



Prime Minister Davis

Congratulatory Remarks for the National
Investiture and Honours Ceremony

Monday October 11th, 2021

Good morning.

Today, as we celebrate National Heroes Day 2021, we recognize the heroes who have built this nation.

Through their ingenuity, determination, and strength, they built the things that we love about our Bahamas.

We owe them a profound debt of gratitude, which this 'Investiture and Honours Ceremony' recognises and honours.

This ceremony grants us the opportunity, to recognize them for their greatness in all areas of our society.

Some have made their contributions in politics, law, the civil service, and the uniformed branches. Others have served as nurses, educators, community organizers, religious leaders, and in other vital roles.

Among them, we have the Right Honourable Algernon Allen, recognized for his outstanding

service in politics, governance, and philanthropy.

We have the first Bahamian Commodore of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, Leon Smith, who demonstrated to the world, the excellence we can expect from Bahamian leadership.

Eugenia Cartwright served as a public officer for over 40 years. She retired as the treasurer of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. We thank her for dedicating her efforts in keeping the Government Of The Bahamas up and running.

Mary Johnson spent her career in the field of nursing. We know that nursing is not an easy or glamorous career - she dedicated her life to saving lives.

We applaud Robert Sands for helping to build the nation's number one industry. His leadership and managerial skills, helped to make tourism what it is today.

Perceval Knowles is recognized for his leadership in community service and development.

Patricia Meicholas is well-known for her outstanding contribution to literature - she has also made outstanding contributions to education and culture of The Bahamas.

We recognize Patricia Bazzard, posthumously, for her service to culture, civics, and the performing arts.

Likewise, we also recognize:

Al Collie for his promotion of Bahamian art and culture;

The Reverend Copeland Morley and Mother Bishop Vivian Cox, for their service within the community as religious leaders;

For his contribution to the development of youth through sports, we recognize Wilford Rutherford. And we celebrate Celestine Eneas, for her promotion of Bahamian art and culture, through her leadership in the straw industry.

For their distinguished service, we recognize:

Captain Patrick Rolle, for his contributions to the development of the air transportation industry;

Agatha Archer, for her service in education;

And finally, Douglas Hanna for his leadership within the field of law enforcement.

Congratulations to all of you on your accomplishments. We thank each of you, for working tirelessly for the benefit of the Bahamian people.

The legacy of our national heroes, both past and present, must never be forgotten. In

marking their contributions, we ensure that future generations recognize, the giants upon whose shoulders we are standing.

As well as the luminaries celebrated this morning, let us also keep in mind, the many unsung heroes who may not be here today, but whose daily contributions make the world, our world, a better place.

They are the teachers, who spend their personal funds, to ensure that their students have all the resources they need;

the single mothers who do so much with so little, to put food on the table;

the sports coaches and community mentors, who inspire our young people;

the medical professionals on the frontlines of the pandemic;

and many others, who did not make their contributions in the public eye, but have left an indelible mark on the lives of those they have touched.

We all have our personal heroes:

Those who poured into us, and helped us to become who we are today. This is a day for us to reflect, and celebrate those people too.

We are beginning to emerge, from one of the most challenging periods in our nation's history.

There are still difficult days ahead. But we are facing them together – with a resolve that says to the world: "we will thrive, we will overcome."

Making sacrifices, and rising above adversity - these are the hallmarks of heroism.

Let today's ceremony also, then, be a call to each of us to unleash the hero within.

Each of us doing what we can, to ensure that that our collective future is brighter than ever.

Can you imagine what riches a partnership of heroes can bestow on the fortunes of our country? Can you imagine what blessings a partnership of heroes can bestow on future generations of Bahamians?

Let the national heroes gathered here today, be the inspiration that fuels our determination to make the necessary sacrifices, to rise above adversity, to be our best selves and unleash our personal hero within!

Once again, congratulations to you all!

Thank you for your service.

Thank you for being the stalwarts of hope, strength, and charity that we need.

We will celebrate and remember your achievements! Your legacies will last for generations.

A New Day has dawned in our Bahamas.

Have a blessed and happy National Heroes Day!

