

**MESSAGE FROM HER EXCELLENCY GILLIAN M. S. BRISTOL,
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF GRENADA
TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE
THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE OF GRENADA**

February 7, 2012



Greetings Fellow Grenadians!

Throughout our tri-island nation of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique and across the globe, Grenadians celebrate our Thirty-Eighth Anniversary of Independence on February 7th, 2012. We come together in praise and thanksgiving for our accomplishments as a people, yet we are mindful of the challenges to our economic growth and individual financial stability.

The theme for this year's Anniversary "*Breaking All Barriers; Striving for Greater Achievements under One Flag*" is apt for these difficult times. It reminds us of the value in persevering in the face of all odds, encourages us to exchange individualism for solidarity so that we might attain greater heights, and compels an optimistic outlook for our collective future.

As we mark the 38th milestone on our journey of nationhood, we continue to be a country in development and therefore in need of stronger partnerships with our friends in the international community. As we continue our diplomatic engagement to that end, so too must Grenadians whether at home or overseas, dedicate ourselves anew to the noble and worthy goal of nation-building.

We have come this far along a road strewn with challenges that could so easily have compelled us to extreme poverty and widespread violence; yet we have not been daunted. We have been steadfast, proud and dignified in our aspiration to "build and advance as one people". We have made remarkable strides in so many respects and have crafted a reputation as a peaceful, law-abiding and safe society. We are a gifted people and we must continue our quest for excellence even beyond Grenada's shores. We all take pride in the recent groundbreaking performances of our world-class athletes and as we look forward to their continued brilliance, so must each of us, in our own way, make our mark on our nation's history –by giving of our very best, seeking the common good, and sharing our respective talents and resources.

The Staff of the Embassy of Grenada in Washington, D. C. and I are pleased to join in this celebration with all Grenadians at home and abroad, and express our renewed wish that our nation and our people will continue to be blessed with success, health, and joy.