

Good afternoon Senator Jackson; members of the Committee on Culture, Historic Preservation, Youth and Recreation; other members of the Thirty-First Legislature of the Virgin Islands; fellow Virgin Islanders and friends:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of Bill No. 31-0449, “An Act commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the establishment of the Town of Cruz Bay.”

In memorializing the establishment of Cruz Bay in 1766, and thereby recognizing the significance of the town’s history to the Territory, the Thirty-First Legislature is achieving something more significant than simply acknowledging a notable historic event. It is carrying out the honorable act of retrieving a valuable piece of cultural patrimony, which, through time and circumstances, has receded from the collective memory and stands in imminent danger of being lost.

My hope is that this act of commemoration will bring new focus to Cruz Bay’s rich history, help to foster greater appreciation for its heritage and the preservation of its cultural resources, and insure that centuries of contributions by past Virgin Islanders are not diminished or lost.

Bill No. 31-0449 serves to remind us that the preservation of historical memory is key to the retention of a unique cultural identity for a place and its people.

I hereby publically express my wholehearted support for this historic legislation.

Respectfully submitted, David W. Knight Sr.

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