

TESTIMONY

The Honorable Carla J. Joseph, chairperson of the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection of the 35th Legislature of the United States Virgin Islands, committee members, staff, viewing, and listening audience, good morning.

I am Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Beresford F. Edwards, president of the Virgin Islands National Guard Association, Incorporated, a 501 (C) 3 nonprofit corporation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Bill NO. 35-0116, a resolution honoring and commending Brigadier General (VI) (Retired) Leayle Gerard Galiber for his leadership in the Virgin Islands National Guard and his dedication to his country and the people of the Virgin Islands.

Brigadier General (VI) (Retired) Galiber is a native virgin islander, Vietnam combat veteran, retiree, and civil servant. He served two combat tours of duty in Vietnam where he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with an oak leaf cluster and the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal, First Class.

In 1973, Brigadier General (VI) (Retired) Galiber was appointed the United States Property and Fiscal Officer (USPFO), thus becoming the first United States Property and Fiscal Officer for the Virgin Islands National Guard. As USPFO, he was responsible for receiving and accounting for all funds and property of the United States in the possession of the Virgin Islands National Guard.

Additionally, he was appointed as the certification officer for the Virgin Islands National Guard.

Moreover, he was appointed acting adjutant general of the Virgin Islands National Guard. As the adjutant general, he commanded the Virgin Islands National Guard until a permanent replacement was found.

Brigadier General (VI) (Retired) Galiber was instrumental in the Virgin Islands National Guard acquiring federal recognition on October 19, 1973. The achievement of federal recognition was significant because, without federal recognition, the VI National Guard would not have been eligible to receive federal funding.

On October 19, 1973, Brigadier General (VI) (Retired) Galiber took command of a headquarters Detachment and the 661st Military Police Company.

In conclusion, I fully support Bill NO. 35-0116 to honor and commend Brigadier General (VI) (Retired) Leayle Galiber for his leadership and dedication to his country and the people of the Virgin Islands.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to share my testimony.