

## COS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Message

His Excellency the President and Commander in Chief,

Honourable Prime Minister and Ministers of the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana!

Mayor of Georgetown, Former Chiefs of Staff, Heads of Services, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Brazilian and United States Military Delegations, Veterans All, the Guyana Veterans Legion, Serving Officers, Other Ranks and Civilian Employees, Members of the Media, Friends of the GDF, Well-wishers, and the Spiritual Leaders of the Christian, Hindu and Muslim faiths.

It is a good thing to give thanks unto God!

Today I am pleased to welcome all of you to our Anniversary Church Service as we give thanks to God for keeping and sustaining this Force for 50 years!

During those years we have remained committed and resolved to ensuring the preservation of our territorial integrity and defending our sovereignty.

As we reflect on the evolution of the Guyana Defence Force, I am proud to be at the helm of this noble institution at this juncture of her existence.

We are celebrating 50 years of service to the people of Guyana, under the theme "Commemorating the past, Celebrating the present, Carving the future", I therefore wish to thank all who served and gave selflessly to the development of the Guyana Defence Force. I especially wish to acknowledge the contributions of our

Commanders in Chief, past Chiefs of Staff, and all veterans local and overseas.

Thanks to all our serving member! Our Officers, Other Ranks and Civilian employees.

I celebrate your achievements and as I look ahead to the development of the Force

I do so knowing that with the foundation that has already been laid, the future of the Force is in good hands!

Thanks to all the members of Cabinet, the Defence Board, Diplomatic Corps, Heads of Services, and Well-wishers who came today to celebrate with us.

We are truly humbled.

Our Sermon today will be delivered by a veteran of the GDF, the Venerable Randolph Reynolds, Archdeacon of St Brijette, and Parish Priest of St Sidwell's

Church. At this time, permit me to welcome to the podium, a renowned veteran of the Guyana Defence Force!...His Excellency and Commander in Chief Retired Brigadier David Arthur Granger, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to deliver his anniversary message.