

*Members of the Class of 2008*  
*Hon. Peter John Bethell*  
*(1950-2002)*



**Peter John Pa B Bethell practiced** a discipleship which inherently espoused the philosophy that small men avoid challenges while big men embrace them. His entire existence was premised on a rock that was tall and from where his view was a commanding one, whether as captain of champion teams in baseball, cricket, softball or volleyball, as founder of the Bahamas Games or as they force behind the creation of this country's National Hall of Fame and as the initiator of the Junior Junkanoo Parade.

**Peter was predisposed to athletic greatness** as a result of being born into a family of outstanding athletes. In addition he lived in a neighbourhood that contained Windsor Park and the fields of Southern Prep, now Stephen Dillette which is now twice the size of the old school. In addition came the presence of St. Bernard's Sporting Club in which all his brothers and sisters had membership. All these assets converged to manufacture for The Bahamas, a most well rounded athlete and an equally astute sports administrator.

**Because of length of arm and leg,** Peter easily excelled at cricket. So trusted was he that he assumed the spot as opening batter and bowler for St. Bernard's Cricket team. Newspaper articles frequently commented on his beautiful array of strokes and the sheer grace with which he hooked and drove the ball. He was just as adept as a bowler, capable of applying a spin to the ball that drew many a duck egg. In baseball, he batted in the important clean-up position, so appropriate because of the corrections he would have to make with his bat for the Knights. In the 1980 season, the St. Pauli Girl Barons accumulated a win-loss record of 35-0, a standard that has yet to be matched.

**Peter was just as comfortable with sports administration** as he was with the challenges of high level competition on the field. He assumed control of the Bahamas Baseball Association even while he still a player. Most importantly though, he received what many of his seniors only talked about for decades, the establishment of The Bahamas Games, a feat he achieved in 1989. Those Games managed to unite the Islands of The Bahamas in a fashion that classified into two separate time periods. Before and then After the implementation of the Bahamas Games for no initiative did much to open opportunities for Family Islands athletes on such a large scale.

**Peter managed to prove** that big men do indeed embrace and then conquer challenges.