



## **Commissioner's Remarks at the Full Military Funeral for Sgt. 62 Hassam Rolle**

**7<sup>th</sup> February 2015 Zion Baptist Cathedral South Beach**

Protocol:

Dearly beloved, each time I stand in a sacred Pulpit to offer remarks at a funeral service for a fallen officer, I am reminded that in the midst of life there is death and that none of us can escape this reality. For each of us, regardless of age, status, or any other attribute, it is only a matter of time! For each of us despite how we feel and who we like or dislike, it is only a matter of time! For each of us here today despite our rank and social standing, it is only a matter of time!

Therefore, I say, but for the grace of God, none of us would be here today.

And so, we have come again to this familiar place, with hearts of gratitude, to say goodbye to our beloved family member Hassam. Hassam joined the Force on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1964 and retired on pension on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1991. Allow me to read a letter penned on his behalf by then Assistant Commissioner Reuben Smith which paints a picture of the kind of officer he was: [letter of 19<sup>th</sup> November 2003 is read to the Church by CP Greenslade].

Hassam was a man who stood tall in stature and tall in courage, Integrity, and Loyalty. He was a man who served a full career in a developing Bahamas at a time when there were far fewer officers and none of the technical trappings and modern equipment which we now use to do our jobs. He sacrificed without complaining and so did his dear wife and children. He gave the best that he had and then he gracefully returned to his family upon retirement.

I have an immense amount of respect for this fallen officer. I will always be gracious and kind to his dear wife, his children, and his family. He served the people of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas well and we are grateful for all of the sacrifices that he made.

Ladies and gentlemen, life does not end at the graveyard. That is why it is so important for us to live right and do right while we have a chance because we will all have to account for the deeds done here on this earth.

I have said before and I will say again, God in His grace and mercy has given us the gift of time and space. Some people use their time and space in ways that help others. These are generally, the unsung heroes among us. On the other hand, there are those who for their own selfish reasons, abuse the time and space that is generously loaned to us by God. Each time we meet like this, and recently it has been often, I reflect that we still have time and opportunity to be good and to do more good.

Mrs. Rolle and family, I believe that Hassam is in a better place now. I believe that he is now resting in the loving arms of a forgiving and caring God who loves him unconditionally.

It is our prayer that God will comfort you as you leave this sacred church today. I also wish to say that you can be comforted in knowing that we, your Royal Bahamas Police Force family, will always be here for you. On behalf of the men and women of the Royal Bahamas Police Force, and on behalf of my wife and family, I extend sincerest condolences to you the family and I pray that God will see you through this season of sorrow.