

Honorable Chairwoman Carla A. Joseph, Senator Franklin D. Johnson, and other Esteemed Members of this 35th Legislature,

Today, I stand before you not only as a devoted citizen of our magnificent Virgin Islands but also as the proud son of a man whose contributions have profoundly shaped countless lives. I am here to support Bill No. 35-0101, a resolution aimed at honoring my father, Dr. Olaf "Bronco" Hendricks, for his enduring and transformative contributions.

Dr. Hendricks' service to the medical community, particularly within psychiatry, has been nothing short of extraordinary. Across hospitals, prisons, and private practices, he has reached out to those on the margins, offering assistance and compassion to individuals grappling with behavioral health and substance abuse issues. His dedication is built upon a foundation of unshakeable humility, a characteristic that has remained steadfast regardless of his surroundings or accolades.

Yet, his sphere of influence extends beyond psychiatry. A gifted saxophonist with the Ten Sleepless Knights, my father has used his music to touch hearts and uplift spirits. His harmonious melodies serve as a cultural adhesive, uniting our diverse community and promoting healing.

In addition, his unwavering commitment to his brothers at our local Lodge, Paradise #170, is remarkable. His active participation and thoughtful discourse underscore his profound belief in fraternity, benevolence, and mutual respect. As his son, I find his humility and leadership within this organization genuinely inspirational, and I strive to emulate these qualities in my own life.

As many of you may know, my father's passion for the ocean and horses is a defining facet of his life, a passion that has deeply influenced my own worldview. His reputation within the horseracing community is highly regarded, and his love for nature is a humbling lesson in co-existence. Additionally, his critical thinking abilities, a gift I am fortunate to have inherited, have been an invaluable compass in navigating life's challenges.

If my credentials as a character witness for my father are in question, let me assure you that having known him for over 50 years, I feel eminently qualified to speak on his behalf. And if the fact that he's my confidant and best friend disqualifies me in some way from this role, then I confess guilty as charged with no reservations.

In earnest, I implore this esteemed body to support Bill No. 35-0101. This resolution is more than just an official recognition; it represents an acknowledgment of a life devoted to service, humility, and the betterment of others that my father personifies.

In conclusion, I extend my deepest gratitude to you all for considering this resolution. To honor Dr. Olaf "Bronco" Hendricks is to pay tribute to the transformative power of humility, empathy, and service. His life's work and his values are synonymous with the spirit of the Virgin Islands, and I wholeheartedly invite you to join me in celebrating this extraordinary individual.

Thank you.

Kai Hendricks