

# Cynthia "Mother" Pratt

*Member of the National Hall of Fame*

*Class of 2010*



***Mother as she was affectionately called*** was born on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1945 in Providence to Herman and Rose Moxey of Mangrove Cay, Andros and the Bluff Eleuthera, respectively. She was one of sixteen children who received her early education at the Woodcock Primary School, the Western Junior and Senior Schools, A.F. Adderley and C.H. Reeves Schools. Cynthia entered Princess Margaret Hospital Nursing School and graduated in 1963 as a trained nurse, there she spent some fourteen years in the operating theatre. In 1978 Cynthia was transferred from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Education where she taught Physical Education at C.C. Sweeting Secondary School before leaving to study abroad in 1980.

***During her studies at St. Augustine's College in Raleigh***, North Carolina she served as the Softball Team Head Coach. She was named to the honour roll for the complete period of my studies which was from 1980-1983. She obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health and Education with a minor in Sociology. As a student and coach she was named Coach of the Year by the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

***In 1993, she was lauded with*** an Honorary Doctorate Degree of Humane Letters by my Alma Mata, St. Augustine's College, Raleigh, North Carolina. She served for many years as the President of the Bahamas Chapter of the St. Augustine's Alumni Association. As an official recruiter for colleges abroad since 1980, she had the opportunity to provide hundreds of scholarships to deserving Bahamians. These scholarships include those provided to all of my children, all of whom have completed their studies.

***Cynthia was a most valuable player*** that helped to lead the Bahamas National softball team to a bronze medal at the World Games held in Santa Clara California in 1981. It was during these games that she was given the named "Mother" which today remains. Even though she was young as some of the other players she was seen as the glue that kept it all together. The ladies listened to her advice and allowed her to lead them. Cynthia "Mother" Pratt was also a member of the National Basketball and Netball Teams.

***Upon graduating from college*** she returned to teaching at C.C. Sweeting Senior High School. A few years later she moved to Tertiary Education by becoming a part time Lecturer and the Assistant Student Activities Director at the College of The Bahamas. After retiring from the College of The Bahamas she was voted by the constituents of St. Cecilia to become their Member of Parliament in 1997. To date she has remains as their representative.

***In 2002 she was the first female*** to hold the post of Deputy Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, also she was the first female to be the Minister of National Security, and she was also the first female to be the Acting Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

***Presently, she is a widow*** (deceased husband Joseph B. Pratt) with 6 children (4 sons, 1 daughter, 1 deceased adopted son), the Member of Parliament for the constituency of Saint Cecilia and an ordained Minister of the Gospel.