

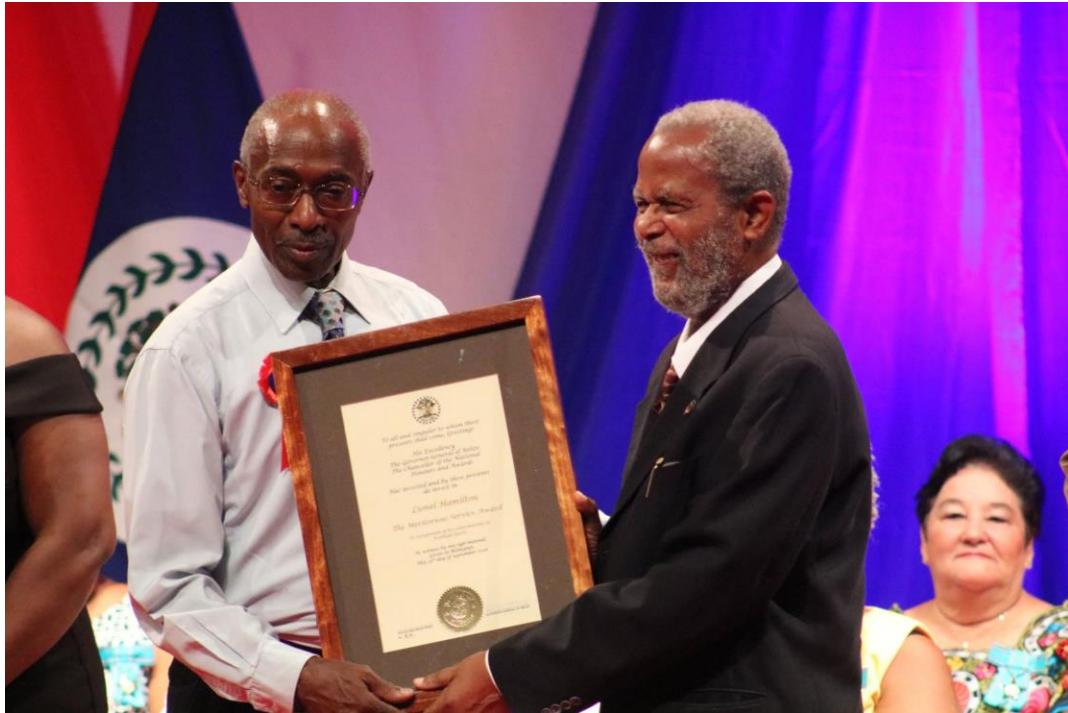
DAVID CRUZ SR.

David F. Cruz Sr. was born on 27th October, 1941. He graduated from Wesley Junior College in 1961 and immediately joined the public service as a Customs Examiner. He served in various departments rising through the ranks as Magistrate/District Officer in different districts and as Assistant Secretary.

In 1986, David joined the Foreign Service as First Secretary at the Belize Embassy in Washington D.C. He was later promoted to Permanent Secretary. Eventually he was appointed Consul-General of Belize to Hong Kong and also Minister Councilor at the Embassy of Belize in the Republic of China (Taiwan). He retired from Foreign Service in 1993, and after retirement he became a lecturer for the University of the West Indies Certificate in Public Administration programme.

Wherever his career took him, David was involved in sports, serving in various capacities - as coach, manager, trainer and executive - particularly in the disciplines of softball, football and volleyball. He served as President and Vice-president of the Belize Softball Federation, President of the Belize National Football Association, and as Director of the National Sports Council. Through all these appointments, Mr. Cruz ensured development of sports in Belize.

David has been married to Consuelo, his wife of 55 years, and they have five children. Presently, he is a consultant in management, investment and immigration.



LIONEL HAMILTON

Lionel "Pops" Hamilton was born on 14th August, 1944. By age eight, he was an all-around athlete.

Pops was very active in football, cricket and track and field at Belize Technical College - a star player in the men's division.

Lionel played alongside several well-known Belizean athletes on all-star basketball and football teams, like the Flyers and Brodies Football Team. In 1963, he played as a starter for the Belize Team that went to Jamaica, where they won three of four games.

Pops migrated to New York in 1965. There he joined a Belizean basketball team and played in the Afro Caribbean League in 1973 and 1974. In between competing in the US, he represented Belize in the Central American Masters Track and Field and in the North America and Caribbean Masters Track and Field and won several trophies.

He formed the Belize Sporting Association in 1973 and the Cobras Social Cultural Sporting Association in 1999, both in New York. Through those organizations, Pops conducted basketball and football tournaments and sponsored trophies to leagues in Belize on numerous occasions. He played a part in starting Belizean Day in the Park, now known as Belize Parkfest of New York.

He and his wife Dorothy have been married for 45 years and they have four children.



EDWARD NABIL “BILLY” MUSA SR., MBE. CSC

Edward Nabil “Billy” Musa was born in Belize City on 16th January, 1938. During his highschool years at St. Michael’s College, Billy played Football, Basketball, Cricket and Tennis, but Tennis was his love.

At age 12, Billy began playing Tennis at the St. Mary’s Tennis court. After winning the St. Mary’s Tournament for the Sir Allan Burns Cup several times, he was invited to join the Pickwick Club Tennis Team to play for the prestigious Martinez Shield and went on to win for several years.

Since then, he has gone on to compete in and win several Tennis competitions. He won the under 18 championship for the Sir Wilson Macmillan Cup; the National Juniors Championship; the Men’s Doubles Championship; the National Mixed Double Championship; National Champion for 15 years, and the Chetumal Over 35 Men’s Doubles Championship for 11 years. Edward has represented Belize in many countries and has been the President of the Belize Tennis Association for over 40 years. He continues to sponsor tournaments and training sessions for children.

Mr. Musa, who is the Managing Director of James Brodie & Company Ltd., is a past president of the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry and is a founding member and past president of the Belize City Lions Club.

He is married to Rose Trumbach and they have four children.



DAVID B. DYCK

David Dyck was born on 19th January 1938, and moved to Belize with his family in 1958 from Chihuahua, Mexico.

His family was very influential in establishing what is known today as Blue Creek Community, one of the oldest and most prosperous Mennonite communities in Belize. David and his brother bought the first bulldozers to clear the land for the Mennonite settlement. With that they started their own business in land clearing and road and bridge construction. The brothers pioneered and built their own hydroelectric dam, supplying homes in Blue Creek and San Felipe with electricity for many years before BEL offered their service. The hydro plant is still in operation today.

Mr. Dyck has served as Mayor of Blue Creek Community for many years. He contributes to education through scholarships for high school and tertiary level students within the Orange Walk District.

David has been very influential in the cattle farming business of the country. He has served on the board of the Belize Livestock Producers Association for many years. He is one of the cattle farmers who has been instrumental in the implementation of the Cattle Sweep Project for Belize to receive certification for exporting cattle.

David and his wife Susana have been married for 55 years and they have eight children.



DANIEL BENNETT

Daniel Bennett has been a musician since age 11. He plays several instruments but is most known for his trumpeting skills. His musical talents include reading, writing, and teaching music.

Daniel has been a member of several marching and dance bands both in Belize and the United States, including the Royal Youth Hostel Marching Band, the Imperial Band, the Police Band, and The Scorpions.

Mr. Bennett is currently the bandmaster of the well-known Imperial Band, assisting in rejuvenating the band to perform as both a marching and a dance band. That marching band has been in existence in Belize for over 100 years. Under his leadership, the Imperial Band received an award from the Governor General of Belize for their contribution to music in Belize.

Daniel is a recipient of the Lifetime Music Award from the Association for Belizean Artist First and Buddy Brown International. He has also been the bandmaster for the Samuel Haynes Institute of Excellence Marching Band and for the Music in the South Programme, under the patronage of H.E. Sir Colville Young and is funded by the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Daniel Bennett and his wife Jane have been married for 45 years. They have four children.

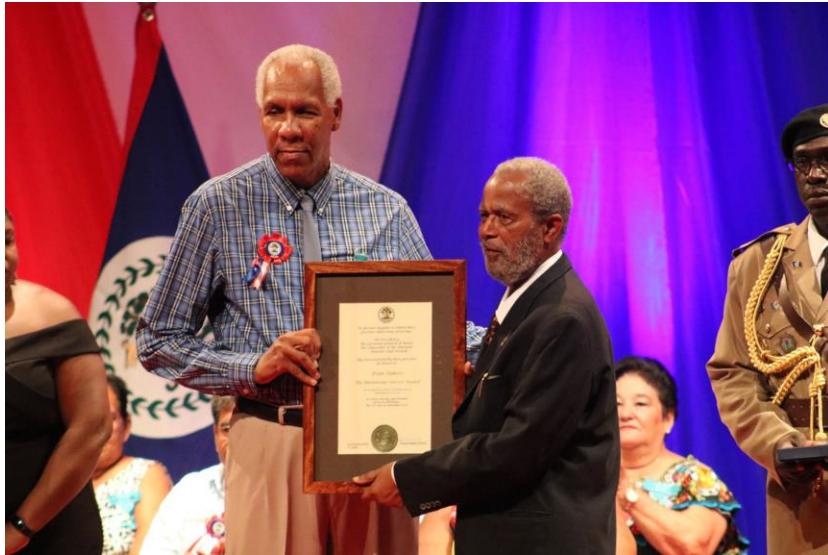


EMILIO “BAS” ZABANEH, JP(S)

Born and raised in Southern Belize, Emilio “Bas” Zabaneh is a modern-day pioneer of entrepreneurship. Organizing and operating multiple businesses from the ground up and at his own financial risk, Bas has always seen potential in the market of the South. His hard work has culminated in his successful businesses in the tourism, agriculture and real estate development sectors.

Bas developed Coco Plum Island Resort, an island located off the coast of Dangriga. Coco Plum is now a premier private island resort, winning international awards. Building on his passion led him to managing two other award- winning resorts, Belizean Dreams in Hopkins and Laru Beya in Placencia, both of which are poised for success and growth in the future.

Mr. Zabaneh believes that Belize’s potential lies in its people, and so has invested in a number of individuals in different ways. He has employed and mentored over 150 talented Belizeans from various socioeconomic backgrounds. An active member of his community, Emilio has invested in education, sports, and entertainment. Through his businesses, he developed a philanthropic program providing scholarships, housing assistance, donations, and sponsorships to schools and sporting teams in Dangriga Town. He has also served on the Board of Directors for the Stann Creek ITVET and Stann Creek Ecumenical High School.



EVAN DAKERS

Evan George Dakers was born on 12th January, 1953 in Belize City. In 2008, Mr. Dakers retired from the Public Service as a Social Planner, having given 36 years of service to Belize, most of which was spent in the Ministry of Social and Community Development.

During those years, he acquired a Bachelor's degree in Social and Community Development Work and a Master's degree in Social Development Planning and Management.

Mr. Dakers joined the Belmopan Branch of HelpAge Belize in the late 1990s and has been president since 2007; there have been significant increases in membership under his leadership. HelpAge has been involved in a variety of projects being offered to senior citizens of Belmopan and surrounding communities at the Hazel Hutchinson Centre. A full-time daycare programme for seniors will be launched shortly.

Since 2011, Evan has also served as Chairman of the National Board of Directors of HelpAge Belize. During his tenure, HelpAge, an organization which always focus on the welfare of senior citizens throughout Belize, has seen two new branches established - one in Seine Bight Village and the other in Belize City. The organization has strengthened its management and supervisory capabilities throughout its 11 branches. Evan is currently a consultant with the Social Investment Fund on a World Bank Climate Resilience Infrastructure Project.

Mr. Dakers and his wife Anna have been married for 36 years and are parents to two daughters.



DELVIN "PEN" CAYETANO, MBE

Born in 1954 in Dangriga Town, Delvin "Pen" Cayetano is a painter, singer, songwriter, percussionist, guitarist, and ambassador for the Garinagu.

Pen exemplifies his hobby of oil painting in genres of modern art and contemporary realism, exhibiting his work in the USA, Europe, Asia, and the Caribbean. His task is to conserve the Garifuna culture and give a consciousness to others.

While living in Germany with his family, Pen showcased his work at various workshops and international art exhibitions. After moving back to Dangriga, the Pen Cayetano Studio Gallery was opened in August 2009; the gallery is still opened today.

Pen is regarded as the "King" of Punta Rock music which he created as a way to revive and preserve Garifuna music amongst the younger generations. Pen Cayetano and the Turtle Shell Band as well as The Cayetanos family band have not only brought good entertainment but also served in preserving Garifuna culture through music, representing the culture on a global platform.

Pen educates Belizean youth in creativity, sharing his knowledge and experiences through art, music and culture. Through the Pen Cayetano Dangriga Youth Organization, which started in 2012, Master Pen continues to host children's music and art programs in his community.

He has received several awards and special recognition over the years. Pen and his wife Ingrid are parents to three children.



CLARE MOODY, OBE, JP(S)

In 1963, Mrs. Clare Moody and her family moved to South Stann Creek near a banana farm, where she became a pupil teacher at the first Anglican school in that community. There, she taught to a large migrant population of children of the workers on the farm. In 1986, her family moved to a banana farm in Trio Village, Toledo District, where she continued teaching until she accepted the job as an assistant manager of a banana shed and grocery store in Cow Pen. Clare opened the first daycare center in that community in 1996, fulfilling a need of the working mothers in the banana industry.

Mrs. Moody has a deep sense of patriotism and nationalism. For 15 years, she chaired the September celebrations in Cow Pen, organized Queen of the Bay pageants, and taught Belize's history to the migrant workers in that community. Mrs. Moody would encourage the community residents to participate in all the activities on the celebrations calendar, which she organized each year.

Clare's dedicated service to her community led her to being honoured with the Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II in 1989. She made history in 1993 when she won handsomely in the village council elections and became the first woman Alcalde in Cow Pen and in the history of the Maya Alcalde Association in Belize.

She loves softball and has been coaching and managing teams from 1974. Clare has been the coach of the Capital City Emeralds of Belmopan since 2004. She has served her country well, mentoring youth and women for decades, and serving as a spiritual leader in the Anglican Church. Clare currently serves as the Belmopan District Coordinator for the National Emergency Management Organization.

Clare Elizabeth Moody was born in Belize City. She was married to Luther Emmanuel Moody and is the mother of six.



FRANCIS "CISCO" WOODS

Francis Woods, affectionately known as "Cisco", was born to John and Marta Woods in 1971.

He is the Chief Executive Officer of Cisco Construction Company and founder of the Old Belize recreation center, located on the outskirts of Belize City.

Under Francis' leadership, Cisco Construction has evolved into a responsible corporate citizen, offering humanitarian social services to and within communities where the company has worked. In fact, at the locations where its projects are based, the company provides employment for Belizean residents and also provides valuable assistance to nearby villages.

As an active member of the St. Martin's de Porres Parish in Belize City, Francis through Cisco Construction, has assisted with the expansion of the parish, school, the Parish Hall, the Church and feeding programs, and continues to assist in any other areas.

He also sits on the Board of Directors for the Kolbe Foundation, which seeks to successfully rehabilitate and integrate individuals, who have come in conflict with the law, back into society. Through his company, Francis and Kolbe established a program which offers employment to rehabilitated persons as an opportunity to transform their lives and become productive citizens.

Together with fellow Rotarians, as an active member of the Rotary Club of Belize, Mr. Woods has provided numerous humanitarian services to the community. Their most well-known service is the Gift of Life Program, which seeks medical attention abroad for children suffering from congenital illnesses. He is also an organizer of the National Crime Stoppers Programme and an avid supporter of the Belize Emergency Response Team (BERT).

Francis has been married to his wife Jacqueline for 27 years and they have five daughters.



PENELOPE CASASOLA

Penelope Kay "Penny" Cassasola is on a mission—to get as many new mothers as possible to breastfeed.

She was born in Belize City on 3rd August, 1944. Nursing was her chosen career and she became a certified nurse and midwife. Penny later acquired a Bachelor's degree in Professional Management and a Master's degree in Health Service Administration.

Penelope was employed at the Belize Hospital as a midwife and supervisor. She also lectured at the Bliss School of Nursing for some years before migrating to the USA. There she continued her nursing career, retiring in 2006 and returning home to fulfill her mission.

Her goal is to assist in further increasing the Exclusive Breastfeeding Rate in Belize which has seen an increase from 10% in 2006 to 33.4% in 2015.

As an advanced lactation consultant, Penny volunteers at the Breastfeeding Community Service at the Collet Education and Resource Centre in Belize City. As part of a team, she offers breastfeeding support to families throughout the country through the Mother-Baby Friendly Initiative in hospital and non-hospital settings and with health care teams at the government hospitals. She also conducts workshops on breastfeeding.

Penelope is the mother of two sons and is involved at both St. John's Anglican Cathedral and Wesley Methodist Church.



LYDIA ESTHER VALLEJOS

Lydia Esther Vallejos was born on 4th March, 1960 in Patchakan Village in the Corozal District.

Due to economic constraints, she was unable to further her education after completing primary school, but that did not deter Lydia. In 1993, she began volunteering at the Presbyterian Dental Clinic by assisting the doctors, and became part of the Dental Clinic Team which visited schools in the surrounding areas, providing health education to children for more than ten years.

In 2006, Lydia joined the Patchakan Presbyterian Women's Group. The group's main objective is to help the elderly and abused women. She continues to work with the group today.

In 2010, she dreamed of establishing a shelter to house and assist victims of domestic violence. In 2013, that dream became a reality as the House of Dorcas. Along with six other women, Lydia manages the shelter, working very closely with the Ministry of Human Development and the Women's Department to provide temporary shelter for victims of abuse. The shelter is owned by the group of women and sustained through fundraising efforts.

Lydia continues to serve her community and country as a volunteer at Jacob's Farm, a rehabilitation center for men. She is a role model, having dedicated her life to serving others and doing her work with passion and commitment.



SHALINI ZABANEH TROYER

Shalini Zabaneh's athletic career started during her childhood when she accompanied her dad to Roger's Stadium as batgirl for local teams, and was even taken to El Salvador with the National Selection as international batgirl.

Shalini played softball in primary school, high school and junior college, helping her teams to win national championships. She played on the Independence softball team, representing Stann Creek in many national games. The team won three years as National Champions and four years as champions of the Sir Andy Invitational Tournament.

Ms. Zabaneh has participated in the Lionman Triathlon, winning back-to-back for several years. She has also made her name in cycling, moving from last place in her first race, to winning the National Female Championship eight times. She represented Belize in cycling in the Caribbean, winning gold in Jamaica, and silver in the time trial in the Central American games. Shalini also represented Belize in India for the Commonwealth Games.

She lives with her husband Roger Troyer and their family in Independence Village, where she promotes sports in her community and is a driving force behind the village acquiring its own softball stadium.



MARIE LOUISE ALEMAN

A retired educator and community worker, Mrs. Marie Aleman was born in Punta Gorda Town on 14th May, 1948.

After graduating from St. Peter Claver College, Marie was nominated to attend the Intermediate Teacher's Training Center - a branch of Belize Teachers College. She successfully passed her first teacher's examination, and six months later, she embarked on her teaching career at San Isidro R.C. School.

Teacher Marie, as she is affectionately known, taught for 38 years at various primary schools. She served her community in various capacities including serving on the Board of Governors at the Julian Cho Technical High School, Big Falls Water Board, Board of Directors for the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE), Board of Directors for the Toledo Teachers Credit Union, and the Toledo Health Council.

Marie sponsors students from low-income families, providing funding for their primary and secondary school education. Today, she continues to selflessly serve her community and is affectionately called godmother by hundreds of children in Big Falls Village because of her helpfulness, spiritual care and outstanding character.

In March 2018, Ms. Marie was a recipient of the 2018 Outstanding Women's Award. She is a widow and mother of four children.



LYDIA VILLANUEVA, JP

Lydia Rose Logan-Villanueva was born on 7th September, 1955 in Monkey River Town. She moved to Placencia in the early 70s where she lived with her husband Conrad Villanueva. They opened Lydia's Guesthouse in 1989 and have been a part of Placencia's tourism industry ever since.

Lydia always had an interest in giving back to her community and continues to be involved in several organizations in the village. She was an elected member of the Placencia Village Council for 26 years and is a founding member of the organization responsible for the protection and conservation of Laughing Bird Caye and Silk Caye. She was also active in the Placencia Lions Auxiliary Club and Rotary Club.

Continuing her service to her community, Lydia is an active member of the organizing committees for the Lobster Fest and the Placencia Sidewalk Festival.

Lydia is the mother of six children.



NELITA SAMBULA DOHERTY

Nelita Sambula Doherty was born in Dangriga Town in 1962 and grew up in Orange Walk Town. She is a mother, writer and community activist. Nelita began writing at age eight and has penned four books: "Journey On", "Aba Wama", "Garinagu's Exile", and "Gregsy's Adventures in Crooked Tree".

Nelita loves putting oil on canvas. She studied oil painting at the Private Arts School of El Salvador. Apart from writing and painting, some of her hobbies are doll making, cross-stitching, knitting, jewelry designing, and basket and hammock weaving. Nelita enjoys sharing her specialised skills with others. She offers this at her home free of cost.

Ms. Nelita is a past president of the Garifuna Council in Orange Walk Town. She has been and continues to be the key person keeping the Garifuna culture alive in Orange Walk. Every year, rain or shine, her home is the venue for the Garifuna Settlement Day celebrations in her community.

She was a member of the group called W.O.M.E.N. - Women on the Move for Equal Needs - which assists single mothers in educating their children. Nelita was also a foster mother for the Ministry of Human Development. Her biggest dream is to one day have a refuge for children, an outlet away from home and school to keep them busy. She wants it to be a place where children can be given the right opportunity to become productive citizens of this jewel Belize.



ALMA MINERVA CARBALLO, JP

Alma Minerva Carballo better known as Teacher Minu, was born on 12th May, 1953 in Orange Walk Town. She started her teaching career in 1973. As a pioneer of Early Childhood Education, combined with her passion and dedication to teaching, she opened the first preschool in Orange Walk called Saint Francis Preschool. The preschool continues to serve the community and is managed by Ms. Alma.

She has served the community of Orange Walk Town for 37 years through Education. Because of her love for working with younger children, Alma assists with bible teaching while their parents enjoy mass. She also assists at the Mercy Kitchen where she serves as a Spiritual Minister.

Alma has been married to Ricardo Carballo for 45 years and this union produced six children. She is an exemplary teacher, caregiver, and member of the Orange Walk community.



CARMELO JUAREZ

Born to Francisco and Justa Juarez, Carmelo Juarez spent most of his years in the small community of Dump in the Toledo District.

Carmelo has had a successful teaching career. His interest and motivation led him to improving his teaching skills. In 1987 he was appointed principal of Big Falls R.C. School, where he taught until his retirement in 2013. Before he retired, the Ministry of Education recognized Carmelo for his distinguished and dedicated service in Primary Education.

Throughout his career; however, Carmelo maintained a strong interest in agriculture and has been very involved in that sector, particularly in livestock and crops. He served on the executive body of the Toledo Livestock Producers Association and has participated in several seminars and workshops, strategizing ways that can assist farmers in being more resilient and better prepared to adapt to the impact of climate change as it relates to crops and crop production.

He has worked with several local organizations, contributing to the development of farming in Belize. Carmelo presently serves on the executive body of the Toledo Coconut Growers Cooperative and Big Falls Water Board. After recognizing the need for the location of a new well in his community, Carmelo offered the water board an acre of his land for the use of a sustainable water system.

Mr. Juarez and Emerita, his wife of 36 years, are parents to five children.