

**REMARKS OF RANDOLPH N. BENNETT  
CONFIRMATION SPEECH**

Good morning Honorable Governor Kenneth E. Mapp, Honorable Lieutenant Governor Osbert Potter, dignitaries, fellow Cabinet Members, family, and friends. With protocol being established, I am Randolph Nathaniel Bennett, the newly sworn-in Commissioner of Property and Procurement for the Territory, United States Virgin Islands. I would like to thank Governor Kenneth E. Mapp for providing me the opportunity to serve as Commissioner. I would also like to thank the previous Commissioners of Property and Procurement for the work they have undertaken for the community. This is not an easy position.

I would like to thank my family and friends for their unconditional support. To my wife Lillian Bennett and children Chantel, Kiara, and Kyla who are not present today. I say, I love you and thank you for being my most valuable players in the game of life.

I would like to take a moment to thank a few special people whom have made my transition back home very special. Members of the 31<sup>st</sup> Legislature of the USVI. Members of this Administration. My brother Croy Bennett (I Love You), aunt and uncle Elise and Kenrick Bartlette, Dr. Simon B. Jones-Hendrickson, Mr. Nellon L. Bowry, Karen Bowry-Petersen, Ms. Bernadette Maynard-Melendez. A very special thanks to the Oriol family, you have always been there for me.

I have found that there are times when I am misunderstood, therefore to help with getting a better understanding, I would like to share with you, my growth and development which shaped and affirmed my leadership abilities prior to this assignment.

I began my professional journey after graduating from Ivanna Eudora Kean High School in St. Thomas in 1985. I served in the U.S. Army, the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency, the U.S. Department of State, The Executive Office of the President of the United States, and now with the Local Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands. This totaling over 30 years of public service. I have

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recently returned to living in the Territory permanently after being away during those years and have returned with one purpose in mind. That is, to serve our community.

Unlike most of my predecessors, I am taking this oath after being in the position for almost a year. During this time, the Department have met several challenges. Rest assure that we have addressed each and every challenge with the dedication and commitment to support the people of the Territory.

I learned early in my career that my staff matters to the success of my mission. It is my full conviction that the staff I have today, beginning with Assistant Commissioner Timothy Lake to the newest person on the team in P&P is there to provide excellent service and support to the Territory. Now having said that, know that we are always striving to improve. Therefore, each and every one of the staff is committed to always giving their best efforts always. The Property and Procurement staff understands that a person is recognized by the output of their performance.

I want to thank the Governor for his confidence in me, even when the foundation of our bond was tested. He never wavered on me. Governor Mapp, I remain steadfast to my mission of supporting you and the people of this great Territory.

It is important to take advantage of educational opportunities and I will pass this skill on to my staff. Ted Cruz, for example have shown that Liberty is a great place to start.

I am a Virgin Islander, and Virgin Islanders do not take handouts from anyone. What we do believe is that through hard work we should be provided equal and fair opportunities.

I must add that I have seen a progressive move forward under this Administration. This movement has inspired the team in P&P to work even harder to meet the needs of our internal and external customers. That means my fellow Cabinet members, your employees, and you, the Agency are vitally important to us.

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My career has allowed me to serve the United States globally. I served tours in Germany, Saudi Arabia, Bosnia, Korea, Qatar, and Afghanistan; I spent 4 years working at the Pentagon. But among my most notable achievements is standing here before you on this day to affirm my commitment to give back to a community that is the foundation for all of that I have accomplished. Not even my service at the U. S. Department of State, where I was the Office Director for the Office of Residential Design and Cultural Heritage Office (RDCH). A position I held for five (5) years that managed all 394 Principle Officer Residences in 180 countries can compare to service in the United States Virgin Islands. I know my mission as the Commissioner, Department of Property and Procurement, United States Virgin Islands and will execute it well.

In Closing

Recently, I was going through some adversities and my daughter sent me a note which will forever be special to me, she said Daddy when they tried to bury you, they did not realize you are a seed. Good day ladies and gentlemen, may God Bless you and may God continue to bless these beautiful United States Virgin Islands.