

**Committee on Culture,
Historic Preservation, Youth and Recreation**

31st Legislature of the Virgin Islands
Cleone Creque Legislative Chamber
St. John



Presentation by

Pamela C. Richards
Chairman

**Testimony of Pamela C. Richards
Chairman
Virgin Islands Transfer Centennial Commission
Committee on Culture, Historic Preservation, Youth and Recreation
September 19, 2016**

GOOD AFTERNOON, HONORABLE CHAIRMAN SENATOR MYRON D. JACKSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, YOUTH AND RECREATION, OTHER ESTEEMED COMMITTEE MEMBERS, NON-COMMITTEE SENATORS OF THE 31ST LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, MEMBERS OF THE VIEWING AND LISTENING PUBLIC, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I AM PAMELA C. RICHARDS, CHAIRMAN OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS TRANSFER CENTENNIAL COMMISSION. THE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION WAS INVITED TO COMMENT ON BILL No. 31-0449,

AN ACT COMMEMORATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TOWN OF CRUZ BAY; DIRECTING THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR AND VARIOUS ENTITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO PLAN A CEREMONY CELEBRATING THE ANNIVERSARY; AND ENCOURAGING ENTITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO MARKET CRUZ BAY AS A CULTURAL HERITAGE DESTINATION AND WORK WITH LOCAL ARTISANS TO DEVELOP CULTURAL PRODUCTS IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY.

THE SHORT ANSWER: WE THINK THIS MILESTONE IN VIRGIN ISLANDS HISTORY IS WORTHY OF RECOGNITION.

NEVERTHELESS, AS THE MEMBERS OF THIS BODY WILL RECALL, THE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF "FORMULATING PLANS AND MAKING PREPARATIONS TO COMMEMORATE AND CELEBRATE IN THE YEAR 2017 THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRANSFER OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS FROM DENMARK TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."

AS WE STAND IN SUPPORT OF AND HEARTILY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY ENCOURAGE THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TOWN OF CRUZ BAY THE COMMISSION EAGER TO COLLABORATE WITH THE ORGANIZERS AND BRAND THE EVENT AS A CENTENNIAL LEGACY EVENT; HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO--NOR IS OUR MANDATE TO--AS IS SUGGESTED BY SECTION FIVE, TO ASSIST VARIOUS GOVERNMENT ENTITIES *COORDINATE PLANS AND ACTIVITIES TO MARKET CRUZ BAY AS A*

CULTURAL HERITAGE DESTINATION AND WORK WITH LOCAL ARTISTS AND ARTISANS TO DEVELOP CULTURAL HERITAGE TOURISM PRODUCTS IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY.

IN CREATING SIGNATURE PROJECTS AND EVENTS FOR THIS TERRITORY-WIDE, MULTI-YEAR CENTENNIAL OBSERVATION, IT IS OUR GOAL TO DEVELOP AND SUPPORT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE INCLUSIVENESS, EMPOWERMENT, A SENSE OF PRIDE, STEWARDSHIP AND A LEGACY FOR ALL VIRGIN ISLANDERS.

IT IS NOT OUR MANDATE TO UNDERTAKE THE PLANNING OF YET ANOTHER ACTIVITY. I REMIND THIS INSTITUTION THAT OUR COMMISSION MEMBERS ARE A SEVENTEEN-MEMBER VOLUNTEER CORPS, WHO DO NOT RECEIVE ANY COMPENSATION FOR THE ENORMOUS CHARGE THAT WE HAVE ALREADY UNDERTAKEN.

WE FULLY SUPPORT THIS ACTIVITY AND SUGGEST THAT A GROUP BE FORMED TO ORGANIZE AND PLAN THIS ACTIVITY AND SUBSEQUENT MARKETING EVENTS—A GROUP THAT IS SEPARATE FROM THE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION. WE WILL THEREAFTER PARTNER WITH THIS GROUP IN ANY OF THE ACTIVITIES THAT ARE DEVELOPED BUT WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO NOR CAN WE ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANOTHER MONUMENTAL TASK. WE ACTIVELY SEEK AND ADVERTISE THAT NEWLY CREATED OR EXISTING EVENTS ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR AND BECOME OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED EVENTS. THIS 250TH ANNIVERSARY HAS THE HALLMARK OF BECOMING A CENTENNIAL LEGACY EVENT.

WE INVITE YOU TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CENTENNIAL EVENTS AT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.VITRANSFERCENTENNIAL.ORG OR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AT UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS CENTENNIAL 2017. WE APPRECIATE AND ENCOURAGE YOUR SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE IN CARRYING OUT OUR OWN MANDATE AND WISH THE 250TH COMMEMORATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CRUZ BAY MUCH SUCCESS AND LOOK FORWARD TO ADDING THEIR ACTIVITIES TO OUR CALENDAR AND TO COLLABORATING IN THE ACTIVITIES THAT ARE DEVELOPED. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

Virgin Islands Transfer Centennial Commission

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Patrice Harley

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Executive Director

Government Officials

Virgin Islands:

Governor Kenneth E. Mapp

Commissioner Beverly Nicholson Doty

United States:

Superintendent Joel Tutein

COMMITTEES

BUDGET & DEVELOPMENT (FUNDRAISING/SPONSORSHIP)

HISTORY & HERITAGE / PUBLICATIONS (COLLECTIBLE MERCHANDISE)

KICK-OFF / CLOSING CEREMONIES

PROGRAM (EVENT CELEBRATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS)

PUBLIC RELATIONS

THEMED TRIMESTERS

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2015
VIRGIN ISLANDS PRE-COLUMBIAN PERIOD

JANUARY-APRIL 2016
INDIGENOUS VIRGIN ISLAND INHABITANTS

MAY THRU AUGUST 2016
COLUMBUS AND EARLY EUROPEAN ARRIVAL

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2016
DANISH COLONIALISM AND THE TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

JANUARY-APRIL 2017
EVENTS LEADING UP TO TRANSFER DAY

APRIL-AUGUST 2017
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS UNDER AMERICAN RULE

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2017
A LOOK TOWARDS THE FUTURE: CONTINUED PROGRESS TOWARDS EQUAL
CITIZENSHIP OR SELF DETERMINATION

CALENDAR 2017 (TENTATIVE)

Centennial Art Exhibit – Territorial February 1 – April 5, 2017

Centennial Concert Kick-Off

January 28, 2017	St. John
February 18, 2017	St. Croix
March 18, 2017	St. Thomas

Centennial Cultural Expo

February 25, 2017	St. Thomas
March 03, 2017	St. John
March 11, 2017	St. John

Government House Centennial Recognition Reception

March 27, 2017	St. Thomas
March 28, 2017	St. John
March 29, 2017	St. Croix

Centennial Parade – Territorial March 30, 2017

Centennial Gala Ball (fee based)

March 31, 2017	St. Thomas – Marriott Frenchman's Reef
April 01, 2017	St. Croix – Renaissance Carambola Beach Resort and Spa
April 02, 2017	St. John - Westin

Transfer Day Symposium

May 12, 2017	St. Thomas
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Centennial Roundtable Summit: Where We Are Going from Here?

June 09, 2017	St. Croix
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Centennial - Arts & Crafts Fair

June 17, 2017	St. Thomas
July 01, 2017	St. John
July 03, 2017	St. Croix

Centennial Storytelling & Folklore

September 02, 2017	St. Thomas
October 07, 2017	St. Croix
November 04, 2017	St. John



Virgin Islands Transfer Centennial Commission

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