

Good morning, Senator Carla Joseph, Chairwoman, members of the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection, members of the 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands, Central Staff, testifiers, and friends.

On behalf of the Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands, it is a privilege to come before you today at your invitation to provide testimony in support of Bill Number 35-0011, 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 herein naming the north-south street immediately east of Windward Passage in his memory.

I had to dig deep to find out some of the accomplishments that Horace Callwood made on behalf of the Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands. But imagine, that most of his respected peers and colleagues have moved on to a higher plane that is definitely political. I also took it upon myself to do some research and was able to gain valuable information of how Horace Callwood, my first cousin, made a significant impact in the direction that the party moved in the future.

Upon returning to the Virgin Islands after military service, Horace joined the Unity Party under the leadership of Earl B. Ottley, Valdimar Hill, Sr., and Warren E. Brown. The Unity Party was a grass roots organization that had the best interest of Virgin Islanders at heart. So much that they were able to use tact and strategized to create what was known as the Unicrats. If anyone is wondering what are Unicrates, allow me to explain.

During Congressional Hearings held in the Territory in 1967, then Republican, Lloyd W. Joseph of St. Croix stated, before the Subcommittee on Territorial and Insular Affairs of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, 19th Congress. "I must ask the members of this honorable body to excuse the expression "Unicrats," by Unicrats, I mean Democrats who are so far over to the left that only the whites of their eyes are being seen; and while it is true they are Democrats because they are so enrolled with the Supervisor of Elections in the Virgin Islands, a lump comes to my throat to call them Democrats without making the word "Democrat" distasteful."

The purpose of these hearings was to hear testimony from the people of the Virgin Islands their views and sentiments on three specific points:

1. A bill pending before the Congress of the United States to provide for the popular election of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the Virgin Islands
2. The general economic conditions of the United States Virgin Islands
3. The 1966 election procedures or irregularities

The sentiments spoken by Mr. Joseph is nothing less than the truth during a time when the leaders of the Unity Party and a few members of the Democratic Party strategized to make the Election System of the Virgin Islands Possible. In 1963, the Unity Party controlled the senate and passed legislation to change the Election System.

The leaders of the Unity Party collaborated with Democrats to be the majority in the legislature. This all came together when President John F. Kennedy was elected in 1960 and the Democratic National Committee prepared to implement a strategy to rebuild the Party in the Continental US, Commonwealth and Territories. In 1963, the Unity Party controlled the Legislature changed the election code and

positioned the Democratic Party for success. This was now the opportunity for Horace Callwood to align himself with a Nationally Recognized Party, Democrats and served as the District Chairman for Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands.

On March 8, 1966 , as the District Chair of the Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands, Horace Callwood provided a telegram as part of the collaborative efforts of all local leaders for the Popular Election of the Governor (HR 11777) and to Amend the Revised Organic Act to provide for the reapportionment of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands (HR 13277). The Telegram reads:

Congressman Leo W. O'Brien  
Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Territories,  
Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman O'Brien: Congratulations on your wonderful efforts on the two bills before your committee this morning. The people of the Virgin Islands wholeheartedly endorse the elected Governor and the reappropriation bills and urge speedy approval.

Sincerely,

Horace Callwood  
Chairman, District Committee, Democratic Party

If we all paid attention to the tone of Horace Callwoods message it represents that type of man that he was then and the same man that we are honoring today. It takes a great leader to stand in the background and craft the narrative. That was Horace Callwood. For many that knew him well, he batted 100% every election cycle. He knew where candidates would finish in the primary or general election. This took experience.

Horace Callwood served as Party Secretary and Treasurer and actively provided good guidance to those democratic candidates that he knew would make great representatives. The true measure of Horace Callwood was his dedication to the people of the Virgin Islands. Horace will be missed, but his legacy will live on.

In closing, I wish to thank the committee for affording me the opportunity to speak in favor and support of Bill Number 35-0011, and earnestly solicit this committees support in making its passage possible.

Thank you,

Stedmann Hodge, Jr.  
State Chair, Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands

*Election of Virgin Islands Governor Part I  
Hearings Before the Subcommittee on Territorial & Insular Affairs  
of the Committee on Interior & Insular Affairs House of Representatives  
Nineteenth Congress, STX, Virgin Islands, June 17, 1967 & STT, Virgin Islands, June 19, 1967*

*In an attempt to impress Congress that the Virgin Islands meant business, the Virgin Islands Legislature in 1964 passed a bill authorizing the convening of a Constitutional Convension. Valdimar Hill, Sr., "Rise to Recognition"*