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**Sisters in the Spirit Ministries, Inc. Presents 3rd HOPE Award to Randall Hazard**

**(Gloucester Point, VA)** – Sisters in the Spirit Ministries, Inc. (SIS) has presented its third **HOPE** Award to Randall Hazard of Gloucester County, VA. **HOPE** is an acronym for **H**elping **O**thers with **P**urpose and **E**mpowerment The Award recognizes individuals in the Gloucester/Mathews VA communities who have demonstrated willingness to go above and beyond expectations to make a difference in the lives of others, through their commitment, efforts, facilitation, or service to others. Randall was unanimously selected by the SIS Board of Directors as someone “who is making a multi-generational impact, even though he is under the age of 30.”

Highlights from Randall’s nomination narrative explained that *“this is not a typical* ***HOPE*** *Award nomination, because [he] is not a typical community servant. His impact comes from the efforts he makes so that the future can learn from the past. He is a leader, under the age of 30, who is focused on increasing African American participation in historic preservation.*

*Marcus Garvey pointed out that “a people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.” Telling stories about who we are, where we came from, the dynamics of our family, and other things that have been important to us over our entire lifetime, help us better understand what made us the people that we are today. It’s important because many of our ambitions and dreams are built on the foundations of our past. Without these connections to the past, we have no form of identity. Without identity, we have no meaning and no strength.”*

Randall is facilitating accessibility to complete and accurate African American history, particularly as it relates to Gloucester County, Virginia. Through his efforts he is inspiring current and future generations to honor, respect, and connect with their roots and legacy.

He is a recipient of Preservation Virginia’s *Voices Remembered* Fellowship through the organization’s African American Fellows Program. Although the Fellowship award is prestigious, the true impact of Randall’s contribution to the community goes beyond the award. Preservation Virginia focuses on creating opportunities for African American historical preservationists and increasing the number of African Americans in the profession. Through his leadership he can help create new career paths and inspire and engage young people in educational opportunities and in better stewardship of our historical resources.

SIS President Rev. Dr. Katrina W. Brown said that “Randall exemplifies the spirit of the **HOPE** Award. It is designed to recognize those who are making a difference in our community through all that he facilitates and contributes towards keeping us connected to our roots.”

She further noted that “at a time when history, and especially African American history is being disrespected, demeaned, disregarded, and demolished, he embodies the words found in Psalm 145:4: *One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.* Randall’s work helps us all remember how far God has brought us,” Dr. Brown said.

SIS is an outreach ministry created to empower, enlighten, and encourage Christian women in better serving the Lord. The organization created The **HOPE** Award in September 2021 as a public acknowledgement of those impacting others by “trusting in the Lord and doing good”, in accordance with God’s Word. Previous HOPE Award recipients are Brenda Dixon, former president of the Gloucester NAACP, and Doug and Kim Hibbs, owners of Gloucester’s Courthouse Restaurant. **HOPE** Award recipients receive a cash award, a specially designed certificate of appreciation, and a recognition ceremony held in their honor.

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**PHOTO ATTACHED - RANDALL HAZARD**

**A person in a suit

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