



GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



St. Croix:
Tel: (340) 773-6663

St. Thomas:
Tel: (340) 774-6100
Fax: (340) 714-0589

OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

October 29th, 2015

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

A most pleasant Good Morning to you the Honorable Senator Justin Harrigan Sr., Chairman of the Committee on Government Services, Consumer and Veterans Affairs, Committee members, other distinguished Senators of the 31st Legislature. Additional greetings to all that are physically present, listening via radio or viewing via the Legislature's LEGIT TV and to my comrades in and out of uniform known to you as the Veterans of this beloved territory. Last but certainly not least, to the pillars of the Virgin Islands Office of Veterans Affairs – Mrs. Frederick, Ms. Daniel and Ms. Chalwell on St. Thomas and Mrs. Gordon, Ms. Jeffers, and Mrs. White-Lynch on St. Croix thank you for your unwavering support to the Veterans of this territory on an everyday basis.

I am Patrick D. Farrell, Director of the Virgin Islands Office of Veterans Affairs. Today, I am present in your chambers to place on record my position in reference to **Bill No. 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.

Being that the Office of Veterans Affairs has the ability to properly verify the eligibility of service-members past and present from all branches of services, I agree whole heartedly that this is a function that should be the responsibility of the Virgin Islands Office of Veterans Affairs. It would be our pleasure to be a part of this process as this would be an honor for the family of fallen service-members to know that the sacrifices of their loved ones has not gone in vain.

Furthermore, if the acquisitions of nameplates are affordable using the very limited budget that we currently have for operational expenses, we will absorb the cost. In the event that we cannot meet the expense of purchasing these plates then we will ask for assistance through the appropriate channels.

Mr. Chairman, at this time I am available to answer any questions that you or any member of this body may have for the Office of Veterans Affairs pertaining to **Bill No. 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.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman, it is with great pleasure that we come before you on the behalf of the Veterans of this beloved territory. Thank you once again for the opportunity to address you and the Committee on Government Services, Consumer and Veterans Affairs on **Bill No. 31-0155**.