

35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

Committee on Government Operations, Veterans

Affairs and Consumer Protection

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm here today to say a few words on behalf of Former Senator George E. Goodwin, who has been recommended to receive special honors for his incomparable contributions he has made to the socio-economic growth of these U.S. Virgin Islands through the many sacrificial endeavors he embarked upon in the 1970s and beyond.

Thanks to Senator Carla Joseph for her bill # 35-0006 which reads:

An act honoring and commending former Senator George E. Goodwin for his many years of expansive contributions to the Virgin Islands community as a whole through his role in various areas of services to the territory as well as advocacy for Social Justice for underserved people in the Virgin Islands to rename the Cricket field located in Parcel H of Tract I, Estate

Nazareth of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands in his honor, and to award Former Senator George E. Goodwin of the Virgin Islands medal of Honor, and for other related purposes.

During the 1960s and '70s, heavy migration from mainly the Eastern Caribbean islands became a necessity for the infrastructural development of the U.S. Virgin. The migrants were heavily depended upon to build hotels, housing projects, roads, and also to provide services in the hotel, domestic and sanitation industries. The migration of immigrants became a problem in a few years as the demand for development became a crucial necessity in order to satisfy the booming tourist industry.

The heavy migration of workers from the islands experienced what was then called by one David Bergen, "An Alien Problem". Migrants were despised by the indigenous population, exploited by the bosses and business owners, who threatened them with

deportation if they did not conform to the unjust rules and regulations.

It was at this time, that the migrant workers needed a socio-political savior, and that was the time when former Senator George Goodwin took the challenge to stand up for migrant workers. Senator Goodwin believed then that standing for justice for the migrants was beneficial for the socio-economic development of the Virgin Islands and not just for the migrants.

Senator Goodwin stood up for equal pay for migrants many of whom were paid less than half of the going rate of pay.

Senator Goodwin stood up for migrant worker's children who were not given the privilege to be educated in our public schools.

Senator Goodwin stood up for migrant workers who were scheduled to be deported for insubordination, so stated by their bosses who could not get them to submit to unfair rules and practices.

Senator Goodwin also spent much of his time developing means through which many migrants can release their frustration and

depression, by seeking and providing places where cricket and soccer could be played after a hard week of challenging work. These sports help to provide benefits for the Virgin Islands.

Finally, Former Senator George E. Goodwin has served these Virgin Islands in many capacities especially as an educator and encourager of young people. He is among the many humble and helpful Virgin Islanders who seek mainly that others be promoted and become faithful citizens of these Virgin Islands. He is one who seeks no personal recognition. He has always exemplified himself as one who wants to help the other person.

It's my hope that Former Senator George E. Goodwin will become the recipient of the honor of Bill # 35-0006, Sponsored by Senator Carla Joseph.