

**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-NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE OF GRENADA**

**February 7, 2013**

*“Celebrating 39 Years of Achievement with Renewed Optimism”*



Greetings Fellow Grenadians!

Thirty-Nine Years as a sovereign nation **is** cause for celebration! We, the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, can be proud and pleased with having attained this remarkable achievement and for having persevered as a democratic state.

We have not been daunted by the challenges of our geo-political status in the world community of nations nor by our relatively limited economic capacity.

Grenadians have remained steadfast in their commitment to nationhood, contributing in the public, private and civil society sectors and from the Diaspora, to our development. We have truly aspired, built and advanced as “one people, one family”, demonstrating patriotism and resilience in the face of adversity, external shocks to our economy and political upheaval.

History will reflect that it is the fibre of our character as a People, fiercely identified as “Grenadian” wherever we roam, whatever our endeavour, that has compelled us, surefooted, on the path of Independence. From a domestic or nation-building perspective, we have maintained our economic growth, weathering changes in international demand for our agricultural and tourism products, and sought responses that create a more sustainable economic platform. On the world stage, Grenada has commanded the respect and admiration, if not awe, of its sister nations, by playing a leading role in matters that affect not only our security and stability but also the current and future wellbeing of the entire world. We have vigilantly guarded our Independence by re-asserting and defending the internationally enshrined principle of non-intervention in the affairs of sovereign states.

While our 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence finds our economy still struggling to recover from the global financial crisis and the lingering impact of Hurricanes Ivan and Emily, our indomitable spirit shows in our individual and collective labours. Our Independence is underscored by our economic prosperity and despite current faltering growth and joblessness, Grenadians have not been daunted. That is cause for celebration. The demonstrated belief that we can and will get beyond challenging experiences is cause for celebration. That we put solidarity over individualism is cause for celebration.

The Staff of the Embassy of Grenada in Washington, D. C. and I celebrate with all Grenadians at home and abroad, and recommit ourselves to serve our nation with confidence and optimism about our collective future.