

# 1935 Hurricane Memorial

Story and photos by Rich Peine

For those of us who live on the Keys, September 2nd 1935 (Labor Day), will always resonate as a dark day. On this day the first of only three Category 5 hurricanes to ever strike the U.S. hit the Keys. Of those three this was the most intense. The brunt of the storm was felt in Islamorada. Over 408 people were killed. 164 were residents and the remainders were veterans employed on a WPA road project.

In 1937 a monument was erected in Islamorada to honor those who lost their lives. The monument was constructed of Keys limestone and was built by the WPA workers. Cremated remains of about 300 victims are interned in the crypt at the monument. The Russell family lost 51 souls. Many other families were nearly decimated.

Every year on Labor Day a memorial is held honoring those who lost their lives as well as those who survived. This year the local Boy Scout Troupe 914 started the occasion by raising the American flag. Kathy Buchanan of Islamorada sang the National Anthem, and the strains of Amazing Grace played by a bagpipe came through the loud



speaker. A wreath was presented by Alena Fernandez and Cinnamon Edgar, sponsored by Orion Bank and the Enchanted Florist. The president of the Matecumbe Historical Trust, Irving Eyster, memorialized the fallen.

In attendance was one of the survivors, Alma Pinder Dalton, who was 11 at the time of the storm. She is one of about eight known survivors. Also present was Rich Russell whose father was sixteen at the time and lost both of his parents.

The monument is located at mile marker 81.5 across from the library. Stop by the next time you are in the neighborhood.

In the words of Irving Eyster "May this never happen again."

Top picture: Alma Pinder Dalton stands with Rich Russel (top right) and Irving Eyster in front of the Memorial.

Bottom picture: A wreath was placed at the Hurricane Memorial during the annual Labor Day ceremony held to honor those who lost their lives in the 1935 Hurricane.

## National Business Women's Week Annual Celebration

September 26, 2006 — On Wednesday, October 17th, the Upper Keys Century Business and Professional Women (BPW) will host its 50th Anniversary Celebration as part of the 2007 National Business Women's Week that runs from October 15th-19th. The event is the conclusion of the Upper Keys BPW's year-long celebration of its anniversary.

The celebration is from 6pm-9pm at the Holiday Isle Resort in Islamorada, Mile Marker 84. Guests will be treated to tasty hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and entertainment provided by the talented Jimmy Ray.

In addition to celebrating the creation of the Upper Keys

Upper Keys Century BPW  
50th Anniversary Celebration  
October 17, 2007  
6pm-9pm  
Holiday Isle Resort  
Dress: Keys Cocktail  
Cost: \$40 per person  
Table for 8: \$320  
For more information, go to  
[www.bpwupperkeys.org](http://www.bpwupperkeys.org)

Century BPW, the organization will award its top honor to both the Woman of the Year and the Business of the Year. All past presidents are also encouraged to attend and will be honored accordingly.

For 50 years, the Upper Keys BPW's efforts have made a tangible difference in the lives of workingwomen and their families. The Upper Keys BPW achieves its mission, to empower workingwomen to achieve their full potential and partner with employers to build successful workplaces, by creating resources and programming for workingwomen and employers, and providing scholarships for education and career advancement

# Honesty is Best The Energy of Honesty

As children most of us learn that honesty is better than dishonesty, and we may not question this beyond whether or not to do what we're told. As adults, however, we can go deeper to examine our choices as investments of energy with predictable risks and returns. When we speak the truth, we affirm what already is. This is like using a paddle when the stream is already moving the same direction. We are already supported by the universe and its energy flow, so we don't need to exert much energy, leaving more for other pursuits. But dishonesty redirects a portion of our energy against the flow, which requires extra effort. In addition, it creates an alternate reality that requires further energetic input to be maintained. So we can easily see that we are best served when we work with the flow of the universe.

Life is not always clearly defined, so we may find it useful to follow our choices to their logical conclusions. We may feel that little untruths are harmless, but they can be like small cracks that weaken an overall structure over time. Even giving someone a compliment

or trying to protect them can create problems later when the alternate reality we've created becomes the basis for further actions. Even if the actions that follow are honestly done, the underlying unstable foundation of dishonesty will threaten to topple things eventually. This can lead to further energy being spent on keeping things hidden, working to remember the tales we've spun and fearing the consequences of being found out. Life doesn't need to be this draining, but we can make the choice to free ourselves from the bonds of dishonesty at any time.

Speaking and living our truth may involve risking, among other things, the possibility of rejection. But when we allow ourselves to follow the flow of life, we are supported. We can then use our energy to cultivate physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being and to create our dreams, rather than leaving ourselves too drained to even maintain our existence. Today we can make honesty our choice in every interaction, bringing the nurturing power of the universe's energy into our lives to bring positive, lasting results.



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