

Good Day Honorable Senators,

I am Margaret Sprauve Martin, a proud St. Johnian, unapologetic Virgin Islander and former student of the Honorable Almando “Rocky” Liburd. I currently reside in St. Thomas, but as the territorial high risk pregnancy physician, I travel to provide services to St. John and St. Croix as well. I love our territory and all those who are committed to serving and sharing their talents in contributing to our beautiful islands.

I appear before you today to offer support of BR 23-0214 proposed by Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr and colleagues to honor former Senator Almando "Rocky" Liburd. This Bill recognizes Senator Liburd for his service to the people of the Virgin Islands.

Senator Liburd made an early choice in life to be of service to his native land and its People. Mr. Liburd, as I first knew him, was one of my first profound/inspirational educators. He thought me Spanish/Espanol and culturally sensitive Virgin Island’s life lessons. His techniques helped me to understand, study and appreciate not only Spanish, but Virgin Islands history and pride which inspired me to return and serve our community. I can remember sitting in his class, as if it were yesterday. He remains one of my favorite teachers. I can share on behalf of myself, my siblings and many other classmates that, Mr. Liburd left a lasting impression in the lives of many of his students.

Rocky became a close family friend and later would leave his career of teaching to enter politics, supporting my father, Senator Gilbert Sprauve. Rocky was a good friend and loyal supporter of my dad and our family. After dad's stint in the Senate, Rocky threw his own hat into the ring for Senator At Large. Rocky achieved his goal in outstanding fashion; and was repeatedly rewarded at the polls by a grateful community.

Senator Liburd's legislative record can be described as outstanding through its demonstration of insightfulness, foresight and resourcefulness. Senator Liburd is deserving of the honor being bestowed.

On behalf of my family and a grateful community, I thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of BR 23-0214.

Respectfully submitted,


Margaret E Sprauve Martin, MD, MPH

