Ghana Physicians and Surgeons Foundation Bids Farewell to outgoing Ambassador, Lt. General Joseph Henry Smith

On Friday, January 27th 2017, more than a hundred people gathered at the Ghana Embassy in Washington DC to bid farewell to Lt. General Joseph Henry Smith, outgoing Ghana Ambassador to the United States. The event was attended by many prominent people including Deputy Chief of Mission, Skido Achulo; Head of Defense Attache, Brigadier General Seidu Adam and representatives from the US State Department. The Ghana Physicians and Surgeons Foundation was represented by Dr. Theodora Fynn, Vice President.

Former President John Dramani Mahama appointed Ambassador Smith, a former career member of Ghana’s military and former Defense Minister, to be Ghana’s ambassador to the United States in September 2014. During his time in office, Ambassador Smith worked tirelessly to promote the relationship between the United States and Ghana.

Ambassador Smith was also very active in the Ghanaian Community and had an open door policy. His motto was ‘Ghana First.’ One of greatest achievement is the formation of the Diaspora Desk, which is responsible for providing sustainable link between Ghanaians in the diaspora and agencies to bring about financial growth and development for Ghana. “He is a friend of our foundation”, said Dr Fynn, VP of GPSF. The Ambassador attended the Foundation’s 13th annual conference in 2015. His message was on ‘The Role and Contribution of Ghanaian Healthcare Professionals in the Diaspora to Healthcare Delivery in Ghana’.

Other activities he participated in last year include: The Ghana Embassy’s participation in the US Cultural Tourism program, dubbed Passport DC in Washington DC, which attracted 4,574 visitors to the Chancery on Saturday, May 7, 2016; The building dedication for the Emmanuel Presbyterian Mission Church in Woodbridge, Virginia on October 9, 2016 where he opened and dedicated a new building the Church had acquired; A prayer session, under the auspices of the Ghana Embassy and the Council of Ghanaian Interfaith Alliance (COGIA) on October 9, 2016.

Prior to becoming an ambassador, Lt. Gen. Smith served as the Defense, Military, Naval and Air Attaché (DMNAA) in Washington and held many positions in the Ghana Armed Forces.

The Executives and members of the GPSF wish him and his wife well in their new pursuits.

Dr Fynn presenting plaque to Ambassador Smith