



**GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES**

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**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

**PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
SERVICES, CONSUMER AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Thursday, October 29, 2015

**An Act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, section 8a, subsection (b) by adding a new paragraph (11) relating to the duties of the Office of Veterans Affairs in connection with inscribing names on memorials.**

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Good day Senator Justin Harrigan, Sr., Chairman of the Committee on Government Services, Consumer and Veterans Affairs, distinguished members of the Committee and 31st Legislature present, and to the listening and viewing Public. My name is Sean L. Krigger and I am the Acting Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for the Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office. The Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office, which is also known by its acronym VISHPO, is a Division within the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR). I am present today to offer testimony on Bill Number 31-0155 An Act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, section 8a, subsection (b) by adding a new paragraph (11) relating to the duties of the Office of Veterans Affairs in connection with inscribing names on memorials.

The Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office as mandated by both federal and territorial laws seeks to protect and preserve Prehistoric and Historic resources of the United States Virgin Islands. As a governmental agency charged with the protection of Virgin Islands historic sites and resources, the VISHPO had the fortunate opportunity in 2006 to participate in the Franklin D. Roosevelt Park renovation project, a joint effort between We From Upstreet, Inc., the then Virgin Islands Department of Housing, Parks and Recreation, the Richard Driehaus Foundation, The Trust for Public Lands, the Department of Planning and Natural Resources' then Energy Office and the Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office, the Virgin Islands Office of Veterans Affairs, the Frederick Lutheran Church and the Charles W. Turnbull Administration to redevelop the Park in the historic Kongens Quarter of Charlotte Amalie. The project had two primary goals;

1. Renovate the Park to enhance its historic architectural character with accommodations for families with children, musical events and passive recreation.
2. Redevelopment of the President Franklin D. Roosevelt Monument and the Veteran's Memorial. The goal for the President's monument was a bust representing President Roosevelt at his age when he visited the Virgin Islands and shortly thereafter when his administration provided many of the social welfare programs for the islands. The focus on the Veteran's Memorial was to create a memorial monument space that paid homage and honor to fallen Virgin Islanders in active duty within the five branches of the United States Arm Services. This memorial space also had to accommodate special memorial events and ceremonies for Veterans Day and Plaque placement ceremonies.

The VISHPO in its support of the project contributed to the design of the memorial and assisted with the ordering of the plaques and name plates for the fallen soldiers Military branch markers. The plaques and name plates were supplied by Centec Cast Metals Products of Fremont, Ohio. All the specifications and reordering information for the memorial are on file with Centec Cast Metals for name plates and branch plaques. The VISHPO also assisted the Department of Housing, Parks and Recreation with the ordering of the same plaques and name plates for the

Verne I. Richards Veterans Memorial Park here on St. Croix. Although I cannot speak directly to whether the Virgin Islands Office of Veterans Affairs can take on the responsibility to manage the memorials, I can say that VISHPO stands ready to assist the office with the logistics of the ordering process for new name plates and plaques and will provide copies of the previous orders for the Office of Veterans Affairs.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide this background information for the Committee's consideration; I remain available to answer any questions that you or any of the Committee members may have.