

An Appreciation for the Life of Rodney Winston Inniss

Ladies, gentlemen, family, friends and colleagues, we are gathered here today, to honor the life of an amazing gentleman, Rodney Winston Inniss.

Rodney, the first born of three children of the late Wallice Ianthy Greenidge, the other two being the late Nicole Inniss and myself, Natalie Pierce, was born on February 15, 1971, and departed this earthly realm on February 1, 2025. Rodney was also the firstborn of four children from his father Arthur Garnes, the others being Nykisha, Zydie and Troy Garnes.

Rodney was an alumnus of Harrison College where he excelled academically. He worked at a few places including Royal Bank prior to enlisting in the then Barbados Police Force. During his tenure with the Police Service, Rodney, successfully completed certificates in courses including Forensic Collision Investigation and traffic management. He was also a qualified road safety auditor.

Rodney and Patricia Alleyne created two absolutely loving and beautiful daughters, Marissa Inniss and Gabrielle Alleyne, his heartstrings. Rodney loved and protected these beautiful young ladies like a lion...his busy schedule never prevented him from doing whatever needed to be done for them, even if a little late completing the task. Marissa and Gabby loved their father, constantly checking in on him and ordering him to take care of himself.

Marissa often calls “Rodney the best daddy ever”. She remembers her father as the original “selfie-man” - he could never go anywhere without taking pictures and anywhere she went she had instructions to send pictures. He wanted pictures on every occasion and of everything. Rodney always checked in on his girl. Even though Marissa was working in England “he would call and say I know you are at work but I just calling to say I love you and wish you a good day”.

In remembering her father, Gabrielle is happy she has such fond memories of him to keep her going. She will miss his genuine and affectionate smile and his excitement when everything came off the

way he intended. Rodney often called to give her details about his plans and the number of things that needed to be done. He often told her “once you did your best that is enough” and this always drove her to excel. Gabby is going to miss him telling her that she is so hardworking, and how proud he is of her. She will miss him coming to her workplace and asking to speak to the most beautiful person in the kitchen which always made her smile and a little embarrassed. She saw him as her protector and always felt safe with him by her side.

Rodney, like other family members, had a love for dogs which he passed on to Gabby. Every time he got another dog he would call and tell me “I got a dog, come and meet him/her.” Then he would ask his daughters to name the newest member of the family. Since Rodney had a hectic schedule he entrusted Ricky with the responsibility of taking care of his dogs, and Ricky is still undertaking this extremely important assignment.

Nykisha and I recalled the times when Rodney was in the traffic division and reported vans on the Bayfield route where fortunately or

unfortunately, we were passengers. Rodney proceeded to carry out his duties and we, who were not part of the legal number allowed to stand, were told to disembark. My cousin Alcia suffered the same fate. Rodney asked, “wha wanna doing in dey”. I recall one of those occasions when I got home late and mom asked me why I was late. I retorted, ‘Rodney put me out the van.’ Even while he did this, Rodney ensured that we all reached home safely. Rodney reported everybody - if you were not in the legal number, even if you were family you had to get out and walk. He was that kind of officer one who took his duties seriously.

My brother was a big brother and police officer through and through...I recall him telling us don't do this or that... and if you get into trouble doing this don't call me. However, if any issue arose within the family, Rodney was there.

The tragic passing of our sister was life changing. Our family was shattered. We always think that because we don't see men crying that they aren't grieving but Rodney grieved quietly.

When our mom passed away suddenly, Rodney took charge. In the midst of his pain, he managed to do what needed to be done. When my father, his stepfather, passed away last year, I called, and Rodney was right there as always. As I matured our relationship transformed and I was seen as someone he could talk with; someone he could depend on, and a bit of a confidante in a little sister kinda way. Rodney gave excellent, realistic and matter-of-fact advice. Sometimes I would ask him “Is it really that simple or easy?”

When Rodney loved something he gave it his all. Rodney and dominoes! Yup, everyone knows how he felt about this game and Veda, his friend and domino companion can attest to this. Rodney and his partner Lavern shared that common love. I am glad that he was able to find someone who shared his passion.

Lavern, in describing her King said, “Rodney was a good man in all aspects; loving, compassionate and kindhearted. He was always willing to assist anyone in need, often putting their needs before his. He always gave 100% in every task he undertook, even if it meant

doing it alone. Rodney was my better half. I loved him dearly. He will always hold a special place in my heart.”

Alison, my cousin often tells me about when they were younger, they played police and crooks and they always thought that Rodney was going to be a police. Can you guess why? Even though Rodney often played the role of a thief, he was no good at it. His maternal grandmother often said he would not make a good thief because no matter where he hid, the others always found him. As a result, they felt that he would be a policeman.... And yes, he was an exemplary police officer.

Rodney’s calling (not going to say profession) because I sincerely believe this was his calling, was bravely answered, and it brought him into contact with many different people. He carried out his duties with humility and respect. This became even more apparent in his position as Police Communications and Public Affairs Officer.

Rodney, like most of his colleagues, heard and saw things that most people never have to and they met people at the most difficult times

of their lives. This is an extremely heavy burden for anyone to bear, but somehow, Rodney did.

Whenever I watched Rodney being interviewed, I was always amazed at how he conducted himself. The mutual respect he had for and received from the media, was evident. Even when they pushed for answers, Inspector Inniss remained firm but respectful. After my brother's passing, the immediate family went into a media blackout mode, we just could not deal with it, but we were still fed some of the tributes and comments from the Barbadian public.

Since Barbados is grieving with us, I just want to take a moment to send our condolences to you, as well.

On January 9, 2025 Rodney celebrated his thirty-second year as a police officer and Marissa asked her father what his best three (3) moments of being a police officer were. These are Rodney's responses:

1. Graduating from The Regional Police Training Centre after 5 1/2 months of intense training and placing second on the Course with 98.
2. being promoted on three occasions from constable to sergeant then station sergeant and now Inspector of police. Being promoted to Station Sergeant in 2008 was particularly special because he was the youngest Station Sergeant in the Police Force at that time both in age and in years of service.
3. the first police officer in the Barbados Police Service to be formally trained and qualified as a Forensic Collision Investigator. This required him attending the scenes of all road traffic fatalities and life changing injuries and reconstructing the scenes for the law courts.

In addition to the above, Rodney also highlighted that his children are his most proud achievements to date and that would always be so.

Rodney's character made him absolutely suitable for his job. His own personal life experiences blended to produce a man who lived a very purposeful life – his mantra, “**Do something good for somebody today.**” Rodney always had a smile. He was mannerly, respectful, firm, loved to laugh, approachable, supportive, passionate, loving, charismatic, determined, empathetic, humble, compassionate, articulate and we could go on and on. Rodney was a father, a brother, a cousin, a godfather, a partner, a nephew, an uncle, a brother-in-law, an officer, an inspector and a friend of Barbadians who can never be replaced.

His nephew Alex, on hearing of Rodney's passing, said to me that Rodney lived life and did what he loved. How many of us can actually attest to that?

Words cannot express how much Rodney was loved. The only things you said about your funeral were, you wanted a morning service and that you didn't want no lot of crying. Well big brother there has been loads of crying and there will be loads more. You are irreplaceable,

you are loved by thousands and you will be missed by thousands. There are people who didn't know you personally but still expressed their appreciation for you and those who knew you loved you immensely. Now it is time to rest. An Officer and a Gentleman!

Go be with Mom, Nicole, and all the other loved ones who have passed. We who are left will take care of each other. Your work on this earth has ended but your legacy will continue.

We would like to express our gratitude to:

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital staff and all other health facilities, various Dominoes association, Management of the Wildey Gymnasium, Barbados Police Service, Lyndhurst Funeral Home, ForeverMementoir, Donna Nadur, PK Events & Media and Sprout Perfect Garden Centre and all others who contributed and or expressed their condolences and prayerful support to the family of the late Rodney Inniss.