45TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF BERMUDA DAY







MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

Bermuda Day is a day that genuinely and uniquely belongs to the people of our beautiful island home. It is a day when we celebrate and immerse ourselves in the diverse culture and proud heritage to which we belong.

Every year, the Department of Culture selects a theme for Heritage Month and the Bermuda Day parade that captures the spirit of our island. This year, they have decided to draw from our people's natural energy and enthusiasm. The theme - "Culture Equals Energy" - perfectly sums up what it means to be Bermudians and the excitement that fills the atmosphere on Bermuda Day.

All of us will know what it feels like when we come together as a community to celebrate as one. Whether we are cheering on our athletes, proudly wearing our colours at Cup Match time, enjoying a codfish breakfast with loved ones, or how we cannot help but react with joy to the sound of the Gombey drums. There is an undeniable energy in all of us that is inherently Bermudian.

Today, on our day, the unique Bermudian energy will be at its peak-starting with the Sinclair Packwood Memorial cycle race and continuing as our Half-Marathon Derby runners pass through streets carrying on the proud tradition that has been integral to our celebrations for over a century.

The greatest concentration of this energy will be felt by those lining the Hamilton sidewalks for the parade and by our Gombeys, Majorettes, Dance Troupes, and every parade participant who has worked so hard preparing for today.

Beyond the half-marathon, parade, and all of the incredible festivities we will enjoy today, I call on us all to harness this "energy" that unites us so that it transcends beyond this holiday occasion; I believe that there are no limits to what can be accomplished as an island and as Bermudians people when we are united.

Let us commit to engaging with one another with renewed energy that honours our warm and vibrant culture of togetherness and honours our shared heritage and history. Today, and in the days that follow, let us show sincere support and love for one another as Bermudians.

I extend special thanks to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Sen. the Hon. Owen K. Darrell, JP, and his dedicated team at the Department of Culture for their boundless efforts in organising this year's Heritage Month events. We know how much time, planning, and coordination go into ensuring its success and, most importantly, the genuine love and appreciation of our culture.

To each of you on this holiday, whether relaxing at home, spending the day at the beach, boating on the water, or with family and friends, I wish you all a memorable day. On behalf of the Government of Bermuda, Happy Bermuda Day!

The Hon. E. David G. Burt, JP, MP

Premier of Bermuda



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

As we come together to celebrate Bermuda Day, the resonance of our 2024 Heritage Month Theme, 'Culture = Energy,' epitomises the pulsating essence of Bermuda!

Our culture is an ever-evolving tapestry, interwoven with our rich heritage and enlivened by contemporary nuances. It is a fusion of traditions cherished for generations and innovative expressions that invigorate our daily lives.

It is both an honour and a privilege to be Bermudian and Heritage Month is an opportunity to celebrate all that we are, our achievements, and what we have built together as a people.

Bermudians are renowned for our capacity to infuse every moment with boundless enthusiasm and cultural dynamism. This fervour brings the Bermuda Day festivities alive, from the exhilarating half-marathon derby to the vibrant parade procession. It is palpable in the laughter shared with family and friends as we enjoy the sights and sounds of the many dance groups, gombey troupes, floats, majorettes, music trucks and walking groups that the Bermuda Day Parade has to offer.

This year, I am particularly thrilled to partake in the festivities, cheering on the runners from Barnes' Corner and revelling in the new finish line at the heart of the city: Court Street. From the Flagpole to the lively ambiance of Court Street, from the communal spirit of Church Street to the festivities along Cedar Avenue, every corner of Bermuda resonates with the infectious energy of our people.

However you choose to celebrate Bermuda Day this year, I encourage you to embrace the energy that defines our collective spirit. Honour your heritage in a manner uniquely Bermudian, steeped in tradition and brimming with innovation.

I extend my warmest wishes to you and your loved ones for a wonderful Bermuda Day filled with fun, fellowship, and community spirit. This is my favourite holiday, and I thank everyone for bringing their positive energy to the day.

Happy Bermuda Day!

Sen. The Hon. Owen K. Darrell, JP Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport



MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Bermuda Day—a favourite holiday for many locals and visitors alike. It's a time when residents gather to do what they do best...enjoy each other's company, put their differences and stresses to the side, and enter full holiday mode.

Whether it's on land or out on the water, Bermuda Day is one of the most treasured days of the year where we are one—a sentiment which should always resonate within us.

Why? Because being kind and friendly towards one another is in our DNA as Bermudians. It is our culture. Just as making our favourite meals, maintaining our family traditions and embracing our community.

Irrespective of our backgrounds, our culture is the lifeblood of this beautiful island we have the privilege to call home.

Bermuda Day is a day which literally penetrates our souls. From the dancing to the beats of the majorettes, marching with the Regiment Band and of course, the A-YO of the gombeys...it's a great day for all of us to enjoy.

I implore that we keep these traditions alive so that we, as a community, can create memories which will last a lifetime. Let the activities which we love and affiliate with Bermuda Day continue for many years to come.

On behalf of the One Bermuda Alliance, I would like to wish you and your family a wonderful Bermuda Day. Whatever you do this year, enjoy it to the fullest with your loved ones. And most of all, have fun!

The Hon. Jarion C. Richardson, JP, MP Leader of the Opposition Shadow Minister of Economy and Labour



MESSAGE FROM THE

CULTURAL PROGRAMME MANAGER

Warm holiday wishes to you on the 45th annual celebration of Bermuda Day.

This year's "Culture = Energy" theme was born out of the energy Bermudians had for Bermuda Day, despite torrential downpours in 2023. Truly, there was something magical about watching sparkly majorettes stomp through puddles on beat, dancers incorporating raindrops like choreography, floats both big and small pressing forward, tiny Gombeys using umbrellas as hatchets to rush 'em back, and the crowds on the street continuing to celebrate throughout. We cannot begin this year without thanking you all for last.

The Department of Culture received a message from the original organizer of the Bermuda Day Parade, Lowdru Robinson, who returned home last Bermuda Day and reflected that our celebrations had fulfilled his hopes that it would unite the community in pride of being Bermudian. The Pitt Report in 1978 gave recommendations to find an avenue to bring Bermuda in harmony to celebrate civic pride, and this Department has been working with the community to do so ever since. We are privileged to be able to work alongside so many talented, creative, and proud Bermudians to curate programming like the Bermuda Day Parade, when many across the globe are in situations unable to celebrate.

The Bermudian ability to generate endless cultural energy is why at a sports event, part of the excitement is in the spectators' fashions, and the intricacy of a camp set-up. When our athletes compete in sports internationally, the whole island stops and becomes heated experts at the rules, no matter how new to us. We are fiercely proud of our teams – whether that be Cup Match, football, or "Cunny" Games – and show the same level of enthusiasm when we see majorettes, dancers, and hear the rumble of the Gombey drums. No matter how heated the community banter grows over the best goal, the nicest dive off peak, the cleanest shank dank, there is a common dream we all share that imagines a Bermuda of possibilities, a land of endless opportunities to be better.

I grew up singing "Hail to Bermuda, my island in the sun", and the past year of inclement weather has shown that when it truly matters, Bermudians will bring their energy no matter the weather. And it is for this, I thank the parade participants for the time, money, and energy that they pour into practicing, sewing, designing, building, choreographing work that goes unseen, all for a brief moment of celebration in our streets. Culture continues to evolve, and how exciting that we get to be the ones that shape what our traditions mean!

Happy Bermuda Day to each of you – I wish you abundant inspiration, limitless national pride, and boasty vibes.

Carlita Lodge

Cultural Programme Manager

THE ORIGINS OF

HERITAGE MONTH AND BERMUDA DAY

Civil unrest in the 1960s and 1970s prompted the Bermuda Government to commission a report examining the social conditions in Bermuda and make recommendations to promote a more unified and peaceful social atmosphere. The Pitt Report of 1978 gave an accurate representation of the social and racially tense atmosphere at the time, and included feedback from many Bermudians that suggested an event should be organised to bring Bermudians together in harmony and to build a sense of civic pride.

It was decided that a parade would provide an opportunity for camaraderie and celebration, similar to the Easter Parade that ran from the 1930s through to the 1960s. During that time, many farmers grew flowers so that they could be in full bloom for the Easter period. It was also suggested in the Pitt Report that the proposed event capture the unifying spirit of the existing May 24 half-marathon. These events both served as inspiration for the Bermuda Day Heritage Parade which replaced Empire Day, the annual public holiday recognising Queen Victoria's birthday. The first Bermuda Day Parade took place in 1979. It was historically celebrated on May 24th or the weekday

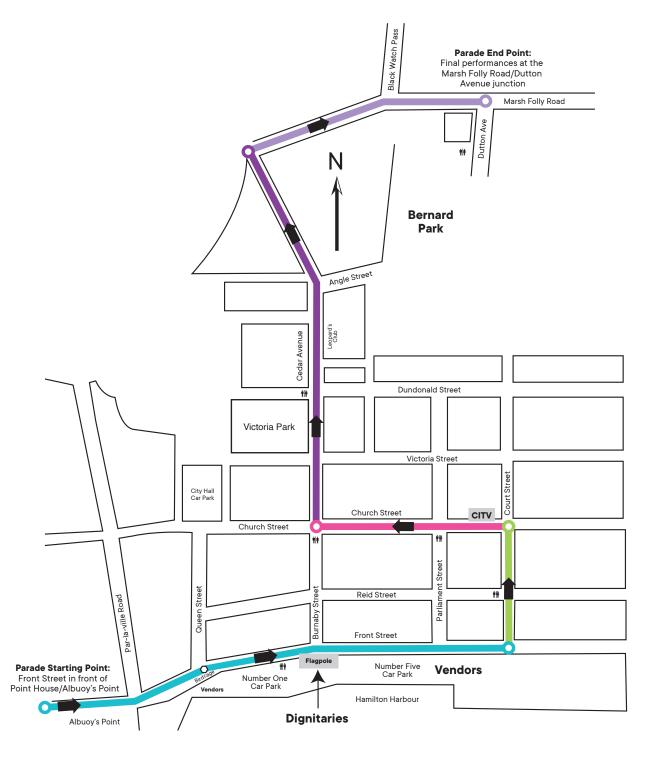
nearest May 24th if that date fell on a weekend, in 2018 adjusted to the last Friday in May, and in 2019 onward it will be on the fourth Friday in May. **The Bermuda Day Parade in 2024 is on Friday, May 24, 2024.**

Bermuda quickly realised that one day of celebration was not enough time to recognise the broad spectrum of Bermudian heritage and traditions. Heritage Week was born, celebrated in the last week in May. By the mid-1980's, this was expanded further into Heritage Month with a calendar full of events through May that celebrates Bermudian culture, heritage, and traditions.

Bermuda Day has become the culminating point of Heritage Month and one of the most beloved cultural holidays alongside Cup Match (Emancipation Day & Mary Prince Day). On Bermuda Day, Bermudians showcase their pride in the beauty and diverse culture of our island – whether they participate in the parade, the halfmarathon, go for their first swim of the year, attend the season's first fitted dinghy boat races, or follow the Gombeys through the streets crying, "Ay-oh!".



BERMUDA DAY 2024 PARADE ROUTE



The **2024 Bermuda Day Parade** will begin at 1:30 PM. The parade will begin on Front Street in front of Point House/Albuoy's Point area and continue along Front Street. The parade then turns left onto Court Street, takes a left onto Church Street, a right along Cedar Avenue, and ends at Marsh Folly Road/Dutton Avenue junction.

BERMUDA DAY 2024

PARADE PARTICIPANTS

- Arijahknow Productions
- Bermuda Dance Academy
- Bermuda Gymnastics Association
- Bermuda Institute Steel Band
- Bermuda Long Riders Motorcycle Club and Association
- Bermuda Motorcycle Racing Association's Junior Racers
- Bermuda Nurses Association
- Bermuda Shrine Club "the Shriners"
- Bermuda Squad Entertainers
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bermuda: Big Sister of the Year
- Casa dos Açores da Bermuda Ltd.
- CedarBridge Academy Float
- CedarBridge Academy Student Car
- · Country Time
- D&G Sherbet
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Bermuda Alumnae Chapter
- Department of Culture- Art Cart
- Department of Culture-Float
- Department of Sport and Recreation
- Dynamic City Rockettes
- East End Primary School
- Elliot School Alumni Association
- Fuze Dance Team
- · Gombey Evolution
- Gombey Warriors
- Grand Marshal: Brian Wellman
- Grand Marshal: Dennie O'Connor
- **Grand Marshal:** Dr. Kyjuan Brown
- Grand Marshal: Lizz Pimentel
- Grand Marshal Posthumous Honour: **Judith Simons**
- H&H Gombeys
- Hamilton Parish Hot Peppers
- Harrington Sound Primary School
- He Ain't Riding a Horse

- Inspire Bermuda
- Jamaican Association of Bermuda
- Kenny Cumberbatch- The Soca King
- Making an Impact Bermuda
- Nurse of the Year
- Oldie Goldie DJ (Steve D)
- One Body in Christ Movement For God's Purpose- Dancers
- One Body in Christ Movement For God's Purpose-Float
- Padma X (Sophia Cannonier)
- Pembroke Hamilton Club (PHC) Majorettes & Drum Corps
- Phoenix Gombeys
- Places Gombeys
- **Project Action**
- **Prospect Preschool**
- Queenah Bermuda & Bermuda Residential & Commercial Trucking
- Rated E! Dance Crew
- Royal Bermuda Regiment Band & Corps of Drums
- Seniors Train
- SMS Village Gombey Troupe
- St. David's Primary School
- St. George's Preparatory School
- St. George's Original Dancerettes
- St. John Ambulance
- Sui Generis Dance Team
- Tee'l Pre-Cup Match & Pre-Mary Prince Day Seniors Tea Party
- The Association of Filipinos in Bermuda
- The Bermuda Power Boat Association
- The Ex-Artillery Majorettes Bermuda
- The Trash Gobbler (Alexander Winfield)
- Tuk Tuk Tours
- Vasco da Gama Club
- Vibe Tribe Gombeys
- Warwick Gombey Troupe

DENNIE O'GONNOR

TRANSFORMING BERMUDA'S TOURISM LANDSCAPE

Bermudian born, educated, and raised, **Dennie O'Connor** is an exceptional force within the tourism and hospitality sphere. His unwavering passion for creating unforgettable moments has reshaped Bermuda's travel landscape, earning him a remarkable track record of over 39 prestigious awards and accolades, including the coveted Certified Tourism Ambassador Award. As a visionary in the industry, Dennie epitomises excellence.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Dennie is a devoted husband and proud father, embodying his commitment to family, God, and his personal values in every facet of his career. Drawing inspiration from his parents, Bermuda's renowned kite master Eugene O'Connor and the late entrepreneur Sheila O'Connor, Dennie's Bermudian

heritage fuels his drive for innovation and exceptional service.

Dennie's journey is not just a career progression; it's a narrative of transformation and influence. Starting with eight diverse management roles at Fairmont Southampton over the span of a decade, he subsequently became the General Manager at Tucker's Point Residence Club and a Director leader at Grotto Bay Beach Resort.

His entrepreneurial spirit has flourished through various ventures, such as the iconic "The Cellar" Club lounge and the establishment of Beach Boys LTD, a destination management company focused on enhancing the Bermuda experience. Through his bold vision and adaptability, Dennie has spearheaded groundbreaking locations like Tobacco Bay Beach & Restaurant and Snorkel Park Beach, Restaurant & Nightclub. These once-fading attractions have been revitalised, earning numerous accolades, including TripAdvisor's Certificate of Excellence and multiple Small Business of the Year awards.

In 2020, Dennie's entrepreneurial acumen shone with his venture, Bermuda Travel Concessions, which secured the management bid for the food and beverage concessions at L.F. Wade International Airport. This resulted in the creation of three cutting-edge restaurants that are set to raise the bar for airport dining experiences. Additionally, Dennie's acquisition of the historic White Horse Pub & Restaurant has revitalised Bermuda's culinary scene, transforming it into a vibrant hotspot known for its dynamic menu, floating stage, and live entertainment.

With nearly three decades of industry expertise and ownership of six high-volume tourist restaurants, Dennie's impact on Bermuda's tourism and hospitality sector is unparalleled. He is committed to empowering local talent, championing forward-thinking initiatives, and driving sustainable growth in Bermuda's business sector. Through his pioneering ideas and ventures, Dennie O'Connor remains at the forefront of shaping Bermuda's tourism future, creating a lasting legacy of excellence, service, and transformation.

LIZZ PIMENTEL INSPIRING THE LOCAL DANCE GOMMUNITY

For decades, **Lizz Pimentel** has been deeply involved in local dance education, theater, production, and performance. Her journey as a professional dancer began at the age of thirteen when she joined Greg Thompson's Follies as their youngest member. Since then, Lizz has dedicated herself to studying various dance techniques under renowned artists in England, New York, and Miami. She has had the privilege of working with esteemed choreographers like Demetrius Klein, David Parsons, and Freddrick Bratcher. Additionally, Lizz was even awarded a scholarship to attend the prestigious Alvin Ailey School in the Big Apple.



As the Founder and Director of the In Motion School of Dance and In Motion Dance Company, Lizz has made significant contributions to Bermuda's dance community. Recently, she extended her influence through In Motion Limited, which includes the Somerset School of Dancing and Body In Motion, Lizztakes immense pride in creating safe and nurturing spaces where people from all walks of life can experience and enjoy the art of dance. Over the years, many of her students have gone on to successfully pursue careers in dance and theater, a testament to the excellent dance education provided by Lizz.

Driven by her own passion for dance, Lizz remains committed to offering local dancers the best education and performance opportunities, both locally and overseas. She wholeheartedly believes in inspiring her students to strive for their individual dance goals. Lizz has brought innovation and inclusivity to Bermuda's arts scene through various programmes and experiences aimed at promoting and supporting local youth and the arts.

She has personally graced the stage on numerous occasions. Apart from countless local performances and company shows, she has had the pleasure of performing in Gilbert & Sullivan's renowned productions such as "The Producers," "Chicago," "South Pacific," and "Pirates of Penzance." An active member of the Gilbert and Sullivan Society, Lizz serves on the board, contributing her expertise to further enrich Bermuda's cultural offerings. She is also a former board member of the Bermuda Ballet Association and the National Dance Foundation of Bermuda, Lizz's dedication to dance has even extended to her role as a judge on Bermuda Idol for over five years.

Today, Lizz continues to be known for her unwavering commitment to the dance community, as well as her innovation and inclusivity. Her commitment to nurturing and inspiring aspiring dancers has made her a cherished figure in Bermuda's artistic landscape.

DR. KYJU4N BROWN EMPOWERING BERMUDA THROUGH HEALTHCARE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Dr. Kyjuan Brown is a remarkable figure in Bermuda, known for his dedication to healthcare, community service, and entrepreneurial ventures. As the Founder and Medical Director of Northshore Medical and Aesthetics Center (NMAC), Dr. Brown has created a premier Medspa offering a wide range of services such as Family Medicine, Aesthetics, Dermatology, and much more. Dr. Brown takes a holistic and integrative approach to healthcare and Beauty; he is also certified in specialities such as medical hair restoration, medical aesthetics, and herbal medicine.



Beyond his professional achievements, Dr. Brown is deeply committed to giving back. Raised with a strong sense of community service, he actively contributes through his time, money, and the initiatives of NMAC. Dr. Brown has volunteered with organisations such as St. John's Ambulance and served on the Board of Governors at CedarBridge Academy. He has also been involved in committees like Education and Medical Appeals, and Transport Control.

Dr. Brown's community involvement extends to extensive sponsorships, events, and clinics hosted by NMAC. The annual Swan's Running Club Thanksgiving Turkey Trot, back-to-school community days, free community fairs and clinics, and support for sports teams, youth groups, and senior initiatives are just a few examples of his contributions. Dr. Brown also mentors and sponsors high school and college students, offering them internships, scholarships, and job opportunities, providing them with a pathway to success.

Recognised for his contributions, Dr. Brown has received numerous accolades. In 2021, he received the 'Most Outstanding Member of our Bermuda Community Award' from Veteran Barber Ricky Spence.

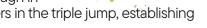
His generosity and leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic also earned him the 2022 Bermuda AME Church YPD iRock Community Leadership Award, and he was also honored with the Bermuda Hero Award from Bethel AME Church in 2023. Additionally, as Medical Director/Owner, NMAC has received two Best of Bermuda Awards in 2019 and 2022.

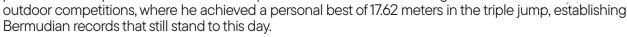
Recently, Dr. Brown has begun to use his platform to educate and inspire through a YouTube vlog channel, 'More Than Medicine.' Sharing insights on topics such as real estate, business strategies, and life adventures, Dr. Brown shows a tapestry of diverse passions. His unwavering commitment to healthcare, community service, and empowering Bermuda has made a profound impact on the lives of many. With his remarkable achievements and ever-expanding initiatives, Dr. Brown continues to shape a brighter future for the community.

BRIAN WELLMAN Breaking Records. Inspiring Generations

Brian Wellman, born on September 8, 1967, is a legendary former triple jumper from Bermuda whose remarkable career has left an indelible mark on the world of athletics. Known for his outstanding achievements on the track, Brian's athletic prowess and unwavering dedication to the sport have earned him a well-deserved place among the all-time greats.

During his illustrious career, Brian achieved numerous milestones that solidified his status as a triple jump icon. In 1995, he made history by clinching the indoor world championship title and setting a new championship record with a phenomenal leap of 17.72 meters. His exceptional talent also shone through in





His list of accolades is extensive and impressive. Notable victories include his triumphs at prestigious events such as the CARIFTA Games in Guadeloupe, the Universiade in Sheffield, and the World Indoor Championships in Barcelona. Additionally, he excelled at the Central American and Caribbean Championships, as well as the Outdoor NCAA Championships in Eugene, Oregon in 1991 and Austin, Texas in 1992. All these showcased his unparalleled skills and unwavering determination on the global stage.

A four-time Olympian, Brian's exceptional performances at the Olympic Games in 1992 and 1996 saw him achieve top six finishes, further solidifying his reputation as a world-class athlete. His bronze medal at the 1994 Commonwealth Games and consistent top-ten rankings in the world serve as a testament to his enduring excellence in the field of triple jump.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to Bermudian sports, Brian was rightfully inducted into the Bermuda Sports Hall of Fame in 2009, a testament to his enduring legacy in the realm of athletics. His remarkable achievements have earned him the title of Bermuda Athlete of the Year five times, a testament to his remarkable impact on the sporting landscape.

His legacy is further enhanced by his association with fellow track and field luminaries, Troy Douglas and Nicky Saunders. Together, they form the revered 'Three Musketeers' of Bermudian athletics, a golden generation that continues to inspire and captivate sports enthusiasts worldwide. Throughout his impressive career, Brian's unwavering passion, exceptional talent, and remarkable achievements have firmly established him as a trailblazer in Bermudian track and field and a true icon in the world of athletics.



POSTHUMOUS RECOGNITION



CELEBRATING A TRAILBLAZER: JUDITH SIMONS' IMPACT ON BERMUDA AND BEYOND

The passing of Judith Simons on January 3, 2024, at the age of 71, marked the end of an era for the Bermuda community. Her lasting influence, unparalleled dedication, and unwavering passion will always be remembered.

Born on November 11, 1952, Judith, fondly known as Judy, grew up in Paget and Smiths, immersing herself in the vibrant world of sports. Her talent shone in field hockey and tennis, earning her a coveted spot on the Bermuda National Hockey team. Judy's charismatic leadership led her to captain the team from 1979 to 1981, where her unmatched commitment left an indelible mark. Even after her playing days, Judy's love for sports continued to thrive as she became the President of the Bermuda Olympic Association (BOA). Her contributions extended beyond Bermuda's borders, as she dedicated over 25 years to the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC).

Judy's devotion to the community extended far beyond the realm of athletics. As the past president of the Bermuda Cancer and Health Centre, she played a pivotal role in establishing the new Center on Point Finger Road. Her selfless nature created a supportive and empowering environment for all. In recognition of her outstanding contributions, Judy was honored with the Queen's Badge of Honour and the Paul Harris Award for her philanthropic service within the Bermuda community. Her impact was so profound that she was appointed as a Justice of the Peace, a testament to the extraordinary influence she had on the Island.

While Judy made an impression within the life insurance industry, holding positions at companies like Sun Life of Canada and Life Annuity Services, her true legacy lies in the lasting relationships she built with clients. Known for her empathy, dedication, and genuine care, Judy was held in high regard by all who had the pleasure of working with her. With an unparalleled ability to connect with others, Judy's infectious laughter and insightful wisdom brought joy to the lives of many. She shared a deep love with her cherished life partner, Campbell, and they experienced countless adventures together.

Judy's legacy will live on, particularly within the international sports community. Up until her passing, she served as the Regional Vice-President (Americas) of the Commonwealth Games Federation, leaving an indelible mark on the organisation. Recently, she was honored by Centro Caribe Sports, a regional sports federation, during the Santiago Pan Am Games, recognizing her "exceptional contributions".







SPECIAL THANKS

Kim Dismont Robinson
Director, Department of Culture

Carlita Lodge
Cultural Programme Manager, Department of Culture

PARADE MARSHALS

The Royal Bermuda Regiment

ADDITIONAL THANKS

Department of Culture Staff
Department of Communications
CITV
Department of Corrections
City of Hamilton
The Media Maven
Brookfield Developers



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