

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
OPERATIONS, VETERANS AFFAIRS,  
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

**BILL NO. 35-0011**

**Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**January 31, 2023**

An Act honoring and commending former Senator Horace A. Callwood, Sr. posthumously for his dedication, service, and commitment to the people of the Virgin Islands and naming the north-south street immediately east of Windward Passage in his memory

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senators Marvin A. Blyden and Angel L. Bolques, Jr.

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1       **WHEREAS**, former Senator, Horace A. Callwood, Sr., a born Savanero, was born on  
2 St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, on February 17, 1934, to Annie Martinez Hodge Callwood  
3 and Richard Alexander Callwood, Sr. of St. Thomas; and

4       **WHEREAS**, Horace attended public elementary and secondary schools on St. Thomas.  
5 He was one of the top students at the Charlotte Amalie High School and graduated with the  
6 well-known Class of 1952;

7       **WHEREAS**, after completing high school, Horace attended Hampton Institute (now  
8 Hampton University) in the state of Virginia. As a full-time student at Hampton, Horace  
9 worked as a part-time waiter at the Hotel Chamberlain during each semester and full-time  
10 during Christmas and summer vacations;

1           **WHEREAS**, in 1956, Horace graduated with honors and obtained a bachelor's degree  
2 in accounting from Hampton Institute as well as a Military Commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in  
3 the U.S. Army from Hampton's ROTC program;

4           **WHEREAS**, after completing his military service at Fort Eustis in Virginia, Horace  
5 returned to St. Thomas where he worked as a Supervisor of Accounts for the Department of  
6 Social Welfare for many years under the Governor John David Merwin administration (a  
7 civilian appointed governor). Horace's government service also included serving as Special  
8 Assistant to Government Secretary Roy Bornn, handling insurance, banking, and alcohol board  
9 matters;

10           **WHEREAS**, after leaving government service, Horace joined the various Manassah  
11 businesses, becoming a leading businessman until the date of his passing. His mentor was the  
12 late Manassah Francis, who instilled in him a love for helping and uplifting the people and who  
13 also encouraged him to run for the Senate;

14           **WHEREAS**, Horace engaged in public service by joining the Unity Party, which  
15 represented the people in obtaining economic, educational, housing, medical and political  
16 advancement;

17           **WHEREAS**, thereafter, Horace was elected as a senator of the Legislature of the Virgin  
18 Islands from the district of St. Thomas and served in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Legislatures. Horace never  
19 stopped being of service to his people; and

20           **WHEREAS**, Horace worked with Senator Earl B. Ottley, Valdemar Hill, Sr., and many  
21 others on the Victory '66 efforts to build up the populist, grassroots Unity Democratic Party  
22 and win seats in the 7<sup>th</sup> Legislature. Senator Callwood and his colleagues changed the law and  
23 substantially put in place what is now Title 18 that made all political parties open to whoever  
24 chooses to join;

25           **WHEREAS**, after passing the election law, the Unity Democrats registered *en masse* in  
26 the Donkey Democratic Party which was affiliated with the National Democratic Party, and

1 elected new party leadership, thereby creating the single Democratic Party of the Virgin  
2 Islands, as we know it today;

3       **WHEREAS**, Horace worked for proper representation and fair treatment for all people  
4 in the Virgin Islands;

5       **WHEREAS**, Horace was also present at the revolutionary 1968 U.S. Democratic  
6 Convention in Chicago when competing delegations from a number of Southern states sought  
7 recognition, as some state-level party organizations had excluded Black voters from  
8 participating in their primary processes. The Democratic party had to face the issue which  
9 ended up before the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled, in the landmark cases *United States v.*  
10 *Classic* and *Smith v. Allwright*, in favor of the principle of “one man, one vote.” As a result,  
11 districts in the United States had to be reapportioned, even in the USVI. Horace advised that  
12 districts with numbered seats would foster party candidates supporting each other rather than  
13 competing against each other, thereby allowing elected senators to advance causes and work  
14 as a team, and worked for electoral reform for the rest of his life;

15       **WHEREAS**, Horace met every week with the Horace A. Callwood Democratic  
16 Breakfast Club, (formerly the Democratic Breakfast Club) named in his honor in recognition  
17 of his tireless work to build a strong, active Democratic Party, at the Windward Hotel and, the  
18 East End Democratic Club at the Bolongo Hotel where he shared his concerns for the  
19 community and his passion for service. He was held in high esteem and his main concern was  
20 that his work and endeavors produced positive results;

21       **WHEREAS**, he has been honored for his dedication to uplifting people by various  
22 groups;

23       **WHEREAS**, Horace is known as a long-term member of the internationally known  
24 Rotary civic organization, which renders voluntary services to their communities. For Horace,  
25 Rotary was truly a fellowship. He was elected president and visited Australia during his term

1 to attend the International Rotary Convention. He was also named Person of the Year in 2016  
2 by his Rotary II St. Thomas Club. Horace is also a founding member of the club's *Paul Harris*  
3 *Society*;

4 **WHEREAS**, he was well known for his entrepreneurship, most notably at School  
5 Busing, Inc., which was but one of his many successful business ventures. He was also  
6 instrumental in expanding marine transportation from downtown Charlotte Amalie to the  
7 British Virgin Islands on the Bomba Charger by leading the charge to purchase the larger  
8 Bomba Challenger and the triple decker Bomba Cruiser that also connected St. Thomas to St.  
9 Croix and Puerto Rico, thereby providing reliable modern passenger ferry service;

10 **WHEREAS**, he was a partner in School Busing, Inc., and offered assistance and advice  
11 to many. Horace shared wisdom with people who were interested in self-improvement  
12 regardless of their station in life, and he taught many how to save money and cooperate to  
13 accomplish goals. He stressed the importance of always holding a job, no matter the business,  
14 and of preserving cash flow;

15 **WHEREAS**, Horace taught you that a person's honor was what mattered most, not  
16 money. He would always proclaim: "*Not how he died, but how did he live? Not what did he*  
17 *gain but what did he give? These are the units to measure the worth of a man as a man*  
18 *regardless of birth. Not what was his creed, but had he befriended those in need? Was he ever*  
19 *ready with a word of good cheer, to bring back a smile, to banish a tear?*";

20 **WHEREAS**, Horace was well known for avoiding honors and awards. He kept his feet  
21 solidly on the ground, always being a "man of the people." He preferred private life to "pomp  
22 and circumstance." Indeed, he was always much admired and respected for his frankness and  
23 intelligence, and especially in his ability to get along with others, even those with opposite  
24 views, as he tirelessly devoted himself to the advancement of his community; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Horace lived life his way. He believed that in life, one must do good and  
26 enjoy life. He strived to live a worthy life. Horace never stopped being of service to his people.

1 His last weeks were peaceful, and he felt loved. On September 11, 2020, Horace went on his  
2 last journey. He was a leading businessman until the date of his passing. *Now, Therefore,*

3 ***Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

4 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin  
5 Islands, posthumously honors and commends the late former Senator Horace A. Callwood for  
6 his dedication, service, and commitment to the Virgin Islands community.

7 **SECTION 2.** In commemoration of his contributions and service to the Virgin Islands,  
8 the portion of Tvaer Gade south of Krondprindsens Gade, is renamed “Horace Callwood  
9 Drive” in his honor.

10 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Public Works shall cause to be prepared and installed  
11 suitable signs bearing the inscription “Horace Callwood Drive”, which must be conspicuously  
12 affixed in permanent and appropriate locations.

13 **SECTION 4.** The sum of \$5,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30,  
14 2023 from the St. Thomas Capital Improvement Fund under title 33, subtitle 3, chapter 111,  
15 section 3057a to the Department of Public Works to erect the appropriate signage. The funds  
16 remain available until expended.

17 **SECTION 5.** A perma plaque copy of this act shall be prepared and presented to the  
18 family of Horace A. Callwood by the President of the Legislature or designee, at an appropriate  
19 ceremony held for that purpose.

20 **BILL SUMMARY**

21 This bill posthumously honors and commends former Senator Horace A. Callwood for  
22 his service and commitment to the people of the Virgin Islands and names the portion of Tvaer  
23 Gade south of Krondprindsens Gade in his memory.

24 **BR23-0160/January 18, 2023/AA**