



Horace Callwood Democratic Breakfast Club  
Eduardo J Corneiro Jr., President  
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February 23, 2023

Honorable Senator Carla J. Joseph,  
Legislative secretary  
Chair of Committee on Government Operations,  
Veterans Affairs and Consumer Protection  
35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

RE: Bill No. 35-0011 an Act honoring and commending Horace A Callwood Sr. Posthumously for his dedication, service, and commitment to the people of the Virgin Islands.

Dear Senator Joseph; I receive and accept your invitation with great pleasure, honor, and humility and I would be remiss not to express my appreciation to the bill sponsors, Senators Marvin A. Blyden, Angel L Bolques, and Ray Fonseca for recognizing a member of the very foundational shoulders on which they stand.

Sincerely;

Eduardo J Corneiro Jr;  
President HCDBC

My Testimony is as follows:

The Honorable Horace A. Callwood served the people of the Virgin Island in his capacity as Senator in the Seventh Legislature 1967-68 and the Eight Legislature 1969-70; However, his dedication and commitment to serving the people of the Virgin Islands continued for decades after his tenure in office.

As mentioned in the bill, Horace was extremely instrumental in working with former Senator, Earl B. Ottley, Valdemar Hill, Sr., and other honorable members on the victory 66 effort that built up the populist, grassroots Unity Democratic party that changed the law and substantially put into existence Title 18 that opened all political parties to whoever chose to join and participate in. This allowed the Unity Party to register in mass and join the Donkey Democratic Party, thus affiliating the new look, a unified party with the National Democratic Party. This was the foundation of today's Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands that we all enjoy today.

Horace played an active role in many legislations that are still relevant in our daily lives. Some of these are as follows:

- Act #1850 The creation of the Reapportionment Commission act;
- Act #1916 The establishment of the Police Cadet Corps;
- Act #1907 The comprehensive survey and analysis of government personnel service;
- Act #1914 The development of modern street lighting system;
- Act #1900 The home care services for senior citizens act;
- Act #1901 The comprehensive programs for recreation development;
- Act #1972 The authorization of the Department of Public Safety to employ women as crossing guards during the appropriate times of the school day;
- Act # 2545 The condominium Act;
- Act #2774 The authorization of the Virgin Islands Planning Office;
- Act #2362 The celebration of Martin Luther King's birthday as an official holiday; (making the VI the first to recognize it in the nation)
- Act #2658 The naming of the Joseph Gomez Elementary School.

Horace lobbied for the peoples' concerns and challenges both outwardly behind the scene continuously. Weekly he met with various administrations, sitting and past members of the legislature, cabinet members, and community leaders that can address and champion the cause or address the challenges for many community members that continued to seek his assistance long after his term in office.

On a personal note; Horace's touch on me was immensely productive and long-lasting. I found him to be a humble man, committed to serving and helping others in ways that will be lasting and positive. He was usually patient and quiet during many debates on issues allowing everyone to give their perspective on the issue of the day before offering his position.

He was the peacemaker and calm leader during many heated exchanges that would be the necessary approach to meeting a productive conclusion.

Horace was the adhesive that kept the organization intact for decades. A couple of his favorite sayings were "let's agree to disagree" and "we can disagree without being disagreeable" He looked at others who were excited during exchanges as being passionate in their beliefs as opposed to any negative explanation for their behavior. His outlook on such reinforced my belief that the passion in our hearts burns through our tongues, but the scorching of others yields not the fruitions of our cause!

Horace embraced public service. He continuously stated that service is not servitude and that the greatest gift is the ability to help others. He knew that he was indeed blessed to be in the position to help others and make a difference in their lives.

Horace and other founding members of the Horace Callwood Democratic Breakfast Club met weekly and provided the above mention platform at various venues; however, his personal preference, and last venue before the pandemic stoppage, his untimely and unfortunate passing was the Windward Passage Hotel. I find it refreshing and most gratifying to have a public remembrance of him adjacent to the area he looked forward to being in every Tuesday morning.

In closing, I humbly thank you for this opportunity to express my appreciation and support for this bill that is dear to so many of our hearts.