

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES,  
VETERANS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

**BILL NO. 31-0158**

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**Thirty-first Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**July 10, 2015**

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An Act amending title 1 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 11 by adding section 200f establishing the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's Day

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senator Justin Harrigan, Sr.

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1       **WHEREAS**, the men and women of America's Armed Forces selflessly serve to protect  
2       our nation, are among our greatest heroes, and, in many cases, have given their lives so that  
3       Americans could live in freedom and security; and

4       **WHEREAS**, the heartache of the loss of a son or daughter in the service to our  
5       nation is something that no mother should ever have to experience; and

6       **WHEREAS**, after receiving notice of her son's death in World War I, Grace Darling  
7       Seibold devoted her energy to volunteering in a local hospital and reaching out to other mothers  
8       whose sons had died in military service; and

9       **WHEREAS**, she organized a group of 25 of these special mothers on June 4, 1928, to  
10      make plans to establish a national organization to be known as American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

1 (Gold Star Mothers), named after the gold star service flag that families hung in their windows  
2 in honor of family members who had died in military service; and

3 **WHEREAS**, on January 5, 1929, the organization was incorporated under the laws of  
4 the District of Columbia with a mission to perpetuate the ideals of American freedom and  
5 democracy for which their children had so gallantly fought and died; and

6 **WHEREAS**, today, there are more than 200 chapters of Gold Star Mothers across  
7 the United States composed of mothers who have lost a son or daughter while serving our country;  
8 and

9 **WHEREAS**, Gold Star Mothers assist veterans of the Armed Forces and their dependants  
10 in presenting claims to the federal Veterans Administration, aiding the men and women who  
11 served and were wounded or incapacitated during hostilities, and providing countless hours of  
12 volunteer work and personal service in veterans hospitals throughout the country; and

13 **WHEREAS**, mothers who have lost a son or daughter while they were serving our country  
14 have made a tremendous sacrifice for our nation, and our nation has recognized that sacrifice  
15 by designating the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's Day; and

16 **WHEREAS**, this day of recognition and appreciation may not take away the pain of their  
17 loss, but it is one way to honor the Gold Star Mothers for their devotion to our country and for  
18 the efforts and sacrifices they have endured to preserve our freedom; and

19 **WHEREAS**, it is fitting and proper for the Virgin Islands to honor the Gold Star Mothers  
20 for their many outstanding contributions to the United States of America and its veterans, and to  
21 ensure their sacrifices are properly recognized; Now, Therefore,

22 ***Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

23 **SECTION 1.** Title 1 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 11 is amended by adding section 200f  
24 to read:

