman into an era of progress through modernisation. As minister for tourism and aviation, he was instrumental in establishing Cayman Airways and constructing Owen Roberts International Airport. Mr. Bodden's dedication to this country will forever be remembered with a statue here in Heroes Square.

Declared a National Hero in 1994



THE HONOURABLE  
**William Warren Conolly** OBE, JP  
15 DECEMBER 1920 – 22 OCTOBER 2008

National Hero, The Honourable William Warren Conolly, was most known for his prominent public service and political career that spanned over three decades. While in Government, Mr. Conolly helped set in motion some of the country's key legislation including the 1972 Constitution, the Companies Law and the 1975 Planning Law. Mr. Conolly established the Department of Tourism, and later received the Silver Thatch award for his services to Tourism. His entire political career was voluntary and his selfless contributions to this country will never be forgotten.

Declared a National Hero in 2011



THE HONOURABLE  
**Thomas William Farrington** CBE, JP  
25 JUNE 1900 – 13 MAY 1978

The Honourable Thomas William Farrington was an outstanding citizen and a great contributor to the Cayman Islands community. Mr. Farrington was a man of immense wisdom and sincerity, especially in matters involving his beloved district of West Bay. He became a civil servant in 1921 and still remains as the longest-serving representative in the Legislative Assembly, with 55 years. The first elected member responsible for finance, Mr. Farrington was also the first Caymanian to be honoured by Her Majesty the Queen as a Commander of the British Empire.

Declared a National Hero in 2011



THE HONOURABLE  
**Sybil Joyce Hylton** MBE  
25 AUGUST 1913 – 1 OCTOBER 2006

The Honourable Sybil Joyce Hylton was Cayman's first probation and welfare officer and served as a life-long advocate for disadvantaged young people. Notably, she championed the need for a separate court for juveniles, served on the Adoption Board and also helped develop the Scouts movement in these Islands. She received the Cayman Islands Certificate and Badge of Honour in 1968 and was named a Member of the Order of the British Empire ten years later.

Declared a National Hero in 2011



THE HONOURABLE  
**Sybil lone McLaughlin** MBE, JP  
24 AUGUST 1928 – PRESENT

National Hero, The Honourable Sybil lone McLaughlin continues to be a beloved and active member of society, and a role model for many Caymanians today. Mrs. McLaughlin received the country's highest honour in 1996 for her invaluable contributions to Cayman's parliamentary development, as well as to community life. Among her outstanding achievements, Mrs. McLaughlin was appointed the first Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in 1991. She is also the first female Clerk of the LA in the Commonwealth.

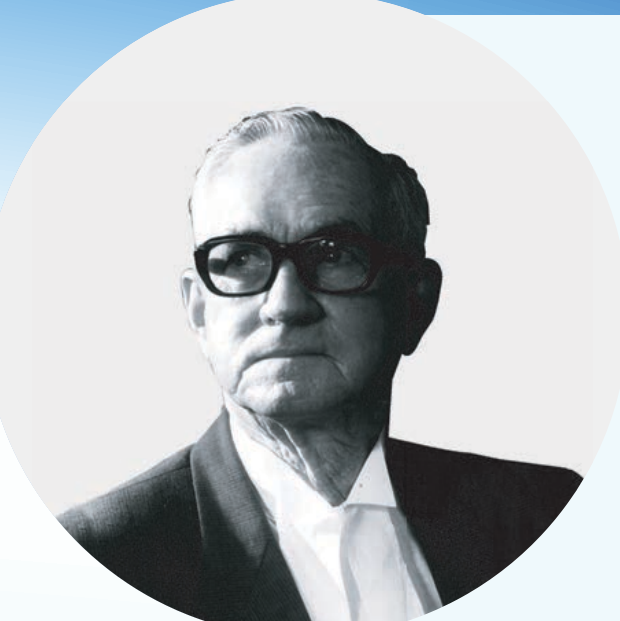
Declared a National Hero in 1996



THE HONOURABLE  
**Dr. Roy Edison McTaggart**  
2 FEBRUARY 1893 – 10 JUNE 1983

National Hero, The Honourable Dr. Roy Edison McTaggart was known as a businessman and a philanthropist, all at a time when the Cayman Islands were at a crossroad. Dr. McTaggart was a politician of the finest calibre and served as a legislator for more than 35 years as the second elected member for George Town. He became a qualified dental surgeon at the age of 22 and was the only dentist in the Cayman Islands at the time. Dr. McTaggart is best remembered as the man who helped ensure the Cayman Islands remained a British Crown Colony when Jamaica chose independence in 1962.

Declared a National Hero in 2016



THE HONOURABLE  
**Ormond Lauder Panton** OBE  
24 JUNE 1920 – 22 JANUARY 1992

The Honourable Ormond Lauder Panton is described as one of the most prominent political figures in our country's history. Mr. Panton founded Cayman's first political party and was the first to win an election as party leader. As an outspoken attorney, Mr. Panton was the first Caymanian attorney to appear before the Privy Council in London. His professional skills combined with his desire to help others, assured his success in many local trials. Mr. Panton was the youngest delegate to attend the historic West Indies Federation discussions.

Declared a National Hero in 2011



THE HONOURABLE  
**Leila Elberta Ross-Shier** Cert. Hon.  
16 NOVEMBER 1886 – 26 SEPTEMBER 1968

The Honourable Leila Ross-Shier was a woman of infinite talent, a gifted librarian, prolific writer, composer, accomplished musician, imaginative poet, songstress, incomparable storyteller, community historian, and cultural icon. She was the foremost writer of Caymanian culture and identified with all things Caymanian, and is remembered for her gift of inspiring and improving literacy and readership amongst those she worked with. She is best immortalised in her lyrical and melodic composition of the National Song "Beloved Isle Cayman", written in 1932.

Declared a National Hero in 2021



THE HONOURABLE  
**Desmond Vere Watler** CBE, JP  
10 OCTOBER 1914 – 25 OCTOBER 1994

The Honourable Desmond Vere Watler was an exemplary citizen and exceptional civil servant. Still today, Mr. Watler remains a role model for standards of civil service integrity and a shining example of how hard work, dedication and commitment can take you to the top. Mr. Watler was the first Treasurer, a title that was later changed to Financial Secretary. He was also the first Chief Secretary and served in the Legislative Assembly for 32 years in every area of parliamentary administration.

Declared a National Hero in 2011



THE HONOURABLE  
**Mary Evelyn Wood** Cert. Hon.  
20 NOVEMBER 1900 – 16 MAY 1978

The Honourable Mary Evelyn Wood was a true pioneer who dedicated her life to bringing change to these Islands and addressing the needs of her community. Ms. Wood was the first woman elected to the Legislative Assembly, and also the first to serve on a jury. In her early 20's, Ms. Wood established a school, serving as its sole teacher. She later became a trained practical nurse, providing tireless care around Grand Cayman but notably during the typhoid epidemic of the late 1930s.

Declared a National Hero in 2011

