

April 23, 2023

Honorable Carla J. Joseph
Chairwoman
Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection
Legislature of the Virgin Islands
Capitol Building, Charlotte Amalie
P.O. Box 1690
St. Thomas, VI 00804

RE: Testimony Bill No. 35-0027

Good day Senator Carla J. Joseph, Chairwoman of the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection, members of the committee, all other Senators present, and Sponsor of Bill 35-0027, Senator Donna Frett-Gregory.

My name is Shayla S. Solomon, and I have the distinct honor on behalf of the family of the late Myron Corbett to greet this body and take a moment to say thank you for the recognition of an outstanding Virgin Islander who I got to call Uncle Myron. The family is truly touched by the actions of Senator Donna Frett Gregory and this body in recognizing him for his countless contributions, and for renaming the basketball court located in Annas Retreat, near his home, the Myron Corbett Basketball Court. Bill 35-0027 provides a detailed synopsis of his extraordinary life, a life of service, a life filled with purpose, and a passion to make a difference.

Ask anyone about Corbett, Coach Corbett, Myron, MC, or my uncle and they will certainly have a lot to say. But regardless of the content of their words or context in which it is presented, one common theme will always surface. Myron Corbett cared. Mediocrity was not in his vocabulary, and he ensured that those around him strived to always do their best. He especially wanted to see the youth of the Virgin Islands thrive and reach greater heights in their lives.

Undoubtedly, he was stern. He was a force to be reckoned with, but that was because Corbett knew your true potential, even if you could not see it. He pushed and pushed until greatness was revealed. Bill 35-0027 speaks of accomplishments, championships, scholarships, innovative ideas, community involvement, and his innate pioneering attributes.

There is no doubt that he is deserving of this honor, and to have this bill presented before this body during his birth month, exactly three weeks after his birthday is a gift that I know my uncle would appreciate. We lost him in 2017, he was truly gone too soon, but his legacy will forever live on as a distinguished educator, public servant, community advocate, skilled coach, visionary, and embodiment of Virgin Islands pride.

Uncle Myron wore many hats and with each role he gave selflessly of his time, efforts, and talents in countless ways. His unwavering standard of excellence, and stellar work ethic stretched across all areas of his professional, civic, and community involvement. He was tough, but it was a testament of his character and the vested interest possessed for the place that he called home. He

opened the door to a world of opportunities for our young people, and that is commendable. Corbett always had their backs, even if he was speaking at a volume that me be considered shouting. He had their backs on and off the court, on school campus, in communities, on television sets, on trips, in difficult meetings with administrators, and by remaining steadfast in all of his endeavors. He did not just talk the talk; he backed it with all that he had to give, and we loved him for it.

On behalf of his family, we say thank you Chairwoman Joseph, Senators, and Bill Sponsor Senator Frett-Gregory for recognizing Myron Corbett through Bill No. 35-0027.

Regards,

Shayla S. Solomon

Shayla S. Solomon
Niece of Myron Corbett