



National Heroes Guidelines: Criteria and Selection Process

Overview: Definition of a National Hero

A National Hero is a person who is admired and acknowledged for their courage, outstanding achievements, and noble qualities; and is someone who has made significant positive contributions to the growth and development of our society, and represents all of us. To know our heroes is to know ourselves: our values, our collective history, who we are, and what makes us as Bermudians great. Acknowledging our heroes is an acknowledgement of who we are - of our history, heritage, and culture.

Celebration

National Heroes Day is celebrated each year on the third Monday in June. The purpose is to honour those persons who have been officially designated as National Heroes in Bermuda. The National Hero designation is a lifetime honour that is bestowed, and once a person is named as a National Hero he or she will be a National Hero forever.

Desired Outcome:

- A populace that is cognizant and proud of contributions made by individuals or groups
- A populace whose collective level of consciousness is raised about Bermuda's history, heritage and culture
- Increased awareness of collective history enhances sense of national unity and social cohesion amongst Bermudians

Criteria for Selecting National Heroes:

The individual or group to be designated as a National Hero should meet most of the following criteria:

- s/he has made a significant and lasting contribution to Bermuda
- s/he has enriched the lives of others
- his/her legacy will stand the test of time and have continued relevance in the future
- s/he has contributed to the quality of life and destiny of Bermuda
- s/he be considered as outstanding in their area of activity
- s/he has ready name recognition among the general population
- s/he is recognized by his/her profession or organization
- s/he is reflective of Bermuda's cultural heritage and diversity

Attributes of Individuals/Groups Selected:

It is important that the individual or group designated as a national hero is of outstanding character. S/he may possess some or all of the following characteristics:

- dedicated
- committed
- self-sacrificing
- conscientious
- demonstrates consistency and passion
- agent for change or betterment
- risk-taker
- demonstrates ethical behaviour
- demonstrates love for Bermuda and her people
- demonstrates leadership qualities

Process for Consideration of Submissions

The Naming and Recognition Committee, comprised of five members reflective of Bermuda's history, culture and ethnicity, will be appointed by the Minister of Social Development and Sports for a three-year term to manage the process of naming public properties and recognizing national heroes. It is expected that the Committee will meet quarterly, and on an as-needed basis during the National Heroes Selection Process.

The process of reviewing nominations for National Heroes for designation will be done by the Naming and Recognition Committee according to the criteria outlined above. Though nominations can be submitted to the Committee at any time, National Heroes will not be selected each year. The designation of National Hero is considered to be an honour bestowed on a truly extraordinary individual or group and it is not expected that such an individual or group will be identified each year. The designation of National Hero can be awarded posthumously. The Committee undertakes to maintain the dignity and honour of the designation of National Hero in its deliberations.

1. Publication of Criteria for National Heroes Selection and Call for Submissions

The Naming and Recognition Committee is responsible for making the public aware of the criteria and process for the selection of National Heroes. This will be done through multiple media sources including television, internet and print media throughout the period of time allocated for the call for submissions. Any member of the public including civil servants and members of the Naming and Recognition Committee can nominate an individual or group as National Hero. Applications, guidelines and guidance notes will be available online at www.communityandculture.bm and at the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

2. Nomination Process

- Nominations must be made on official National Heroes Nomination Forms
- Nominee can be living or deceased
- Permission must be granted by the Nominee for their name to be put forward for nomination
- In the case of posthumous nomination, nomination permission must be granted by the family of the nominee
- For any given year only completed and approved nominations received prior to the posted deadlines will be taken into consideration

3. Consideration of Applications

The Naming and Recognition Committee will review the applications and prepare a report to be given to the Minister of Social Development and Sports. The report will include details of the Committee's deliberations and recommendations where applicable. During this time period, the Committee may also conduct further research on individuals who have been nominated for consideration if necessary. The Committee is not obligated to recommend a National Hero each year but may consider outstanding individuals for recognition elsewhere – for example in the naming of public properties. The Committee keeps all nominations confidential to respect privacy and to avoid disappointment if the nominee is not selected. Nominators and others involved are asked to also respect this policy.

4. Cabinet Decision

The Minister for Social Development and Sports will present the Committee's report in the form of a Cabinet Memorandum to Cabinet by the end of the period of time allocated for consideration of applications. If s/he desires, the Minister may include an opinion on the recommendations. If an individual or group is being recommended for designation as a National Hero then the Cabinet Memorandum will be For Decision. If no individual or group is being recommended the Cabinet Memorandum will be For Information.

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5. Formal Announcement

If a new National Hero has been recommended and approved, Cabinet will make a formal announcement of this at least three months prior to National Heroes Day. This early announcement will allow time to prepare for National Heroes Day.

6. Preparation for National Heroes Day

The Naming and Recognition Committee will work with the Ministry of Social Development and Sports other relevant groups (including the family of the National Hero) or ministries to organize the formal Induction Ceremony.

Department Contact Information for Forms and Submissions:

Web Address: www.communityandculture.bm

Mailing Address: ATTN: Naming & Recognition Committee
The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
4th Floor, Dame Lois Browne-Evans Building,
#58 Court Street, Hamilton HM 12

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