Members of the Class of 2003
Anthony "Tony" Curry
(1937-2006)

Tony Curry proved himself to be the kind of man for whom the baseball world would step aside and allow him to pass, simply because he made it clear to everyone that he knew where he wanted to go, all the way to the top of his profession. His meteoric rise to greatness surprised very few who knew him in the days of his youth for he always possessed the natural talent t hit and run with the best. Additionally, he always had the kind of metal disposition given to high level achievement.

Tony was born in a tradition-rich sporting community, one which produced a stable of elite athlete n a varsity of disciplines. His high school days at St. Augustine's College witnessed his growth and development into an outstanding and versatile athlete, to the degree that he qualified himself to be a starter on the Penny Bankers Baseball Club, an organization which dominated local baseball from 1955 when it won the first of five championships to 960 after which it assumed the new name I-Need-A-Laundry under which it continued its winning ways.

He was one of most dominant hitters in history of The Bahamas Baseball Association, winning the Batting Championship in 1958. He was president of the Bahamas Baseball Association in its most productive years and was awarded the Commonwealth of The Bahamas Silver Jubilee Award for his contribution to the national development of sports.

By the time Tony had already been scouted by the Philadelphia Phillies, the Major League Club headquartered Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was awarded a professional contact in 1957 and assigned to the minor league in Tampa, Florida. There he accumulated a batting average of .333 that first year. In 1958, his second year as a pro, Tony batted .293, hitting twenty home runs as he began to capture the rapt attention of the upper brass of the Phillies organization. In what would be his final season in the minor leagues, Tony accumulated a batting average of .313 with 23 home runs and 90 runs batted-in, serving notice that he was indeed ready for the big leagues.

Tony started the next year, 1960, with the Phillies Major League squad, having been invited to attend spring training with the Major League team. He was so impressive that he was named as a started on the team. He made the most of his first year in the big leagues, performing at a level which qualified him to be named to the National League All Rookie Team. In 1961, he was named to the Topps Major League All Star Team.

The years of 1960 and 1961 were epic ones for Tony who authored a number of accomplishments that even today excite the imagination of Bahamian youth. One such feat was the unofficial Major League record which he held for running the first base line. His time of three seconds remains a standard that would challenge the fastest in today's game.

Tony excelled at each of the levels to which he was promoted, being names to league All Star Teams in each of his years as a pro. Indeed, the world was right to step aside to allow Tony to pass, for it is clear that he knew where he was going.