

National Recognition **Award Categories**

National Heroes Day 2026 acknowledges and celebrates “**Physical Infrastructure**” in the Cayman Islands in the following categories:

Landmark Leaders (“Early Pioneers”)

This category honours up to 25 individuals from across all three islands who led or contributed to the creation of major public infrastructure in the Cayman Islands before 1970. These include main roads, ports, airports, utilities, or fundamental public buildings.

To be eligible, an individual must have been the originator, driving force, or key executor behind a major public infrastructure project that was either the first of its kind or that significantly transformed life in the Cayman Islands. In addition, the individual must have left a lasting legacy, with their contribution still visible, functional, or meaningfully felt within the community today.

Infrastructure Innovators (“Pioneers”)

This category recognises up to 75 individuals from across the three islands who have played a long-term, transformative role in national infrastructure development.

To be eligible, an individual must have consistently contributed 30 years or more to directing the planning, design, execution, or policy development of major physical infrastructure. The individual must also have demonstrated a record of excellence or innovation that has had a sustained national impact on the Cayman Islands, and must have received formal recognition for their professional work, such as accreditation, licensure, awards, or honours from a professional body or government entity, whether locally, regionally, or internationally.

Builders of Cayman (Group Award)

This category honours companies, businesses, statutory authorities, and government departments that have made exceptional, long-standing contributions to national development through infrastructure.

To be eligible, an organisation must have been established for 30 years or more and demonstrate a proven record of distinguished and consistent service in infrastructure development. The organisation must also have made transformative contributions to major national infrastructure projects—such as roads, ports, airports, utilities, or public buildings—that have had a lasting impact on the physical and civic landscape of the Cayman Islands. In addition, it must demonstrate a strong commitment to social responsibility, innovation, or community engagement through efforts such as environmental stewardship, voluntary or community service, and contributions beyond its core mandate in support of national development goals.

Honouring Physical Infrastructure **Recipients**

This year, the honourees serve as a testament to what it truly means to be considered for the **2026 National Heroes Day** in the Cayman Islands: embracing challenges, pushing boundaries, and inspiring future generations to dream boldly while staying anchored to our roots.

Landmark Leaders (Early Pioneers)

Alva 'Billy' Murrell Bodden
Franklin Churchill Bodden
Harold 'Jay' Bodden*
Hubert Bodden*
Rayal B Bodden*
Roland A. Bodden
Martin C. Bould
Berkley Bush, OBE*
Roy J. Campell*
Clarence Nelson Christian
Hinton Connolly
William Warren Connolly, OBE*
Elford Levi Dilbert*
Don Dise*
Jay Ebanks
Bertley Ebanks*
Donovan Ebanks, MBE*
George E. Ebanks*
Paul Darwin Ebanks
Pedro Echenique Snr, Cert. Hon.*
Charles Hislop*
Boothe Hurlston
Maggie S. Hydes*
Cleavy Astor "Sammy" Jackson, MBE, JP*
Ernest Jackson*
Franklin Rollin Jackson*
Selbert 'Bert' P. Jackson, Cert. Hon.
Dennis Cowton McLaughlin

Rupert Moxam Snr*
Harold Parchment*
Alfred Powery*
Pastor Winston Rose, MBE
Conrad Rutkowski*
Daniel 'Mike' S. Simmons*
Jesse Smith
John Bothwell Smith
John Samuel Smith, JP*
Ransford McDonald Terry
Norberg Thompson*
Darby Burnard Tibbetts, MBE
Linton N. Tibbetts, OBE
Brainard D. Watler
Major Joseph R. Watler*
Joseph Theodore Watler*
Warren Wardray Watler
Carlos A. Whittaker*
Hector Whittaker

* Deceased (as confirmed to National Recognition Awards Committee)

Infrastructure Innovators (Pioneers)

Rupert L. Ackerman
Timothy P. Adam
Gregg V. Anderson
Heber G. Arch MBE
Justin A. F. Bodden
Seth T. Bodden
John D. Burke
Errol L. Bush, MBE*
Brian E. Butler
Alvin Bruce 'Larry' Cayasso
Richard L. Christiansen*
Clayton K. Conolly
William Burns Conolly, AIA*
Leighton M. Dixon*
Harley Ray Ebanks
John E. Ebanks, Snr, OCI, Cert. Hon.
Rollin Ebanks Jr
Rollin Ebanks Snr*
Rudy Ebanks*
Thomas C. Ebanks Jr.
Donnie A. Forbes
Dr. Gelia L. Frederick-Van Genderen, PhD, Cert. Hon.

Michael I. Godfrey
Kearney S. Gomez, BE, JP
Edward Howard Jr.
Rev. M. Lee King, MBE*
Jason McLaughlin
Burke Omar McLean, B.sc (Barch)
John B. McLean Snr., OBE, JP
Leister Joshua McLean
Vincent Arden McLean
Danny K.W. Owens
Dr. The Hon. Linford A. Pearson, OBE, JP
James P. Powell Jr.
Alfredo Powery
Arlon A. Powery*
Philip A. Reynolds*
Jason Mark. P. Scotland
Edward 'Donley' Tatum
Bentley L. Tibbetts Snr. *
Thomas C. van Zanten, Eur Ing
Henry Otto Watler, Cert. Hon.
Calin Elmer Welcome*

Builders of Cayman (Group Award)

A.L. Thompson's
Arch & Godfrey (Cayman) Ltd.
Cable & Wireless Ltd.
Caribbean Utilities Company (CUC)
Cayman Airways
Cayman Islands Airport Authority
C.L. Flowers & Sons
Consolidated Water Co. Ltd
Department of Planning
Frank Hall Homes
Island Paving
Kirk Home Centre
Larry's Hardware
McAlpine

National Roads Authority (NRA)
Port Authority of the Cayman Islands
Public Works Department (PWD)
Radio Cayman
Rotary Central Cayman Islands
Scotts Development Co. Ltd.
Serve-U-Well
Uncle Bill's Home Improvement Centre
Water Authority Cayman
Watler & Hislop

* Deceased (as confirmed to National Recognition Awards Committee)

