

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERANS AFFAIRS
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

BILL NO. 35-0027

Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

February 27, 2023

An Act honoring and commending Mr. Myron Corbett posthumously for his many contributions to the youth of the Territory; renaming the basketball court located in Anna's Retreat, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands as "The Myron Corbett Basketball Court"; making an appropriation to erect signage at the basketball court; and for other related purposes

PROPOSED BY: Senator Donna A. Frett-Gregory

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

1 **WHEREAS**, Myron Corbett was affectionately known as "MC" or Coach Corbet".

2 **WHEREAS**, Myron Corbett was born on April 4, 1095, to parents Margaret and Richard;

3 and

4 **WHEREAS**, he was the youngest of eight children; Hiram Solomon, Winston Solomon,

5 Arthur Solomon, Jennifer Solomon, Sylvester Charles, George Corbett, and Janice Corbett;

6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, he grew up in the Oswald Harris Court community and loved being around

8 his family, especially his brothers; and

9 **WHEREAS**, his older brothers, Winston "Brother" Solomon, Arthur "Gutu" Solomon,

10 and Sylvester "Sir Charles" Charles, were all exceptionally skilled at the game of basketball;

11 and

1 **WHEREAS**, Myron Corbett spent countless hours watching and emulating his brothers
2 before eventually playing basketball himself, shortly becoming an exceptional player;

3 **WHEREAS**, after having a successful freshman year at Charlotte Amalie High School,
4 Myron Corbett’s commitment to his family took him off the island of St. Thomas to
5 Washington, D.C. to care for one of his brothers who was battling cancer; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Myron Corbett enrolled in the Paul Laurence Dunbar High School; and

7 **WHEREAS**, he excelled as a student; and

8 **WHEREAS**, after graduation from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in 1984, he
9 attended Barber-Scotia College in North Carolina, where he later graduated Magna Cum Laude
10 in 1988; earning a Bachelor of Science degree in marketing; and

11 **WHEREAS**, although Myron Corbett was living stateside, he never lost his connection
12 to the Virgin Islands; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Corbett returned home in the early 1900s after former Senator Allison
14 “Allie” Petrus expressed his interest in Mr. Corbett’s returning home to St. Thomas to help
15 develop programs that bring growth and exposure to the Territory; and

16 **WHEREAS**, after returning home to St. Thomas, Mr. Corbett started working with the
17 nationally recognized television program, “*Graffiti Street*”; and

18 **WHEREAS**, after “*Graffiti Street*” gained success on St. Thomas, he made the decision
19 to expand the show to the island of St. Croix; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Myron Corbett decided to give back to the show’s staff, primarily made up
21 of students, by organizing annual international trips that served as an opportunity for the
22 students to observe other cultures first hand; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the “*Graffiti Street*” team was able to travel to England, Germany,
24 Belgium, Holland, France, Brazil, Italy, Panama, and a variety of other places under Corbett’s
25 leadership; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the pride he felt from positively impacting the lives of students in the
2 program made him refocus his efforts to his first love, basketball; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 1991, Myron Corbett became head coach of the Charlotte Amalie High
4 School's varsity women's basketball team, helping them win ten straight championships during
5 an eleven-year timespan; and

6 **WHEREAS**, after his success, he moved on to working with the University of the Virgin
7 Islands, St. Thomas campus, women's basketball team; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Corbett's determined spirit helped the UVI team make the final four
9 before his departure; and

10 **WHEREAS**, he eventually went back to coaching the women's varsity basketball team
11 at the Charlotte Amalie High School, leading them to another championship in 2008; and

12 **WHEREAS**, as a testament to his commitment to the success of the island's youth, he
13 heled many of the high school athletes earn four-year athletic scholarships, allowing them to
14 attend college free of charge and

15 **WHEREAS**, in addition to these notable contributions, Myron Corbett held leadership
16 positions in a host of organizations and particularly took pride in being the coach of the
17 international women's basketball team, director of the V I Housing Authority Free Your Mind
18 Basketball League, and coordinator of the CAHS Character Lunch League; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Lunch League was such a hit that both radio and internet shows wanted
20 to announce the games throughout the island; ultimately making it the first lunch league to be
21 broadcasted live simultaneously on two separate radio stations; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Corbett took an interest in the entertainment industry after listening to
23 a local group called "G-Storm"; and

1 **WHEREAS**, he was so impressed by G-Storm’s talent that he paved the way for the
2 group to perform at the famous Apollo Theatre in Harlem, New York, which earned G-Storm
3 second place honors at the end of the night; and

4 **WHEREAS**, his commitment to the positive development of the Territory’s youth was
5 further depicted during his twenty-four years of service with the Department of Education for
6 the Government of the Virgin Islands; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Myron Corbett’s brilliant mind for business helped him become a hit at the
8 concession stand in the CAHS gym and inspired him to create his “CA” brand of hats and t-
9 shirts, which quickly became popular; and

10 **WHEREAS**, outside of all his accomplishments on the island and within his community,
11 his biggest achievement was his love and devotion to his family; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Myron Corbett was a dedicated son, father, brother, uncle, and friend; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Myron Corbett was able to live out his dreams every day until his passing
14 on September 1, 2017, and his legacy of greatness through service and commitment to others
15 lives on in all our hearts; Now Therefore,

16 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin
17 Islands, honors and commends Myron Corbett posthumously for his outstanding contributions
18 to the youth in the community through creating various avenues for youth engagement toward
19 success, as well as his years of service to youth as a coach at the Virgin Islands Department of
20 Education.

21 **SECTION 2.** The basketball court located in Anna’s Retreat, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
22 which is owned by the Virgin Islands Housing Authority is renamed “The Myron Corbett
23 Basketball Court”.

24 **SECTION 3.** (a) There is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, the
25 sum of \$10,000 from the General Fund of the Government of Virgin Islands to the Virgin

1 Islands Housing Authority to erect the proper signage at the basketball court as provided in
2 section 2.

3 (b) The funds appropriated in subsection (a) remain available until expended.

4 **SECTION 4.** The President of the Legislature or the President’s designee shall prepare
5 and present a perma plaque copy of this act to the family of the late Myron Corbett at an
6 appropriate ceremony.

7 **BILL SUMMARY**

8 This Act honors and commends Mr. Myron Corbett posthumously for his many
9 contributions to the youth of the Territory and renames the basketball court located in Anna’s
10 Retreat, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands that is owned by the Virgin Islands Housing Authority
11 (“VIHA”) as “The Myron Corbett Basketball Court”. The bill further makes an appropriation
12 of \$10,000 from the General Fund to the VIHA to erect the signage at the basketball court.

13 **BR23-0011/January 13, 2023/PFA/Updated 02/24/23/GC**