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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Journalist and Diplomat Ed Bethel to receive The Etienne Dupuch Lifetime Achievement Award at Press Club Media Awards

NASSAU, The Bahamas - It is said that journalists write the first draft of history and Ed Bethel, the retired broadcast-journalist and diplomat has written quite a few drafts of Bahamian history, as he has been an eyewitness to the most recent history of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

In this vein, The Bahamas Press Club is pleased to announce that Ed Bethel will receive The Etienne Dupuch Lifetime Achievement Award at its Fifth Annual Media Awards ceremony on Saturday February 29, 2020.

The Black Tie event will be held at the British Colonial Hilton under the Patronage of Their Excellencies, The Most Hon Cornelius A. Smith, ON, Governor-General of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas and Mrs. Clara Smith.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is in honour of the Late Sir Etienne Dupuch, regarded as the crusading journalist who served as editor of The Tribune for more than 50 years.

“In considering names for our industry awards we would be remiss not to acknowledge the great Sir Etienne Dupuch, celebrated for waging daily battles for social justice and freedom of the press as editor of The Tribune over 50 years. Therefore, The Sir Etienne Dupuch Lifetime Achievement Award is our top industry honour and named respectfully and in remembrance of a great Bahamian legend,” says Press Club President Anthony Capron.

Ed Bethel began his journalistic career in 1959 at the Nassau Tribune under the tutelage of Sir Etienne Dupuch and Sir Arthur Foulkes. He joined ZNS as a sports reporter in 1963.

Bethel has had a busy media career in which he was active until his retirement in 2012.

Bethel covered many of the major events in The Bahamas including the 1962 Nassau conference which included the United States President John F. Kennedy, British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan and Canadian Prime Minister John Diefenbaker; the 1962 General Election in which women voted for the first time; the 1965 disastrous fire and sinking of the SS Yarmouth Castle; the 1965 "Black Tuesday" demonstration by the Progressive Liberal Party, when then Opposition leader Lynden Pindling threw the mace out of the window of the House of Assembly, and the 1967 General Election when the Progressive Liberal Party became the new Government of The Bahamas, defeating the United Bahamian Party.

As coordinator of ZNS coverage of the 1973 Bahamas Independence, Bethel along with Charles Carter and Carl Bethel were the broadcasters at Clifford Park on the historic night of July 9, 1973, who told the world that a new nation named The Commonwealth of the Bahamas was born.

In 1975 Bethel provided blow by blow coverage of the Elisha Obed vs Miguel de Oliveira championship bout from Paris, France.

Bethel along with Charles Carter and Calsey Johnson inaugurated local television, ZNS, Channel 13 in July 1977.

He was coordinator of ZNS coverage of the 1985 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) hosted by The Bahamas in Nassau.

Bethel also served as Manager of ZNS Northern Service and Deputy General Manager of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas. He served as Sports Editor at The Counsellors, Executive Director of Bahamas Information Services, News Editor at Love 97 FM and The Bahama Journal, and News Anchor of the Evening News at Star 106.5 FM

As a Diplomat, Bethel has served as Consul General to New York, Bahamas High Commissioner to the Court of St. James's, London, and Ambassador to the European Union.

Bethel is married to the former broadcaster Dawne Adderley. He is the father of four adult children and an adult stepson.

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