

REMARKS AT FUNERAL SERVICE FOR MOLLIE HAYNES

6.6.2015

Family members of the deceased, especially her sister Emily, who has travelled from Belize, Central America, to be here this morning, members of her faith community, members of the congregation, ladies and gentlemen:

The person to whom we say farewell today was bountifully endowed by her Creator with enormous personal gifts. I am personally convinced that she was blessed with qualities of genius. In particular, she possessed an intellect that was as sharp as the proverbial razor blade. This perspicacity of mind allowed her to consistently perform at a level that never failed to amaze her colleagues and tutors alike, in her native St. Vincent and the Grenadines, where she taught Math at the Girls High School, and beyond. In 1974, while teaching fulltime at the Kingstown Preparatory School, she wrote and passed two Advanced Level subjects, Economics and History, in a single sitting. It was unprecedented at the time. In our educational system in the English-speaking Caribbean at that time, the General Certificate of Education, administered externally by Cambridge University in the United Kingdom, was not a high school diploma. It was the equivalent of first year university coursework. She continued her lifelong quest for knowledge by attaining the professional certification in teaching from the University of the West Indies, and after emigrating to the U.S.A, she completed her tertiary education, and qualified as a Certified Public Accountant.

Throughout the vicissitudes of her personal life the deceased shared her skills generously with others. Last evening, as I listened to the testimonies of her brothers and sisters in faith, I was touched by their intense sentiments of appreciation and gratitude for her work among them, especially the students of the Christian School, where she was the principal. There, in the challenging conditions of Newark's inner city, she shepherded many under-privileged children to excellence in education, which led, in several cases, to their acceptance in IVY League colleges, with full scholarships. Teaching was her vocation, and I have encountered her appreciative charges in many places all over the world.

It is said that when you give a man a fish you feed him for a day; when you teach him how to fish you feed him for a lifetime. By her labors in the fields of education and personal development Mollie Cornelia Haynes has enhanced the lives of many, thereby enabling them to feed themselves and their families for their lifetimes.

I extend my profound condolences to her children and her extended family.

May she rest in peace.

Ambassador Kingsley C.A. Layne, C.M.G.