

September 23, 2015

To: The Honorable Justin Harrigan, Sr.
Chairman of the Government Services, Consumer and Veterans Affairs
31st Legislature of the Virgin Islands
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

From: Delita Francis
P. O. Box 306513
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00803

Testimony

As a Gold Star Mother who lost a son while serving his country, I graciously accepted the invitation from Senator Justin Harrigan, Sr., Chairman of the Committee on Government Services and Consumer and Veterans Affairs.

I am humble and pleased to be granted the opportunity to testify before the Committee to Bill No. 31-0158; giving honour to the families of our fallen soldiers by adding section 200f to Title 1 of the Virgin Islands Code Chapter 11, to sanction the last Sunday in September as "***Gold Star Mother's Day***" an annual Day of recognition to be celebrated and a License Plate bearing the American Flag and the Virgin Islands Flag in the left corner; a gold star in the right corner; the engraved words "Gold Star Family # ***; below would be the engraved words U. S. Armed Forces and at the very bottom of the plate in the bold letters would read "SOME GAVE ALL" on behalf of myself and other mothers who have lost their sons or daughters.

Our Sons and Daughters bravely stepped up and served in the United States Armed Forces, they have given their lives to preserve the Freedom we enjoyed and perhaps have taken for granted. Gold Star Mothers "do not take it for granted". Why? You may ask, because... "We know the indescribable Pain of the loss of a Child in a War." My son, Lyle Turnbull died October 18, 2013 in Kuwait.

Thanking you in advance for honouring "***Gold Star Mothers***" request.

Delita F. Francis

My son Staff Sergeant, Lyle D. Turnbull 31 years at the time of his death, was born August 12, 1982 in St. Thomas Virgin Islands and a 2000 graduate of the Charlotte Amalie High School. He entered active duty March 2002, as a Multichannel Transmission Systems Operator, Maintainer. He was stationed in Germany and Ford Hood, Texas. He was assigned to the 62nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion 11th Signal Brigade.

Staff Sergeant Turnbull awards and decoration include three Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, three Meritorious Unit Citations, three Army Good Conduct Medals, The National Defence Service Medal, The Iraq Campaign Medal (2 Campaign Star), the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, The Professional Development Ribbon, The Army Service Ribbon and five Overseas Service Ribbons.

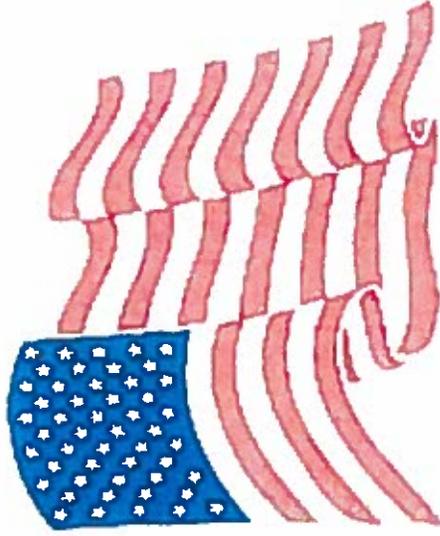
“Staff Sergeant Turnbull was a highly esteemed non-commissioned officer.” said his Brigade Commander of 11th Signal Brigade. He was a Great American Soldier, the Soldier with whom Staff Sergeant served, respected and loved him. No words can bring Lyle back, but his memory will endure throughout the history of the Messenger Battalion and the Thunderbird Brigade.

He studied psychology at the Central Texas College. He died at age 31 in Camp Arijan Kuwait, while participating in the Army Ten Miler Shadow Run. He was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. Staff Sergeant Turnbull was a great American Soldier and represented the United States Virgin Islands to the highest standards.

Thank you in advance for honouring this request.

Delita F. Francis
Gold Star Mother

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS



MY SON

U.S. ARMY

GOLD STAR



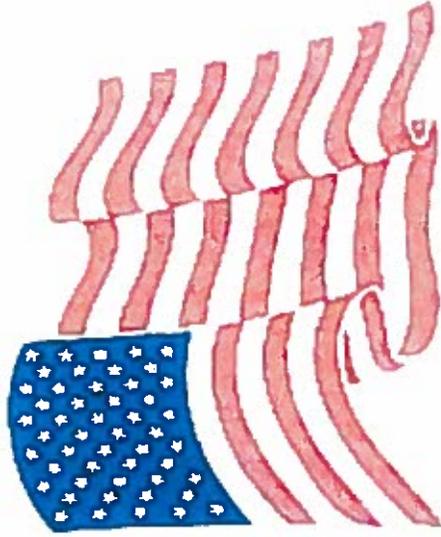
MOTHER

SOME GAVE ALL

Designed By: Delita Francis

February 24, 2014

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS



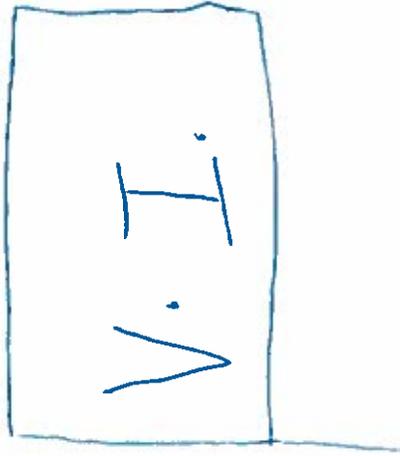
GOLD STAR



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U.S. ARMED FORCES

FAMILY



SOME GAVE ALL

Designed By: Delita Francis

February 24, 2014