

INF Service Award 2017

**Citation for Lucille Seymour
Cayman Island**

Lucille Seymour has been involved in netball locally, regionally, and internationally for 60 years as a young player at high school, college, university and as a coach and administrator in her native country, the Cayman Islands. Lucille appreciated the importance of the game to young women and girls after her studies in Jamaica, where she was then coached by iconic netball administrator Leila Robinson.

She is determined that the sport of netball will become a household word in the Cayman Islands. She does this with the assistance of others who have played in Jamaica and have the same idea as herself. She and others founded the Cayman Islands Netball Association and then went on in 1977 to make netball become the first nonprofit sports organization in the Cayman Islands.

She was a leader in the first regional netball tournament for Cayman in 1978. She became the president of Caribbean Netball in the same year

She was instrumental in getting the Cayman Islands government in working with the government of Trinidad to second coaches to coach the national teams over the years and to assist with the Cayman Islands in hosting the 1988 Caribbean competition.

Lucille has been an administrator of netball since 1968 and has made many firsts for the Cayman Islands. She became its president in 1983. She was instrumental in leading the national team to Australia in 1991 and then England in 1995, New Zealand in 1999, Jamaica in 2003, and Canada in 2013.

Additionally, she has led the under 16 netball to the Jean-Pierre Championships from its inception and the under 21 team to Scotland. She was the leader and delegate of Cayman netball to many Caribbean Championships

Ms. Seymour introduced the playing of netball in all government schools. In 1982, it became a compulsory sport in the schools. The result was the Cayman Islands inter-primary league.

Lucille saw her strength in moving netball forward as an administrator. During her tenure, she endeavored for all to see netball as a sport that was not only to raise health and athletic awareness, but which gave women and girls an opportunity to think critically become good decision makers, as well as a stepping stone to be well-equipped for managerial positions. Apart from playing the sport, all national players were registered and worked in the young leaders' program.

Ms. Seymour is a consummate fundraiser and mostly moved netball forward not through government grants, which were insubstantial, but through sponsorships and fundraising. She believes the sport must also take on a self-help ethic if it wishes to move forward.

She raised funds to ensure that netballers who wished to advanced further in the sport or become Netball coaches would have that opportunity. She first launched this program in 1991, negotiating with Netball Australia to part sponsor two of her netballers to the Australia Institute of Sport. Other netballers attend GC Fosters in Jamaica to become coaches.

Ms. Seymour realized the talent pool of netball playing is stunted by the small population in the Cayman Islands and used her managerial and political relationships to work with overseas netball countries to have them come to Cayman to work closely with the players, engendering skills, aspirations, and longevity of the sport.

Through Lucille, netball was the first sport to introduce child protection policies in the Cayman Islands. As a result, she worked assiduously with the Ministry of Sport to bring all sporting bodies on board.



The people in the Cayman Islands hail Lucille as the pivotal person for netball prominence and longevity in the Cayman Islands. She is appreciated for the role she has had in raising the bar for girls and women in netball. A great majority of professional and skilled women, (who were former nationals) praise her for her steadfastness in keeping the sport alive.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second honored Lucille in 1993 for her contribution to the sport, community, and education.

Lucille worked with the Dart group in producing a film on Cayman netball. This was presented during an honor ceremony for past National players coaches and umpires in the presence of Government, and private sponsors and the general public.

Lucille has contributed significantly to netball locally, regionally, and internationally. She sat around the table as a delegate in many settings and, through her great ability to be a positively critical visionary, has contributed significantly to moving the sport forward in all spheres. We also thank her for the financial contributions she has provided to netball over the years.