

Good day Committee Chair of the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection. Thank you for the invitation to testify for Bill No. 350116. Unfortunately, I will be undergoing medical surgical procedures today and today a d will not be able to in person or virtual testimony.

As the 15th Adjutant General of the Virgin Islands National Guard , I fully support Bill No. 35-0116 – A Resolution honoring and commending Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Gerard Galiber for his leadership in the Virgin Islands National Guard and his dedication to his country and to the people of the Virgin Islands is sponsored by Senator Novelte E. Francis, Jr.

At my request Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Galiber was promoted to the honorary rank of Brigadier General (Virgin Islands) by the Governor Albert Bryan Jr. this year in recognition of his significant contribution to establishing our National Guard. Brigadier General (VI) Galiber's strategic vision and commitment to defend the homeland by laying the foundation for our National Guard must be recognized.

Brigadier General Galiber actions cleared the path for federal recognition of our National Guard by the National Guard Bureau and the U.S. Army. He and a small group of servicemembers laid the cornerstone for the Virgin Islands National Guard to create an undeniable rich legacy of excellence and service to our Nation in peace supporting Domestic Support to Civil Authorities throughout the territory and in warfighting capabilities, which is our primary mission. He is most deserving of this recognition, as he led a team of dedicated professionals to create our federally recognized National Guard October 19, 1973. Today, 50 years later we stand as a ready, relevant, responsive warfighting force with unique a Caribbean culture. Our Guardians of the Eastern Front will continue to answer our nation's call to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic as we leave our mark in our nation's military history.