

BILL NO. 31-0121

Thirty-first Legislature of the Virgin Islands

May 20, 2015

A Resolution honoring and commending Senator Bingley G. Richardson, Sr., for his career accomplishments and contributions to the Virgin Islands through his service in government, the marine industry, media, culture and the arts

PROPOSED BY: Senator Myron D. Jackson

1 **WHEREAS**, Bingley G. Richardson, Sr., was born on September 18, 1935, to the late Bingley
2 E. Richardson of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands and Lilian M. Smith of Jost Van Dyke, British Virgin
3 Islands; and

4 **WHEREAS**, as a young child, he attended primary schools in St. Thomas and Puerto Rico and
5 attended high schools in St. Thomas and the Bronx, New York; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in 1954, Senator Richardson joined the United States Air Force, serving in
7 Newfoundland, Canada and Korea; and

8 **WHEREAS**, while in the Air Force, Senator Richardson simultaneously completed his high
9 school education and studied courses at the University of Maryland; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Senator Richardson left the military service with an honorable discharge after
11 completing four years of service; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in 1958, Senator Richardson returned to New York, where he was employed by
2 International Telephone & Telegraph; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 1968, Senator Richardson decided to return to his beloved Virgin Islands, where
4 he held positions in the Virgin Islands Government departments of Housing and Health; and

5 **WHEREAS**, while working for the Government and to assist in supporting his growing family,
6 Senator Richardson conducted charters and fished using his twenty-five foot boat; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Senator Richardson also became actively engaged in social concerns facing his
8 community; and

9 **WHEREAS**, one such concern was organizing citizens in support of the “Free Beach
10 Movement”, advocating allowing public access to all beaches in the Virgin Islands; and

11 **WHEREAS**, never one for just sitting behind a desk, Senator Richardson left public service and
12 obtained his U.S. Coast Guard certification as a 100-ton vessel operator, the first Virgin Islander to do
13 so; and

14 **WHEREAS**, with his certification in hand, he was named Operations Manager of Lindberg Bay
15 Center, Inc., an inter-island ferry service, which included in its fleet the *Bomba Charger*, the *Bomba*
16 *Challenger*, and the *Bomba Cruiser*; and

17 **WHEREAS**, in 1978, Senator Richardson purchased the *Bomba Charger* and became owner of
18 Charger, Inc.; and

19 **WHEREAS**, under his leadership, Charger, Inc. added regularly scheduled ferry service to
20 Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Senator Richardson expanded his enterprise and soon after opened Tortola Wharf
22 Bar and Restaurant, which specialized in local cuisines; and

23 **WHEREAS**, in his desire to make a greater difference in his community, Senator Richardson
24 ran for a seat in the Legislature of the Virgin Islands; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in 1988, in his capacity as a senator, Senator Richardson served as Vice President
2 of the 17th Legislature and prepared and presented testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives
3 and also chaired the Committee on Education and Youth; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Senator Richardson was re-elected to the 18th Legislature and chaired the
5 Committee on Planning and Natural Resources; and

6 **WHEREAS**, as a member of the 18th Legislature, Senator Richardson also authored legislation
7 and served as Chairman of the Great Seal Commission, which selected our present Great Seal of the
8 Virgin Islands; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in 1990, he ran unsuccessfully for Lieutenant Governor of the Virgin Islands on
10 the Independent ticket; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in 1993, Senator Richardson was re-elected for a third term as a member of the
12 20th Legislature, where he served as President of Legislature; and

13 **WHEREAS**, among his accomplishments in the 20th Legislature, the Government of the Virgin
14 Islands purchased the West Indian Company, giving the Virgin Islands control over its ports and working
15 with his colleagues, the Maritime Academy for the Virgin Islands was established; and

16 **WHEREAS**, upon leaving the Legislature after serving his third term, Senator Richardson
17 became the Marine Manager and the Port's Facility Security Officer for the British Virgin Islands Ports
18 Authority; and

19 **WHEREAS**, in this capacity, he developed a Port's Security Plan, which ensured the ports and
20 harbors for each of the British Virgin Islands met the United States Homeland Security Readiness
21 Standards, making them among the first in the Caribbean to be in compliance; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Senator Richardson also started B.G. Richardson Associates, a marine consulting
23 firm; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Senator Richardson currently holds a 300-ton Master's Captain's license; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Senator Richardson is also a certified scuba-diver and aquatic instructor; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Senator Richardson was the Director of the Sea Explorer’s program and was the
2 Associate Director of Aquatics Northeast Region Camping School for the Boy Scouts of America; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Senator Richardson has produced, directed and narrated several educational films
4 on the history and culture of the Virgin Islands; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Senator Richardson also organized Cavalcade Africana, a carnival troupe
6 portraying cultural heritage themes; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in 1985, one such theme of promoting Virgin Islands togetherness resulted in the
8 popular play, *Strummo Wedding*, which was performed at the Reichhold Center for the Arts; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in 1987, in recognition of his contributions to the public school system, Senator
10 Richardson received the “Volunteer of the Year” award; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Senator Richardson has also served on the board of directors for Self-Help, Inc.
12 and the V.I. Power Boat Racing Association; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in addition to his many civic activities, Senator Richardson has often collaborated
14 with personnel at WSTA 1340 AM Radio and was a regular guest on the Walter and Brownie program,
15 where he continued to discuss topics on Virgin Islands culture and perspectives; and

16 **WHEREAS**, as recently as 2007, Senator Richardson traveled with a contingent of Virgin
17 Islanders to Ghana in recognition of that country’s 50 years of independence; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Senator Richardson was married for 53 years to the former Marilyn E. Donovan
19 (deceased) and is the father of seven children: Janice Richardson, Laura Ofoha, Bingley G. Richardson,
20 Jr., Stephanie Richardson, Shirley Richardson-Edwards, Sekou Richardson and Taiwo Richardson and
21 19 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Senator Richardson continues to be a mentor to his family and member of the
23 community; Now, Therefore,

24 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:*

1 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands,
2 honors and commends Senator Bingley G. Richardson, Sr., for his career accomplishments, his
3 contributions to the Virgin Islands and for his accomplishments through his service in government, the
4 marine industry, media, culture, and the arts.

5 **SECTION 2.** In recognition and appreciation of his contributions to the people of the Virgin
6 Islands, the President of the Legislature, or the President's designee, shall prepare and present a perma
7 plaque copy of this Resolution to Senator Bingley G. Richardson, Sr., at an appropriate ceremony.

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BILL SUMMARY

10 This resolution honors and commends Senator Bingley G. Richardson, Sr., for his career
11 accomplishments, his contributions to the Virgin Islands and his accomplishments through his service
12 in government, the marine industry, media, culture, and the arts.

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15 **BR15-0537/April 28, 2015/SLR**

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