

IN MEMORY OF HOWARD HULFORD

It is with great sadness that Curtain Bluff reports the death of its owner and founder, Howard Hulford. Aged 86, Howard passed on March 9, 2009 in Antigua, the island he had called home for the last 50 years.

Howard, with his signature handlebar mustache, was a colorful character that was one of the first hoteliers to be honored by colleagues as Caribbean Hotelier of the Year. He was an active Board Member and Officer for CHTA and led the Caribbean Hospitality Training Institute during its heyday as the educational unit of the hotel association. He also worked tirelessly to raise funds for the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association Education Foundation.

Born in New Jersey, Howard had a life-long love of planes, nurtured during his years as a navy pilot flying Mustangs over the Pacific in World War II. After the war, he became an executive pilot for Texaco. In 1959, when flying over the leeward coast of Antigua, Howard saw a rocky promontory bordered on both sides by strands of golden beach). Thinking it would be the perfect place for a vacation home, he built a villa there and, as his many friends started visiting, added on until he was left with a hotel. Named after the promontory, Curtain Bluff opened in 1962 and has been one of the top hotels in the Caribbean over the past 47 years.

One of his greatest contributions is the Old Road Fund, a not-for-profit he founded to offer a helping hand to the people of Old Road, the village that borders his resort. Funded by the Hulfords and guests of the resort, the fund has spent over \$1 million on medical needs and education, provided 45 young adults with a full university education and sent 150 children to tennis camp in the United States. 95% of Curtain Bluff's employees come from the village, including the general manager, comptroller and sommeliers. Last year, Howard was named Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of the Nation (KCN) for his outstanding contribution to the building of Antigua and Barbuda and to the welfare of its citizens

Howard is survived by Chelle, his wife of 42 years; his three children, Robin, Patty and Bruce and six grandchildren; and his Curtain Bluff family. His legacy lives on in the spirit of all who live, work, and call Curtain Bluff their home away from home.

As was Howard's wish, Curtain Bluff will go forward in perpetuity with the same management and staff that he has nurtured all these years. In lieu of sending flowers, it is requested that friends and colleagues make donations to the Old Road Fund in Howard Hulford's name (details are on the Curtain Bluff website www.curtainbluff.com).