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**Lt Col. Vere Owen Springer, SCM MVO BJH MSM ED**

**Council Chairperson**: 1988-89

**District Governor 60B**: 1987/88 – Motto: Building Bridges

**Lion** Owen Springer joined the Association in November 1974 as a Charter Member of the Lions Club of Barbados South. He remains a member of this club. He served as Club President, Zone and Region Chair. He has also received the International President’s Award.

PCC Owen contributed significantly to building and strengthening the relationships between the clubs of the Eastern and Western Caribbean Islands and conducted several Leadership Workshops at Clubs, Regional and District meetings, especially in Protocol.

Lion Owen had a vey distinguished career outside of Lions. He was a former Commanding Officer of the Barbados Regiment, the reserve Company of the Barbados Defence Force, retiring in 1996. He was also a former Commandant of the Barbados Cadet Corps.

PCC Owen received his education and training from Harrison College (Barbados), Cable and Wireless Technical College (UK), Ericson International Telephone Switching Course (Sweden), and Cranfield School of Management (UK). He has also completed BIMAP Courses in Accounting and Management

PCC Owen gave humanitarian service to a number of other organizations besides the Lions organization. He served as Secretary to the Board of Directors and later as a member of the Board of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Barbados, and as Treasurer of the AIDS Foundation of Barbados. He served as Chairman of the Council of the Duke of Edinburgh International Awards Barbados from 2009 to 2015; he is currently a Trustee. Lion Owen also served as the Chairman of the Board of Management of Harrison College from 1994 – 2008 and as a member of the Barbados Port Authority (2003-2008).

The Boy Scouts Association of Barbados also benefited from the contribution of Lion Owen. Joining the movement as a Wolf Cub, he progressed through Scouting to become a Queen’s Scout. He later served as a Scout Master, District Commissioner and retired as Deputy Chief Commissioner of the Barbados Boy Scouts Association. He also served as a Member of the Council of the Girl Guides Association of Barbados.

Lion Owen received numerous awards including:

* Silver Crown of Merit –Barbados Government. (2008).
* Member of the Royal Victorian Order - for personal service to Her Majesty the Queen (1977)
* Barbados Jubilee Honour - Barbados Government, In recognition to outstanding service to Civil Society (2016)
* MCM Meritorious Service Medal Barbados Defence Force. (1996)
* Efficiency Decoration Barbados Regiment. (1972)