



JONES COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

# PERSON OF THE YEAR 2024



POLICE COMMISSIONER

*Shanta Knowles*

JCN PERSON OF THE YEAR 2024

# MS. SHANTA E. KNOWLES, OM Commissioner of Police Acceptance Speech JCN'S "2024 Person of the Year Award"

## Police Commissioner: "I Am Privileged To Serve My Country"



*(Editor's Note: The following are the remarks by Police Commissioner Shanta Knowles after receiving the Jones Communications Person of The Year Award in a special ceremony held this past Monday at the JCN Media Center, University Drive).*

I found an apt scripture for this occasion taken from Matthew 5 verses 13 through 16, and it reads, You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world... Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Your Excellency, may I have your permission to stand on the established protocol. So please ma'am, permit me to acknowledge the presence of my mother who is here with me today. Ms. Felease Knowles and two of my Laurane and Tia Knowles and my nephews. Ladies and gentlemen it is truly a privilege to stand before you today. I am incredibly humbled to accept the Jones Communication Network's "2024 Person of the Year Award," founded on the tenets of head, heart, and hand to promote the common good of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Jones Communication Network for creating such a platform that recognizes and highlights people within the community who are committed in their capacities of service, leadership, and integrity. I am deeply humbled, yet ecstatically motivated to have been chosen for such an esteemed award.

And therefore, I receive this award, not just for myself, but on behalf of the many unsung heroes out there within the community who serve tirelessly with dignity, due diligence, and professionalism for the betterment of our Nation.

This moment is particularly special, as we reflect on the tremendous strides women have made not only in The Bahamas, but in leadership capacities across the globe. Women have shattered glass ceilings, commanding respect in roles traditionally reserved for men showing resilience, grit, and innovation.

For us in the Royal Bahamas Police Force, this legacy began in 1964, when women were allowed to join the Organization. Imagine the courage of those trailblazing women who dared to enter an environment that was not designed for them. They paved the way for future generations, and today, we honor their courage as we continue to break barriers and redefine what it means to lead.

I am elated to be a catalyst for women in leadership. We have successfully come full circle by effectively closing the gap within the Force, on my historic appointment as Commissioner of Police for the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. To that end, I take my duties as the 1st female Commissioner of Police very seriously and I am privileged to serve my Country in creating safer communities.

My rise to this position has been defined by 34 years of hard work, challenges, growth, and an unwavering commitment to duty. From my early days in uniform, to the many nights spent strategizing for the safety of our citizens... every step, especially those taken in the family of islands has been a testament to the power of perseverance.

As I navigate this new mantle of leadership, I promise to work even harder than ever before to keep the Bahamas safe. Yet, I cannot do it alone therefore, I would be remiss if I didn't emphasize how grateful I am for the support of the incredible men and women of the Royal Bahamas Police Force, our partnering organizations and the general public. It is our unwavering dedication in synergy and shared vision for a safer Bahamas... that propels us forward.

Today my daughter could not join me here but again I am glad to have my mother and sisters here. But my daughter and my family, I share your love and thank you for the encouragement that you have given to me that has kept me grounded through the most demanding of times.

Thank you for believing in me and for being a source of strength. And most of all, I thank the Almighty God, for his love, guidance and continuous blessings on me... For I know without him I am nothing and none of this would be possible.

As we celebrate today, I want to remind every young girl and boy watching, that this moment is bigger than me. It is proof that no dream is unattainable, but hard work, faith, and determination can make the impossible possible. Let us continue to build a future where everyone has an opportunity to rise, regardless of gender, background, or circumstance.

Once again, I thank the Jones Communication Network, for this recognition and for valuing the principles of service, leadership, and character. And finally, I would like to say thank you to those individuals who inspire change daily through their dedication and selflessness. Let us continue working together to create a brighter, safer, and more united Bahamas.



**Dr. Conville S. Brown  
-Person Of The Year 2009-**

**Dr. Sin Quee, Virginia & Family,  
& The Management & Staff Of  
The Medical Pavilion Bahamas**

# Salute



**Ms. Shanta Knowles,  
Commissioner Of Police  
Of The Commonwealth  
Of The Bahamas**

**For Being Recognized and Honoured As  
JCN Person Of The Year 2024.**

**Your Leadership Is An Inspiration To Many,  
And We Are Confident You Will Continue To  
Serve With Excellence And Dedication. We  
Wish You The Best Of Health, Happiness  
And God's Continued Blessings.**

**Congratulations!!!**

# Call For Bahamians To Work Together, United For The Common Good

*(Editor's Note: The following is the address given by Ms. Kimaley Jones, Chief Executive Officer of The Jones Communications Network at JCN's 24th Annual Civil Society and Person of The Year Awards, held on Monday, 27th January, 2025 at the Jones Communications Media Center on University Drive).*

We welcome you to the Jones Communications Media Center and the 24th Annual JCN Civil Society and Person of the Year Awards Ceremony. We are delighted to have so many of you here today.

Some twenty-four years ago, as a part of our civic journalistic efforts, the management of The Jones Communications Network, led by our founder,

Mr. Wendall Jones, made a decision to honour individuals in Civil Society in The Bahamas who would have used their heads, hearts and hands for the upliftment of our fellow Bahamians and to enhance our national development goals.

We do not take our responsibility as media professionals lightly. As members of the Fourth Estate, we have an ethical responsibility to our nation. Therefore, we have vowed to



continue our mission in civic education and nation building.

In our first awards ceremony, we singled out and honoured the Most Outstanding Bahamians of the Twentieth Century and honoured the Father of The Nation, the late Sir Lynden Pindling as the Man of The Century.

Since then, scores of Bahamians were honoured from the many spheres of human endeavour in The Bahamas; not only for their successes, but for leadership. This has been done without regard for one's political, religious or social affiliation. Leaders are distinguished as people who get the job done. They differ from other people in their willingness to assume responsibility, to take initiative, to plan and to carry through the tasks that need to be done.

For this, one must be willing to invest considerable personal energy. To lead actually requires more than time and energy, but it also requires heart.

It is said that while the heart is the place that is most personal, it is also most universal since we reach out to others through our hearts. It is where our values, our sense of love, commitment to duty and aspirations are incubated.

It is from the heart that our attitudes, intentions and behaviour flow.

It is the repository of good and evil, love and hate — the place where we most need the Divine's touch.

The Bible tells the story of Deborah who was a Prophet, Judge and Military Leader. Deborah helped Israel defeat the Canaanites; and was the only female Judge mentioned in the Hebrew Bible. She was a leader who helped Israel trust the Lord. Her story reveals that women are not inferior to men, since both are created in the image and likeness of God. Deborah's story is an example of selflessness, service and sacrificial love.

We have come to salute and recognise a woman who, like the Biblical Deborah, has displayed great strength of character and warmth of heart ... a heart for the people, a heart for community, a heart for the organization she now leads and a deep love of her country. Shanta Knowles has made history. We are confident that she will make us proud. Indeed, she has made The Bahamas a safer place by her examples of diligence, loyalty and integrity in the execution of her duties on the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

We believe that our Civil Society will improve for the better when future generations of Bahamians emulate persons like our honouree, and as we strive for excellence in all that we do and work together as a people, united for the common good and continued development of this nation.







## Congratulations

We extend our warmest congratulations to Commissioner Knowles on her recent appointment as the new Commissioner of Police. We are excited to welcome her to this vital role and look forward to continuing to foster a strong and collaborative partnership with the RBPF to ensure the safety and security of our community and our visitors. Together, we will continue to uphold the values of excellence and service and contribute to a brighter and safer future for The Bahamas.

# “Bahamian Excellence Is All Around Us,” Says PM



*(Editor’s Note: The following are the remarks by Prime Minister The Hon. Philip Davis at the 24th Annual JCN Person of The Year Awards honouring Police Commissioner Shanta Knowles).*

It was important for me to be here today as we celebrate an extraordinary woman, a trailblazer, and someone who has made all of us incredibly proud—Commissioner Shanta Knowles.

Today, we honor her remarkable journey and reflect on the values that make her story so inspiring to us all.

I would like to take a moment to publicly thank JCN for the invitation to share in this moment with you, and for consistently providing the Person of the Year Awards as a platform for celebrating Bahamian greatness.

There are many giants among us worthy of recognition - I am a believer that Bahamian excellence is all around us. And JCN provides us an opportunity to come together in ways that we rarely do to recognise the achievements of great Bahamian men and women, like Shanta Knowles, who have made meaningful and indelible contributions to our society.

I applaud the entire JCN team for its efforts to honour our great nation builders. Growing up on Cat Island, I learned early that where you start does not have to define where you finish. Life was simple, and resources limited, but my grandparents taught me that faith, hard work, and humility can take you places you never could imagine. Commissioner Knowles’s journey reflects that same truth, reminding us of what is possible when determination and opportunity meet.

Shanta’s story began in Rock Sound, Eleuthera, in a close-knit community that nurtured her values and shaped her character. At 15, she had an encounter that changed her life. She met Mrs. Allerdycy Strachan, the first female gazetted officer in the Royal Bahamas Police Force. For a young girl from a small settlement, seeing someone from her own community achieve something so remarkable was life-changing. It gave her the courage to dream bigger, to see herself in a leadership role, and to believe that anything was possible.

In 1990, Shanta left the comfort of Eleuthera and moved to New Providence to join the Police College. That leap of

faith was not easy, but she approached it with courage and an unwavering sense of purpose. Over the years, she climbed the ranks, from her early days in the Southern Division to her groundbreaking leadership at the Criminal Investigations Department, where she became the first woman to lead.

There’s a moment in her career that stands out to me. When the former Commissioner asked his senior officers who was ready to take on the challenging role of leading the Northern Bahamas, only Shanta stepped forward. She didn’t hesitate. She answered the call because that’s the kind of leader she is—someone who embraces responsibility and leads with courage and confidence. Who does not run away from responsibility but towards it.

Her leadership has been defined by her commitment to serving others. She has dedicated her career to fighting for justice, helping victims of crime, and strengthening communities across The Bahamas. She is more than a leader; she is a role model for every young Bahamian girl who dares to dream of a future filled with possibility.

Today, as we celebrate Commissioner Knowles’s historic appointment as the first female Commissioner of Police, let us take a moment to reflect on what this means for our country. This is not only about breaking barriers or glass ceilings; it is a testament to what we can achieve as a nation when we believe in ourselves and uplift one another.

Shanta, you have made history, and you have made us all proud. Your journey is an inspiration to every Bahamian, reminding us that with faith, hard work, and perseverance, we can achieve greatness.

As we look to the future, I leave you with a scripture that I believe is a guiding light for all leaders. Proverbs 3:5-6 says: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

Commissioner Knowles, may this truth guide in your new historic role. We have confidence in you, and we stand with you every step of the way.

Congratulations, and may God bless you and The Bahamas.



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CELEBRATING

SIXTY FIVE YEARS  
1959-2024



CONGRATULATIONS!

TO  
THE PERSON OF THE  
YEAR 2025

SHANTA KNOWLES



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*The Clergy, Vestry, Wardens and  
worshipping Family of Christ the King  
extend congratulatory remarks to*

*Commissioner Shanta Knowles*

*on her appointment as  
the Commissioner of  
The Royal Bahamas Police Force  
and on being  
the First Female  
to hold this position in  
The Commonwealth of The Bahamas*

*"The Church that Plans Its Work and Works Its Plan"*



*Congratulations!*

**SHANTA KNOWLES**



## JCN PERSON OF THE YEAR 2024

On behalf of Commander Defence Force Commodore Raymond King, his Executive Team, Officers, Warrant Officers and Enlisted Members of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, we proudly congratulate Commissioner of Police Shanta Knowles on being named the Jones Communication Person of the Year for 2024. Your integrity, hard work, and excellence have earned you this well-deserved honor. You are an inspiration to us all!



# CONGRATS & BEST WISHES

## SHANTA KNOWLES COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

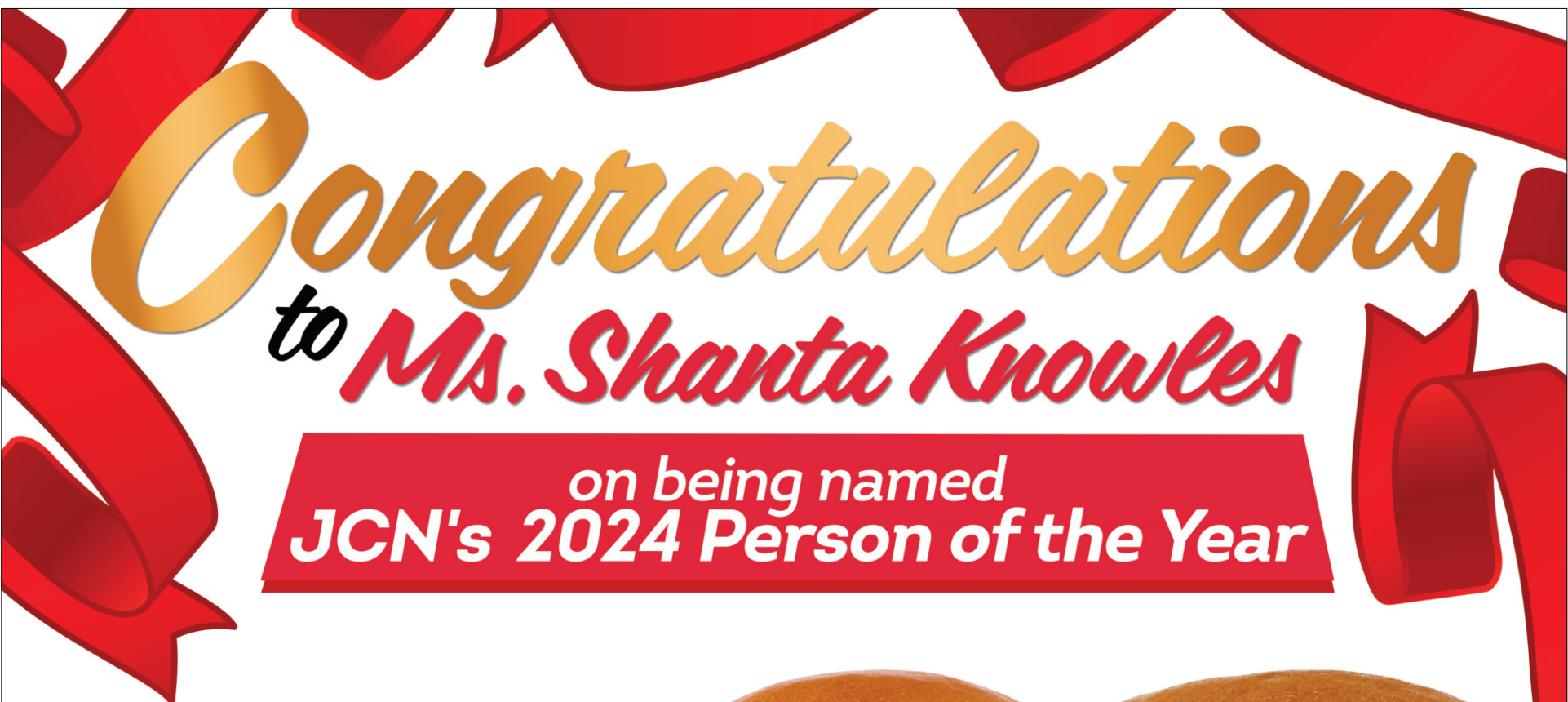
Our Congratulations & Best Wishes are extended to **Shanta Knowles**, our newly appointed **Commissioner of Police**.

A new era in the Bahamas begins with Shanta as our first Bahamian female Police Commissioner.

The Management & Staff of Aquapure support and look forward to her success.



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CONGRATULATES



COMMISSIONER OF POLICE  
**MS. SHANTA E.  
 KNOWLES, OM**

On being named  
**JCN 2024 Person of the Year**

