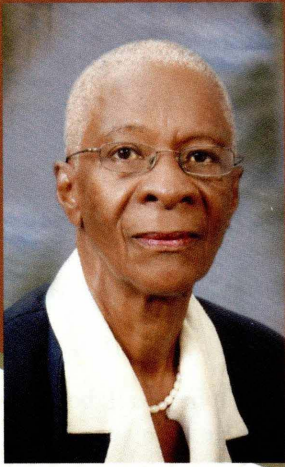


EASTLYN MCKENZIE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY



Dr. Eastlyn Kate McKenzie, formerly Baynes, was born on 5 October 1941, to Johnny Baynes and Martha Thompson, in the village of Bethany.

After leaving the St. Patrick's Anglican Primary School, she attended the Bishop's High School and, on graduation, joined the teaching profession in 1960. Some four years later, she entered the Mausica Teachers' Training College and when she graduated in 1966 with a Teacher's Diploma, she was recorded as the student having the best record of all time, having won every major prize offered to the Graduating Class.

After five years at the Hope Anglican Primary School, Dr McKenzie moved to the Community Development Division as a Community Development

Officer, later moving on to the position of Education Extension Officer in the Education Division.

Further academic achievements include a postgraduate Diploma in Community Development from the University of Manchester, England, where she received the Burney Prize for the Best External Student Dissertation in 1977. This was followed by a Master of Education degree (M Ed) from the University of Manchester, England in 1979; and a Doctor of Education (Ed D), majoring in Human Resource Development, from the George Washington University, USA, in 1987.

Dr. McKenzie was appointed as an Independent Senator in the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago from 1995 to 2007 and became the first Tobagonian to lead the Independent bench in the Senate. She has represented the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago at conferences in the Turks & Caicos Islands, New Zealand, the Bahamas and India. She was also a member of the Commonwealth Observer Team at the elections held in The Gambia in 2006.

She has chaired "A Task Force on the reasons for the poor performance of students in Tobago". For many years she was in charge of the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP),

and initiated School Leaving Examination classes in the Tobago prisons. She was also a member of "A Task Force on Education in Trinidad and Tobago"; Chairman of "A Special Committee on the Real Property Ordinance"; Vice Chairman of the Equal Opportunity Commission initiated in 2008 and, more recently, a member of the "Commission of Enquiry into the attempted 1990 coup".

"Dr Mac" possesses a terrific sense of humour. She is an ardent supporter and performer of the Arts; a well-known advocate for challenged children and the elderly, particularly; and a very effective motivational speaker. She has been conducting classes in Religious Instruction on behalf of the Methodist Church, at the Scarborough Secondary School since 1996 and is an eagerly sought after hostess for many cultural and social programmes.

In the National Arts Festival in 1963, she won in the Prose and Verse category, and was runner up in the Oral Reading Section. She has acted in several plays, both live and on screen; has performed leading roles in several Tobago Heritage productions; is versed in our oral traditions and speaks the Tobago dialect fluently and effectively. She has also written several folk monologues.

She has been a keen netball player and was the first President of the Tobago Netball League. She was a foundation member of the Tobago Unified Teacher's Association in 1968; and has

been a member of the Tobago Council for Handicapped Children Inc. since its formation in 1974, serving in several executive positions, including President.

As Chairman of a Tobago Young Men's Christian Association Steering Committee, she was able to partner with the Tobago House of Assembly in establishing a world class swimming facility at Courland.

She was the first female president of the Students Union at Mausica Teachers' College in 1965, and has served on the executive of the Bishop's High School Parent Teacher's Association as Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary.

Sponsors of awards/recognition include: the Tobago House of Assembly; Methodist and Seventh Day Adventist Churches; Signal Hill Alumni Choir; Rotary Club; Tobago Heritage Festival Committee; Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers Association; Women's Federation(Tobago); Lambeau Credit Union and Colonial Life Insurance.

Dr. McKenzie is the mother of two children and grand-mother of two.

For her exemplary service in the fields of education and community service throughout Tobago, the Children's Library is being named after Dr. Mc. Kenzie.

September 2014