



*The  
R.E. Cooper  
National  
Meritorious  
Service Award*

EST. 1985



THE STAFF OF  
THE PUBLIC HOSPITALS AUTHORITY  
INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES

*Congratulate*

MR. HERBERT H. BROWN

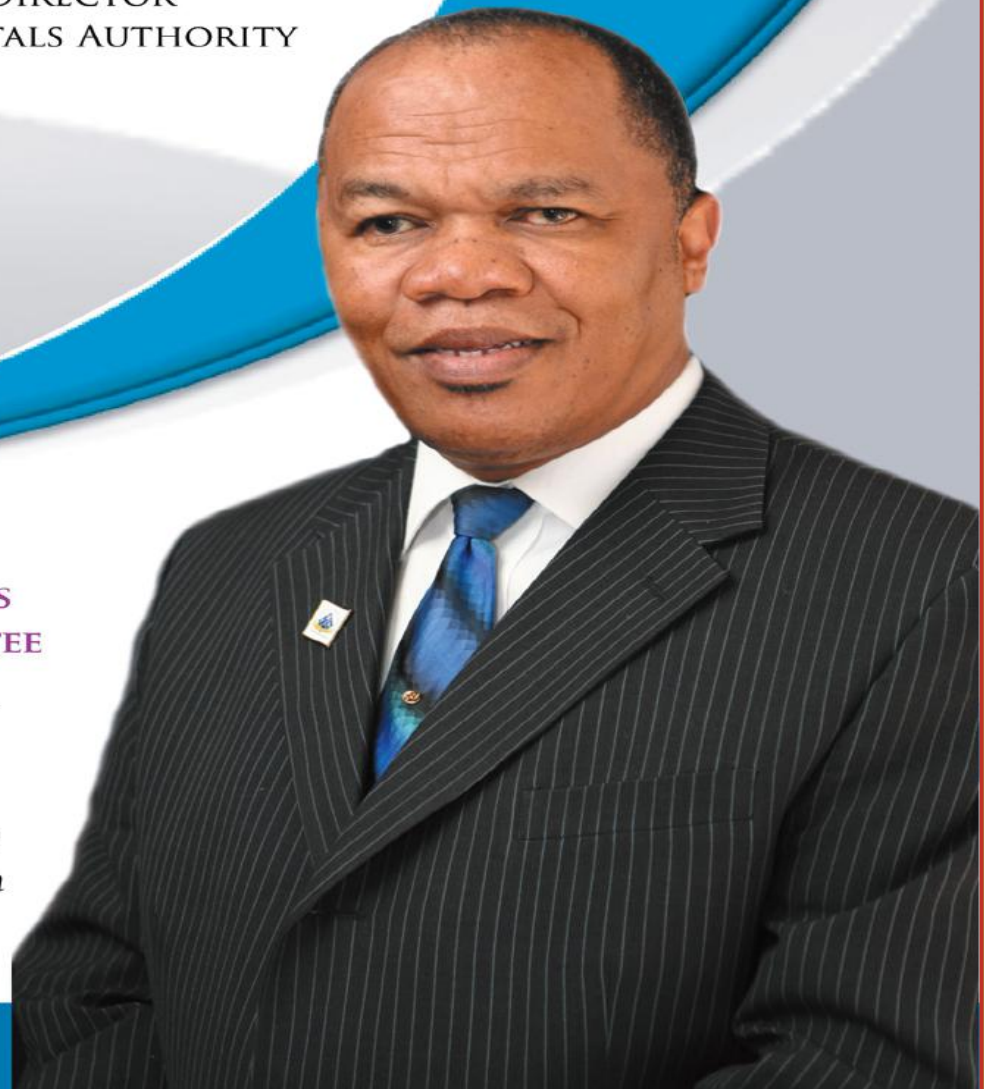
MANAGING DIRECTOR  
THE PUBLIC HOSPITALS AUTHORITY

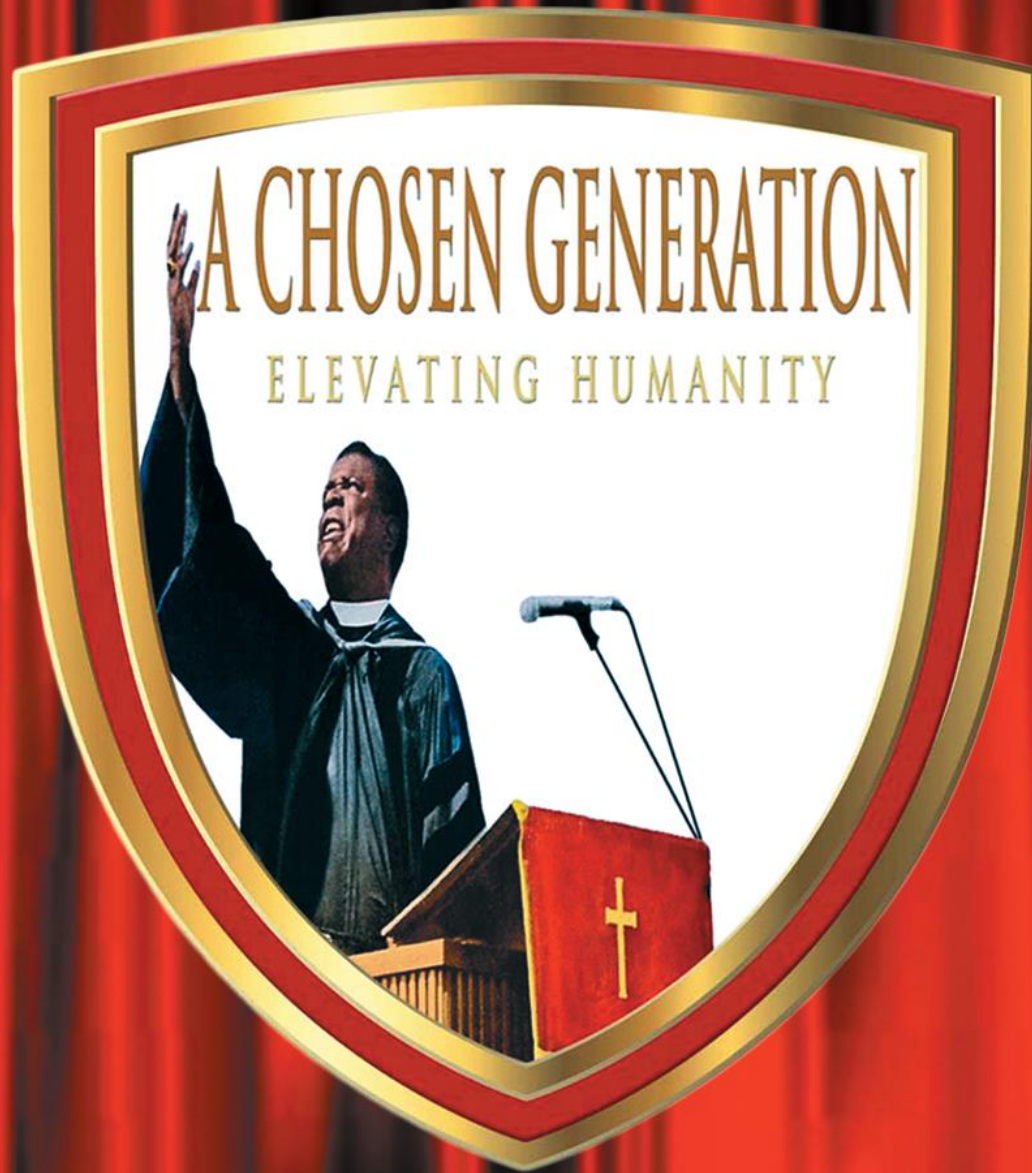
FOR BEING HONORED  
FOR YOUR COMMITMENT  
IN THE AREA OF  
MEDICAL CARE  
& ADMINISTRATION

BY THE R. E. COOPER  
NATIONAL MERITORIOUS  
SERVICE AWARD COMMITTEE

*Congratulations on your  
Achievement!*

*Your dedication and leadership  
are deserving of this recognition  
of your merits.*

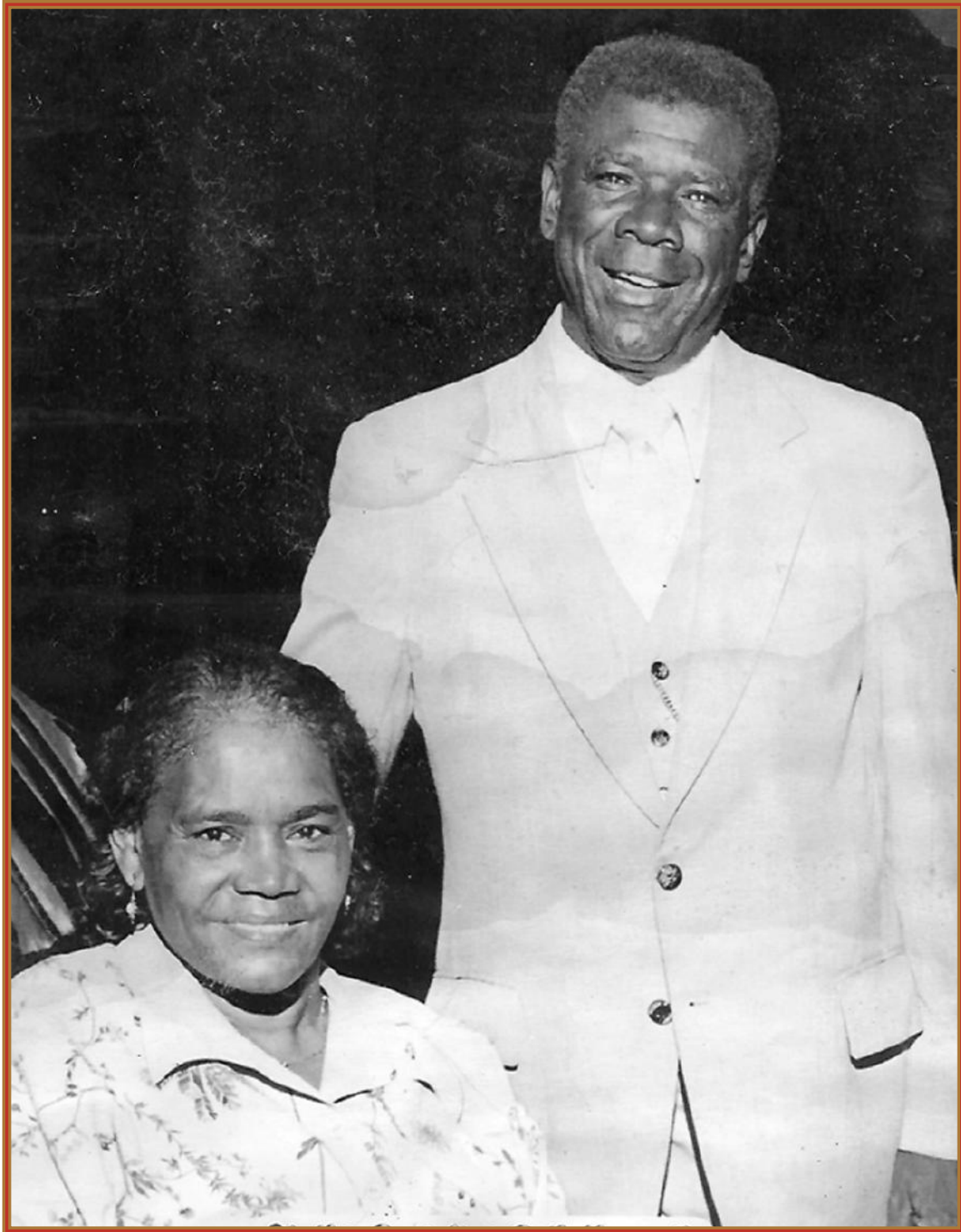




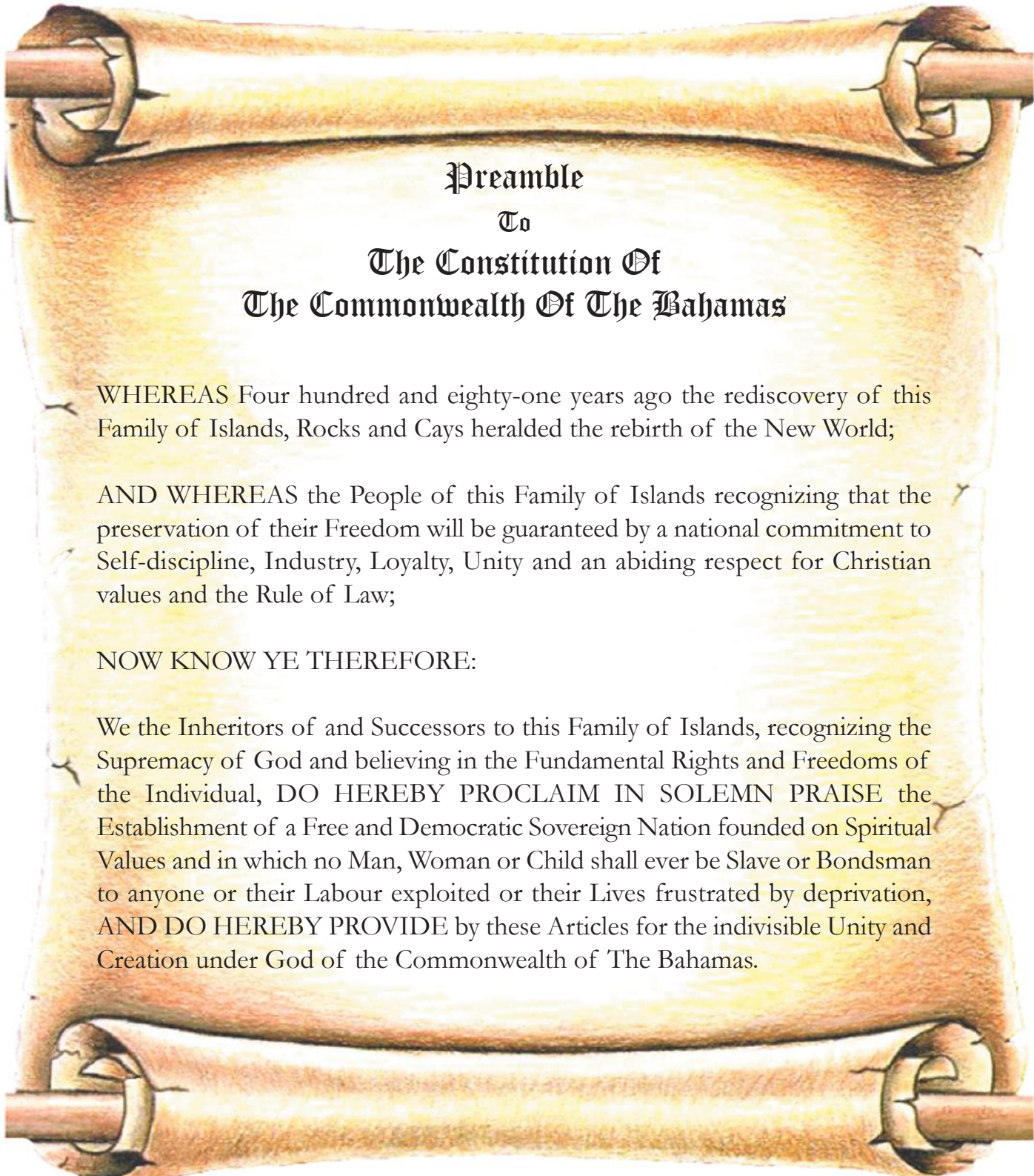
*“Celebrating great Bahamians, not for their wealth or material possessions, but for their social ethos, and empathy shown through their unselfish contributions in uplifting humanity.”*

*December 9, 2016*

*IMPERIAL BALLROOM, ATLANTIS RESORT  
Paradise Island, The Bahamas*



*The late Dr. & Mrs. R. E. Cooper Sr.*



**Preamble**  
**To**  
**The Constitution Of**  
**The Commonwealth Of The Bahamas**

WHEREAS Four hundred and eighty-one years ago the rediscovery of this Family of Islands, Rocks and Cays heralded the rebirth of the New World;

AND WHEREAS the People of this Family of Islands recognizing that the preservation of their Freedom will be guaranteed by a national commitment to Self-discipline, Industry, Loyalty, Unity and an abiding respect for Christian values and the Rule of Law;

NOW KNOW YE THEREFORE:

We the Inheritors of and Successors to this Family of Islands, recognizing the Supremacy of God and believing in the Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of the Individual, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM IN SOLEMN PRAISE the Establishment of a Free and Democratic Sovereign Nation founded on Spiritual Values and in which no Man, Woman or Child shall ever be Slave or Bondsman to anyone or their Labour exploited or their Lives frustrated by deprivation, AND DO HEREBY PROVIDE by these Articles for the indivisible Unity and Creation under God of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.



DR. & MRS.  
*R.E. Cooper Jr.*  
*Reuben III & Reuné*



# DR. JAMES A. RAHMING

*75th Diamond Jubilee Chair*



I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to serve as this year's Anniversary Chairperson for the 75th Diamond Jubilee Observance of The Mission Baptist Church, and congratulate all recipients of The R. E. Cooper Meritorious Service Award.

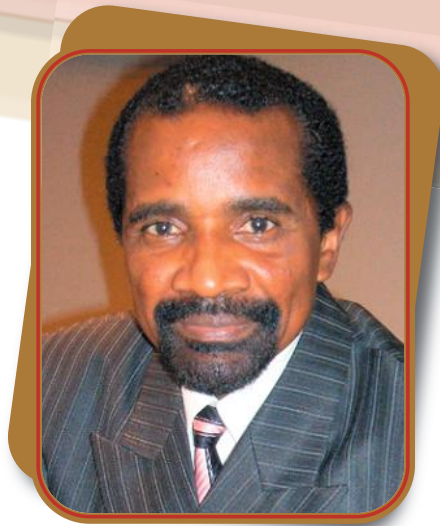
I note with pride that each investiture is taking on a more international perspective, which bears in mind "The Great Commission" to which Dr. Cooper aspired: "...go ye into the world...teach others and make disciples." How much better can we make replications of ourselves during our life's journey than by evoking empathy in ways that touch the human heart and conditions in meaningful ways?

Everyone who knows me knows that Dr. Cooper, Senior was a great influencer in my private, professional and spiritual development. In every aspect, he was my mentor. As a former recipient, I proudly align myself with anything affiliated with

his name as I have had a fairly good life due to his nurturing. I will be forever indebted to him and lovingly cherish his memory.

In April of this year, we commended the members of the Mission Baptist Church in a special banquet to honour them for their dedicated and longstanding service. Tonight, this event posthumously honours our founding pastor, Dr. Reuben Edward Cooper, Senior, and acknowledges his life's work through the legatees he left behind. It also parallels the accomplishments of persons who have assisted in making better the plight of others through their enterprising and entrepreneurial efforts.

As this is the last event for this particular and significant milestone, I admonish all recipients to continue to reach out and touch somebody's hand and encourage them along life's journey in a meaningful way.



## DR. R. E. COOPER JR.

*Chairman, R. E. Cooper Meritorious Award*

The R. E. Cooper Senior National Meritorious Service Award recognizes outstanding citizens both in The Bahamas and internationally for their altruistic community service, as evidenced by their leadership and interests in making life better for human kind, and for their embodiment of moral and spiritual values in their personal and professional lives.

Tonight's honourees are individuals with commanding leadership and innovative efforts effecting long-lasting positive social change in the realms of fraternal leadership, healthcare, creative arts, social justice, poverty, economic empowerment, educational advancement, entrepreneurial advancement, pastoral care, and women's leadership. They are certainly deserving of commendation for their collective contribution in raising the bar and for their response to duty!

Further, honouring outstanding leadership delivers a message to our youth that they should strive to make their lives count and, for those who are still in the workforce, to remain steadfast in the quality of service that they are rendering. Over the years, our honourees have been putting in place guideposts which have been inspiring people of all

walks of life to accept responsibility and to care about principles and causes beyond self-interest. Their lives speak volumes pertaining to how they have greatly enriched all spheres of society as faithful stewards of what has been entrusted to them to impart to others.

These awards nationally illuminate an ethic of service of achievement that all our compatriots may justly honour and follow. From amongst "A Chosen Generation" these individuals represent some of the finest people who compose our national fabric. Without equivocation, they know well the obligations of citizenship, whether serving in government or in private life. Like them, let us not quibble and mourn the difficulties of the day. Instead let us always respond with enthusiasm to address the burdens to be borne, and the challenges to be met.

Finally honourees, in extending to you my warmest congratulations and best wishes, I also express the hope that you will long continue to carry on your gratified ideal and tradition of rendering service, and that others will be inspired by your example and devotion.

## *The Progressive Liberal Party Pays Tribute To* **CYNTHIA “MOTHER” PRATT; SENATOR GREGORY BURROWS AND BASIL L. SANDS**



**I**t is with great pleasure and pride that the Progressive Liberal Party congratulates Cynthia “Mother” Pratt, Senator Gregory Burrows and Mr. Basil L. Sands for their continued contribution to the sustained growth and development of The Bahamas. The recognition of their life-long work on the occasion of the 2016 R.E. Cooper Sr. National Meritorious Awards is most fitting because their stories of courage, service above self, love of country and determination must be told, celebrated and honoured as testaments to the indomitable spirit of the Bahamian people.

These Bahamian sons and daughters overcame considerable odds and have persevered over many long years to blaze new trails for the next generation of Bahamians and along the way they have made history in politics, the accounting profession, in sports, in youth development and yes in public service.



Cynthia “Mother” Pratt is a woman for all seasons. She is an ordained minister of the gospel, a trained teacher, a former Member of Parliament for the Saint Cecelia Constituency; and the first woman to hold the post of deputy leader of a major political party, the Progressive Liberal Party. This enabled her to again make history as the first woman Deputy Prime Minister and acting Prime Minister of The Bahamas.

Needless to say, with her current post as co-chair of the Urban Renewal Commission, this woman of God is just getting started in placing her indelible fingerprints and footprints in the sand of time as she continues to shape and influence the history, growth and development of this great country.

The name Gregory Burrows is synonymous with youth and sports development through the discipline of baseball in the Freedom Farm league where many young Bahamians learned team spirit, self discipline, trust and the value of a determined work ethic in achieving their goals. Many have secured



scholarships to attend universities abroad and some have made it to the major league of Baseball in the United States. Since the youth are our nation’s future, Senator Gregory Burrows is a national builder.

He is also successful businessman in the petroleum industry.

As Senator, Gregory now takes on the role of policymaker and as the first Chairman of the Bahamas Public Parks and Public Beaches Authority, he continues his work in public service all to the benefit of The Bahamas.



Mr. Basil L. Sands, FCCA, the Consulting Partner of PKF Bahamas – a member firm of PKF International Ltd, has a tremendous wealth of knowledge and experience in the fields of auditing and accounting, small business advisory services, consulting, and litigation support.

Mr. Sands was one of the first Bahamians to be certified in the accounting discipline.

He made history when he was elected the first non-American to hold the prestigious Freemasonry high office of Sovereign Grand Commander and his son, Robert ‘Sandy’ Sands, was elected to Sovereign Grand Inspector General. This was indeed an historic achievement for the Bahamas and the Sands family. Among many other public posts, Mr. Sands served as the chairman of the country’s National Flag Carrier, Bahamasair, from 2002 to 2007.

The Progressive Liberal Party pays tribute to these fine Bahamians and we pray God’s richest blessings on them and the increase of their work as they continue in the vineyard of nation building where ultimately, all honour and glory goes to Almighty God.



**Mr. Ellison Greenslade,**  
*Dr.h.c, MBA, QPM*  
**Commissioner of Police**  
**(2010 – present)**

*We are delighted to extend a hearty tribute to a man so richly deserving of commendations, thanks and praise for his commitment to the noble profession of policing in The Bahamas for the past thirty seven (37) years. A man who has diligently and rigorously served with excellence and faced the dynamic challenges of the developing nation with distinction, integrity and loyalty.*

*We pray that with God's help and guidance this loving father; devoted husband; supportive brother, uncle and friend; and servant of God will continue to undertake the excellent path that he has forged as a hard-working chief and Commissioner of Police. We love him and look forward to his leadership as he strives to further improve the development of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.*

*JK. Colebrooke*  
**Ms. Juanita Colebrooke**  
**R/Asst. Commissioner of Police**  
**National Commandant Police Reserves**

**Police Reserves**  
**1965 - 2015**  
**50**

# Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre

SALUTES



*Mr. Herbert H. Brown*  
MANAGING DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HOSPITALS AUTHORITY

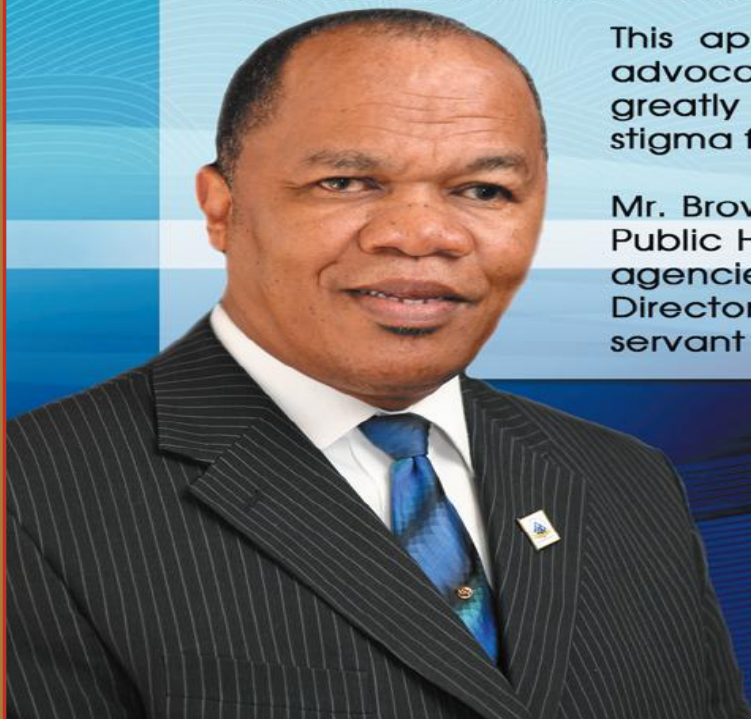
FOR RECEIVING THE  
R.E. Cooper Sr. National Meritorious  
Award for Service

The R.E. Cooper Sr. Meritorious Award Diamond Jubilee is of great significance, as it is being bestowed on a Sandilands legend, Mr. Herbert H. Brown, during the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre. We therefore consider ourselves an integral part of this prestigious award being conferred upon Mr. Brown, our illustrious leader.

Mr. Brown, with his impeccable and masterful leadership, has that special ability to motivate employees. Moreover, with his stellar attributes, he has contributed to changing the mind-set on the status of mental healthcare in The Bahamas.

This approach suggests that he is an advocate for mental health and has greatly assisted in the eradication of stigma from mental health.

Mr. Brown has toiled in the vineyard of all Public Hospitals Authority institutions and agencies, where he is now the Managing Director. He is the perfect example of a servant leader.



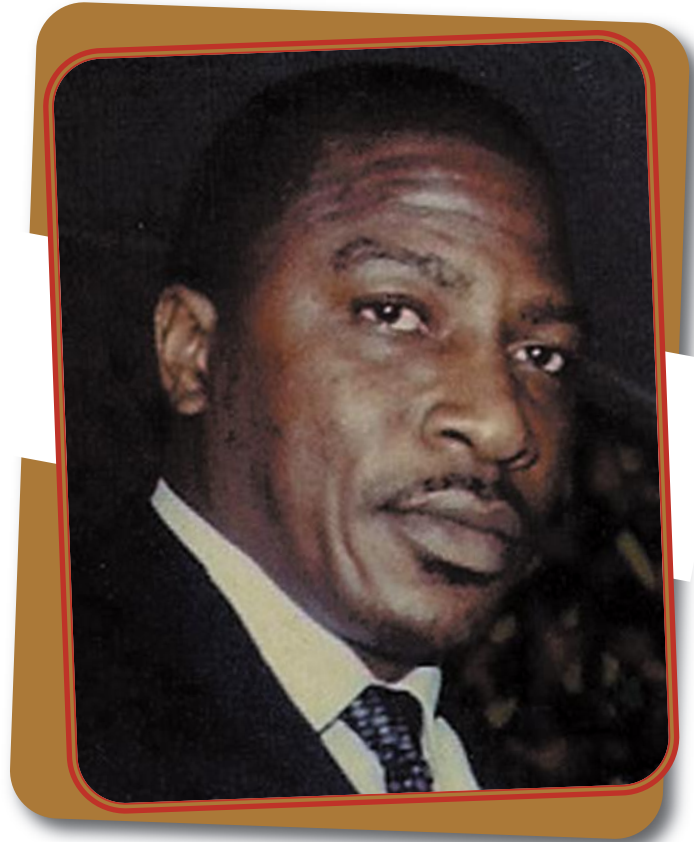


## *Founding Chairman*

*One who elevated humanity by the self-denial he expressed in using his gifts.....*

**MATTHEW A. ROSE**, M.D., F.A.A.P.

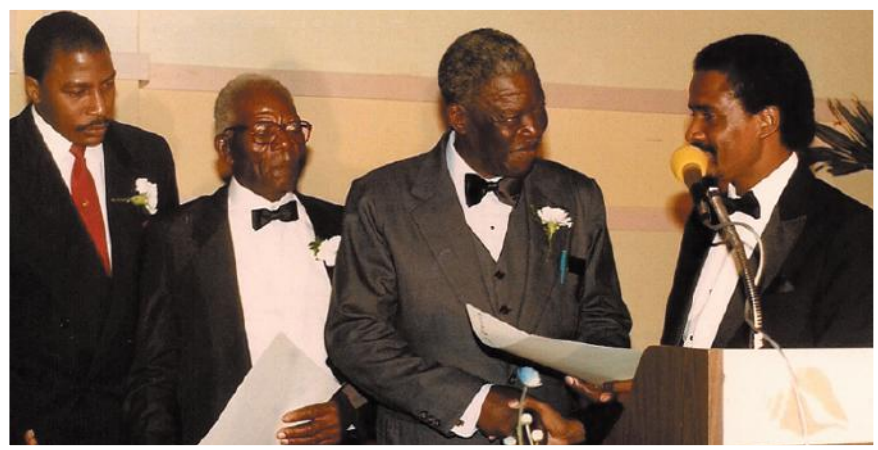
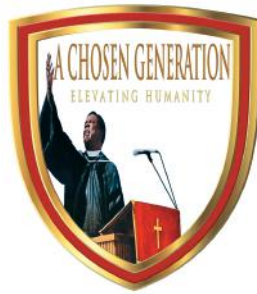
**Born: June 10, 1955 | Died: February 21, 1993**

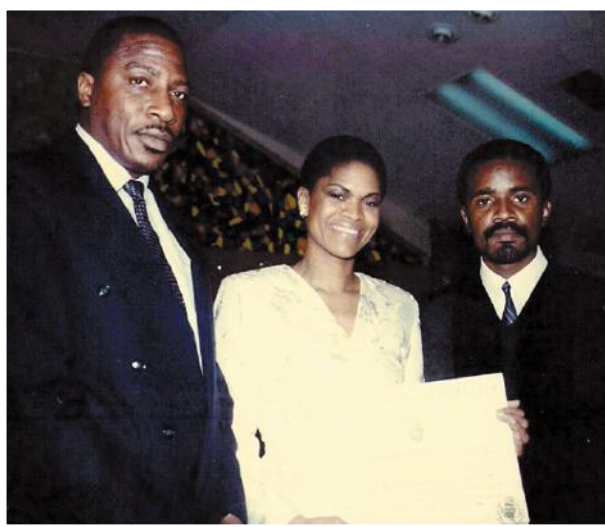
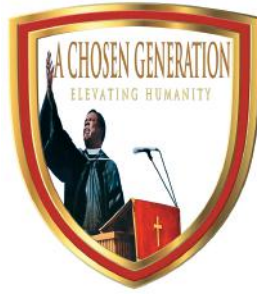


## *The Measure Of A Man*

*Not, how did he die? But, how did he live?  
Not, what did he gain? But, what did he give?  
Not, what was his station? But, had he a heart?  
And, how did he play his God-given part?*







# The Award.....

*"If your life is an example of glorifying God, others won't see your good deeds and glorify you, because they'll know that what you are doing is for God's glory. When there is glory given to God and the action is done solely for His glory, somehow people can tell – and they will direct their gratitude and praise back to God"*

*1 Peter 2:11-12*

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The Award, established in 1985 by The Mission Baptist Church, recognizes and celebrates the national contributions of "Elevators of Humanity" - individuals who are national mentors, defending the downtrodden with passion and zeal with an open and compassionate spirit. Although many of these individuals do all within their limited means and influence to encourage others to reach their personal and professional zeniths, their contributions and philanthropic exploits are seemingly devoid of gratitude, and often they are eclipsed by others who are less principled but more popular and more partisan, relegating them to the archaic categories of unsung heroes and heroines.

It is a posthumous honour and tribute for the late founding pastor of The Mission Baptist Church, Reverend Dr. R. E. Cooper, Senior, who was a Bahamian hero, scholar, theologian extraordinaire and social reformer – one who loved his faith and country, serving faithfully and meritoriously for forty (40) years until his death in 1980. Despite his numerous accomplishments, his primary concern was to ensure the elevation of the ordinary man, whose talents were unexplored, and who was often overlooked in his professional and vocational fields.

## **THE MISSION**

The mission of the Meritorious Service Award is to inspire, educate, stimulate and enlighten human minds to the reality that success, achievement and respect which are void of colour, gender and profession, must be recognized by an appreciative community, church and nation.

## **AWARD CRITERIA**

The Award Laureates are living men and women who, through consistency and longevity, have achieved success in a chosen profession or career. These honorees have made extraordinary contributions to the development of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, and thus the global society, by giving of themselves, sometimes risking their careers and lives, by standing up for particular ideals and principles, even if they stood alone and when the status quo pressured them to abort that which they doggedly believed. They are selected and revered, not only for what they have individually achieved, but for the achievement they inspire in others.

## **THE AWARD**

The 'eagle' is the design chosen for the Award based on its identifiable symbol of strength, unsurpassed altitudinous ability, gracefulness, agility and spirituality and temerity. Biblically, we are assured; "They who wait on the Lord will renew their strength. They will mount up on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, and they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 41:31).

## **THE PLEDGE**

It is only fitting that such an outstanding benefactor and advocate for the indigent be remembered in some small way. Thus, the Meritorious Service Award Committee will continue to recognize and pay tribute to individuals, like the late Dr. Cooper, who have made indelible, positive and progressive contributions to The Commonwealth of The Bahamas by rendering meritorious service. Individuals whose contemporary acts have significantly and indelibly affected the lives of others by doing what is morally and ethically right by showing Christian charity, compassion and kindness.





*Mr. David C. BOWE ~*



*Dr. D. Erskine BROWN*



*Rev. D. Darius BUTLER*



*Dr. Nelson CLARKE*



*Mr. Charles COLEBROOKE*



*Mr. Roland COX*



*Ms. Maris DARLING-HILL*



*Pastor Donald DORSETT*



*Mr. Inal FERGUSON ~*



*Mr. Obie FERGUSON*



*Mr. Alpheus "Hank" FINLAYSON*



*Bishop George FOWLER*



*Rev. Dr. Earle FRANCIS ~*



*Rev. P. A. GIBSON ~*



*Hon. Dr. Perry GOMEZ*



*Rev. Dr. Simeon B. HALL*



*Dr. Prince A. HEPBURN ~*



*Mrs. Sylvia JOHNSON ~*



*Sir. Clement T MAYNARD ~*



*Dr. Willamae C. MILLER*



*Hon. Dr. Bernard J. NOTTAGE*



*Captain Fernley PALMER*



*Mrs. Missouri SHERMAN PETER*



*Dr. Rita PRATT*



*Rev. Dr. James A. RAHMING*



*Pastor Hugh A. ROACH*



*Rev. E. J. ROLLE ~*



*Mother Carnetha ROLLE ~*



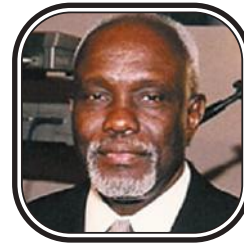
*Rev. John ROLLE, Sr. ~*



*Elder Cecil ROSE ~*



*Rev. Dr. Charles C. SMITH ~*



*Rev. Alfred STEWART*



*Mrs. Francis STUBBS ~*



*Dr. Ada THOMPSON*

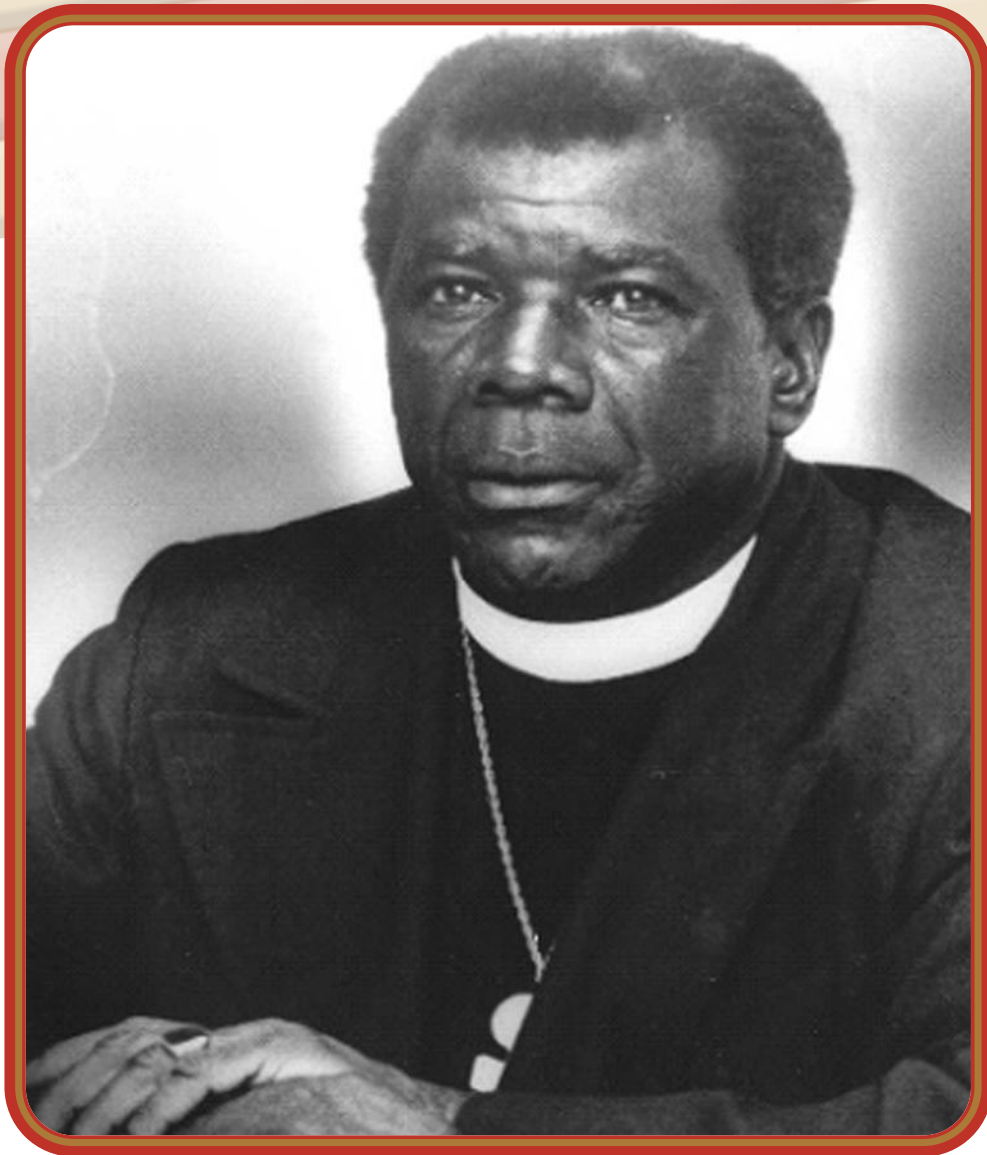


*Mr. Herbert TRECO*



*Dr. Stunce WILLIAMS ~*

*Deceased ~*



*Rev. Dr. R. E. Cooper Sr.*

NOVEMBER 1, 1913 - OCTOBER 2, 1980

*Justice of the Peace (J.P)*

*Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (M.B.E.)*