



[ L.S. ]

I Assent,

**James B. Carlisle,**  
*Governor-General.*

31st December, 1998.

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

**No. 23 of 1998**

AN ACT to establish a system of National Honours for the purpose of according recognition to citizens of Antigua and Barbuda and other persons for distinguished or meritorious service.

[ *31st December, 1998* ]

ENACTED BY the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda as follows —

1. This Act may be cited as the National Honours Act, 1998. **short title.**
2. There is established and constituted four societies of honour to be known as: **Establishment of Four Orders.**
  - (i) The Most Exalted Order of the National Hero which is an Order of Knighthood.,
  - (ii) The Most Distinguished Order of the Nation which is an Order of Knighthood;
  - (iii) The Most Illustrious **Order** of Merit;

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2      *The National Honours Act, 1998.*      No. 23 of 1998.

(iv) The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage.

Members of the  
Order.

**3.** Each Order established by this Act shall consist of the Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda who is also *ex-officio* the Grand Master of each Order and such other **members** as the Governor-General may, in accordance with the regulations governing each order appoint thereunto.

Ordinary members  
and members *ad  
honorem.*

4. (1) The Sovereign, the Sovereign's Consort, the Heir to the Throne and any citizen of Antigua and Barbuda who is appointed to any of the Orders established under this Act shall be Ordinary Members.

(2) Any person other than the Sovereign, the Sovereign's Consort, the Heir to the Throne and a citizen of Antigua and Barbuda appointed to any of the Orders established under this Act shall be members *ad honorem*.

Schedule and  
regulations to  
govern the Orders.

5. (1) The Orders established under this Act shall be **governed** by the Schedule and such other regulations as may be made under this **Act**.

(2) The regulations governing each Order shall be administered by the Grand Master, and the following officers, the Chancellor, the Secretary-General, Antigua Herald of Arms and Barbuda Herald of Arms, all of whom shall be appointed by the Governor-General.

(3) Where the **Grand** Master is absent, the person for the time being performing ~~the~~ functions of the office of Governor-General, shall discharge ~~the~~ functions of the Grand Master.

(4) The four officers mentioned in subsection (2) shall constitute the Chancery of each Order and shall be known collectively as the Chancery of the Orders and Decorations of **Antigua** and Barbuda.

(5) The Office of the chancery shall be situated at Government House, St. John's.

6. (1) The Governor-General shall cause to be engraved a separate Seal for each Order established by this Act.      **Seal of each Order.**

(2) The design and details of the seal of each Order shall be determined by the Governor-General.

7. The Seal of each Order shall, at all times, be kept in the custody of the Chancery of the Orders and Decorations of Antigua and Barbuda.      **Custody of Seal.**

8. (1) There shall, for the purposes of this Act, be a committee to be known as the Honours **Committee**, in this Act referred to as the Committee.      **Honours Committee.**

(2) The Committee shall consist of the following —

- (a) one person appointed by the Governor-General;
- (b) two persons nominated by the Senate from among members of the Senate, one of whom shall be a member of Her Majesty's Opposition in the Senate to be appointed by the Governor-General;
- (c) four persons nominated by the House of Representatives from among the members of the House of Representatives of whom one shall be a member of Her Majesty's Opposition in the House to be appointed by the Governor-General.

(3) Subject to the provisions of this Act the appointment of a member of the Committee shall be for the duration of Parliament and all **members** shall cease to be members of the Committee when Parliament is dissolved.

(4) The Governor-General shall appoint a chairman of the Committee from among the members of the Committee.

(5) Decisions of the Committee shall be confidential and by majority vote and where the votes are equal the chairman shall exercise a casting vote.

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Functions of the  
committee.

- 9.** (1) The functions of the Committee shall include —
- (a) the receiving and consideration of nominations of persons, upon whom may be conferred the honours established by this Act;
  - (b) such investigation to determine persons, living or dead, upon whom may be **conferred** the honours established by this Act, and the committee shall consider such nominations in camera and shall be answerable to itself alone;
  - (c) the preparation of a list of recommendations for the conferment of honours;
  - (d) the **carrying** out of such other duties in relation to this Act as the Governor-General may, from time to time, assign to the Committee.

(2) The Committee may, in the performance of its functions, consult with such other persons or bodies as it thinks necessary.

(3) The **Chairman** of the Committee shall forward the list of **recommendations** to the Prime Minister who shall submit it to the Governor-General for conferment of honours.

**Appointment** or  
**advancement** of  
members of the  
Committee.

**10.** No member of the Committee shall, while serving as such member, be appointed to or advanced within any of the Orders established by this Act.

Secretary of the  
Committee.

**11.** (1) There shall be a secretary to the Committee who shall be appointed by the Governor-General, but the secretary shall not be a member of the Committee.

(2) The Secretary to the Committee shall maintain a register of names of persons to whom dignities, honours and decorations have been awarded and such other records relating to the award of dignities, honours and decorations as the Committee considers necessary and performs such other functions in respect of such awards as the Governor-General may direct.

**12.** Any person or organization may nominate a person for the bestowal of **membership** of any of the Orders established by this Act and such nominations shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Committee for consideration by the Committee.

**Nominations to be addressed to the Secretary.**

**13.** The expenses incurred by the Committee in the **performance** of its functions **as** well as the provision of the insignias of the various Orders and grades thereof shall be paid out of the funds provided for the purpose by Parliament.

**Expenses of Committee to be provided by Parliament.**

**14.** (1) The Governor-General may, make regulations for the better **carrying** out of the purposes and provisions of this Act and in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, may make regulations providing —

**Regulations.**

- (a) for the style and title of those awarded honours established by this Act;
- (b) for badges for the purposes of this Act and the form thereof;
- (c) for the investiture of persons in relation to the Orders established by **this** Act;
- (d) for the seal and motto of each of the Orders established by this Act as well as the design of the insignia of each Order;
- (e) for the wearing of the insignia issued in relation to any Order established by this Act, and for any other right or privilege appurtenant to the conferment of the dignity, honour, style or title assigned to any such member of an Order established under this Act;
- (f) for the prevention of abuses in the wearing of insignia issued in relation to any Order created under this Act, or in assuming any style or title assigned to any member of such Order established under this Act.

(2) Any regulation **made** under this Act shall be subject to **affirmative** resolution of Parliament.

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Reclassification of  
members of  
existing Orders.

15. (1) The Members of Orders established under the National Awards Act Cap. 289 are reclassified as follows —

- (a) A member of the Order of the Nation becomes a Knight or Dame Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of the Nation;
- (b) A member of the Order of Distinction becomes a Grand Cross of the Most Illustrious Order of Merit;
- (c) A Member of the Order of Honour becomes a member of the Order of the Most Illustrious Order of Merit as follows —

Gold becomes a Grand Cross;  
Silver becomes a Grand Officer;  
Bronze becomes a Commander.

(2) A person appointed to the Order established under the National Heroes Act, No.10 of 1994 becomes a Knight or Dame Companion of the Most Exalted Order of National Hero.

Repeal.

16. The following Acts are repealed —

- (a) The National Awards Act Cap. 289; and
- (b) The National Heroes Act 1994 No.10 of 1994.

## SCHEDULE

Most Exalted  
Order of National  
Hero.

1. (1) The Most Exalted Order of National Hero shall be conferred upon a citizen of Antigua and Barbuda in recognition of preeminently distinguished service to Antigua and Barbuda or to humanity at large.

(2) The Most Exalted Order of National Hero may be conferred upon a person posthumously or during his lifetime, but a deceased recipient does not appear in the current list of members at the time of the award, notwithstanding his membership of the Order.

2. (1) The Most Distinguished Order of the Nation may be awarded to a person who has rendered distinguished and outstanding service to Antigua and Barbuda.

Most Distinguished  
Order of the  
Nation.

(2) The Most Distinguished Order of the Nation may be awarded posthumously but a deceased recipient does not appear in the current list of members at the time of the award, notwithstanding his membership of the Order.

3. (1) The Most Illustrious Order of Merit may be awarded to any person who has rendered meritorious service to Antigua and Barbuda.

The Most  
Illustrious Order  
of Merit.

(2) The Most Illustrious Order of Merit may be awarded posthumously but a deceased recipient does not appear in the current list of members at the time of the award, notwithstanding his membership of the Order.

4. (1) The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage may be awarded to any person who has rendered invaluable service to Antigua and Barbuda in any field of heritage and other cultural endeavours.

Most Precious  
Order of Princely  
Heritage.

(2) The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage may be awarded posthumously but a deceased recipient does not appear in the current list of members at the time of the award, notwithstanding his membership of the Order.

5. A person ceases to be a member or member *ad honorem* of the Order established by this Act upon —

Termination of  
Membership.

- (a) his resignation from the Order, which must be in writing and which shall have effect on the date it is accepted by the Grand Master;
- (b) the revocation of an award by the Grand Master on the recommendation of the Committee.

6. (1) The Most Exalted Order of National Hero shall comprise one grade only, that of Knight or Dame Companion and shall confer the style, title and dignity of Sir or Dame for life and the spouses of such Knight Companion shall be accorded the style and title of Lady for life.

Designation of the  
Most Exalted  
Order of National  
Hero.

(2) A member of the Order of the Most Exalted Order of National Hero is entitled —

- (a) to have the letters KNH or DNH, placed after ~~his~~ or her name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary; and
- (b) to wear the insignia of the Order prescribed by the Grand Master.

**Designation of the Most Distinguished Order of the Nation.**

7. (1) The Most Distinguished Order of the Nation shall comprise the following six grades —

- (a) Knight or Dame Grand Collar;
- (b) Knight or Dame Grand Cross;
- (c) Knight or Dame Commander;
- (d) Commander;
- (e) **Officer**;
- (f) Member.

(2) The grade of the Knight or Dame Grand Collar, Knight or Dame Grand Cross, Knight or Dame Commander shall confer the style, title and dignity of Sir or Dame for life and the spouses of such Knights shall be accorded the style and title of Lady for life.

(3) A member of the Order of the Most Distinguished Order of the Nation is entitled in the case of —

- (a) a Knight or Dame Grand Collar to have the letters KGN or DGN placed after his or her name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary;
- (b) a Knight or Dame Grand Cross to have the letters KGCN or DGCN placed after his or her name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary;
- (c) a Knight or **Dame** Grand Commander to have the letters KCN or DCN placed after his or her name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary;



- (d) a Commander to have the letters CN placed after his or her name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary;
- (e) an Officer to have the letters ON placed after his or her name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary;
- (f) a member to have the letters MN placed after his or her name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary.

(4) A member of the Order of the Most Distinguished Order of the Nation is entitled to wear the insignia prescribed for his or her grade by the Grand Master.

8. The Most Illustrious Order of Merit shall comprise the following five grades —

**Designation of the  
Most Illustrious  
Order of Merit.**

- (a) Grand Cross;
- (b) Grand Officer;
- (c) Commander;
- (d) Officer;
- (e) Member.

(2) A member of the Order of the Most Illustrious Order of Merit is entitled in the case of —

- (a) a Grand Cross to have the letters GCM placed after his or her name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary;
- (b) a Grand Officer to have the letter GOM placed after his or her name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary;
- (c) a Commander to have the letters CM placed after his or her name on all occasion when the use of such letters is customary;

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- (d) an Officer to have the letters OM placed after his or her name on **all** occasions when the use of such letters is customary;
- (e) a Member to have the letters MM placed after his or her name on **all** occasions when the use of such letters is customary;

(3) A member of the order of the Most Illustrious Order of Merit is entitled to wear the insignia **prescribed** for his or her grade by the Grand Master.

**Designation of the  
Most Precious  
Order of Princely  
Heritage.**

**9. (1)** The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage shall **comprise** the following five grades —

- (a) Grand Cross;
- (b) Grand Officer;
- (c) Commander;
- (d) **Officer**;
- (e) Member.

(2) A member of the Order of the Most Precious Order of the Princely **Heritage** is **entitled** in the case of —

- (a) a Grand Cross to have the letters GCH placed **after** his or her name on **all** occasions when the use of such letters is customary;
- (b) a Grand **Officer** to have the letters GOH placed after his or her name on **all** occasions when the use of such letters is customary;
- (c) a Commander to have the letters CH placed after his or her name on **all** occasions when the use of such letters is customary;
- (d) an **Officer** to have the letters OH placed after his or her name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary;

- (e) a Member to have the letters MH placed after his or her name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary;

(3) A member of the Order of the Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage is entitled to wear the insignia prescribed for his or her grade by the Grand Master.

Passed the House of Representatives  
this 14th day of December, 1998.

**B. Harris,**  
*Speaker.*

**S. Walker,**  
*Clerk to the House of Representatives.*

Passed the Senate this 21st day of  
December, 1998.

**L. Smith,**  
*Vice-President.*

**S. Walker,**  
*Clerk to the Senate.*

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