



EMBASSY OF BELIZE

September 20, 2019

Dear Members of the Belizean Community,

I bring you greetings from Washington DC and a special salute on the 38th anniversary of Belize's Independence and the 221st anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Caye. The theme for this year's celebration is "From Mayan Grandeur to Modern Glory, Together Let's Shape The Belizean Story".

As we reflect on the homeland during these September celebrations, we are mindful of the first great civilization to call our country their home, the Maya. Unique in their conquest of the rain forest these great Central Americans were unmatched anywhere in the western hemisphere in their mathematics, astronomy, and hieroglyphic inscriptions. When we visit Belize, their legacy is a source of pride and their decline a constant reminder that we are ultimately responsible to be guardians of our environment and society.

Remembering Belize in September is also inseparable from the triumph of our forefathers at St. Georges Caye, the enduring of the nation through the years of colonialism, and the ultimate act of freedom on the 21st September 1981. The modern glory we have inherited, more than the material, is a societal principle based on equality where people, irrespective of differences, can have a seat at the table and have a voice through the ballot box. These principles of democracy are the bedrock of achievement and they will be the key component to Belize's endurance through time.

This is the Belizean Story we want to tell our grandchildren. Let us all play our part in shaping it.

May we all have a wonderful Independence Day weekend.

Sincerely,

H.E. F. Daniel Gutierrez
Ambassador of Belize to the United States of America