



NATIONAL ECO-TOUR OPERATORS CO-OPERATIVE LTD.

Grand Bahama Chamber of Commerce Building
P. O. Box F-60231
Mall Drive | Freeport/Lucaya
Grand Bahama Island
The Bahamas

5th of August, 2026.

Re: Tribute to Keith G. Cooper.

We, the Board of Directors of the National Eco-Tour Operators Cooperative Limited (NETO), wishes to let the public know of the grief and sorrow that we are experiencing as a result of the passing of our dear secretary, Mr. Keith G. Cooper, on Sunday, the 2nd of August, 2026 in West End, Grand Bahama. Keith was a person who always had something to say, and he said a lot. But Keith did not talk foolishness. Keith never heard or saw a good idea that he didn't endeavour to incorporate in a project he was doing, or use it to stimulate him to do something new. His mind was always on go.

Keith had an illustrious career in the tourism and hospitality industry in Florida and The Bahamas before he stumbled into the career of his ultimate passion later in life, in the area of nature and conservation. He was an animal lover and fell in love with stingrays, but also loved dogs and cats. He studied the stingrays like a scientist, but moreso as someone who wanted to become one with them. This dedication and commitment lead him to form his nature tour company, West End Ecology Tours through which he not only gave his guests the opportunity to interact with these magnificent animals, but he taught them about them. He believed education was the key to understanding. Through his tours he has caused many to move from fear to love and respect for these gentle creatures. Keith became an expert in stingrays to the point that he had been declared the Stingray Whisperer and his expertise recognized worldwide.

Keith loved his hometown of West End, the place where his family set roots from the 1800s. He was passionate and committed to the development of West End and believed that it will happen, certainly if he had anything to do with it. He embraced all who were positive about West End, but if you were not, or he determined you had selfish, ulterior motives, he will cut you off, and let you know how he feels about you, and show you. That was Keith.

Keith joined the National Eco-Tour Operators Co-operative Ltd. early in its start in 2016. He enthusiastically became imbued in what it stood for, bringing nature tour operators together using the strength of this togetherness to bring down the cost for public liability insurance that was at a prohibitive cost to most small tour operators, keeping them from competing for business with the cruise ships. Beyond this, the togetherness allowed them to learn from each other's experiences, thus improving their operation and the tourism industry in the country. He



NATIONAL ECO-TOUR OPERATORS CO-OPERATIVE LTD.

Grand Bahama Chamber of Commerce Building
P. O. Box F-60231
Mall Drive | Freeport/Lucaya
Grand Bahama Island
The Bahamas

took on the role of secretary in 2017 and has served in this capacity with distinction up until the time of his death. He will be missed.

We who have gotten to know Keith have had the privilege to love him and have gotten to experience his love for nature, animals, people, West End, and The Bahamas. We are honoured to call him friend, and we call him honourable. Our sincere condolences are extended to his dear mother and lovely sisters especially, and to his friends and all those who loved him. We continue to pray for his soul.

H. Rudy Sawyer
President.