

Dear Senator Joseph,

Many thanks for granting me the opportunity to add my three cents to the affirmative testimonies during the bestowal of a legislative honor to Dr. Olaf "Bronco" Hendricks.

Wherever in the Virgin Islands Dr. Hendricks appears, he is instantly recognized and warmly greeted by most of those present, not only because he is one of us who gets involved in groups working for the betterment of all ah we, and is very vocal about it, but because he really cares for, and is truly loved by, our community. Throughout his busy medical career, he has been committed to the struggle for the improvement of the Virgin Islands in general, and of our mental health care system in particular, and, off the record, has willingly and gratuitously helped countless individuals solve countless problems-- medical, personal, and otherwise.

Recognizing that our rich and beautiful culture is being eroded by powerful outside influences, Bronco has been doing what he can to help preserve what we have left of our heritage. To that end, he was intimately involved in the foundation of culture-based organizations like the Crucian Cultural Institute, Crucian-Rican All Ah We Breakfast, and Hillsiders, among others. He also hosted various radio talk shows focusing on concerns particular to St. Croix and the greater Virgin Islands. To put the icing on the cake, so to speak, he became a part of the Ten Sleepless Knights, whose mission is to preserve and pass on to the coming generations our beautiful music, dance, and way of life.

Bronco has been involved in other activities that are community-oriented, such as horse racing, farming, and music. His musicianship is what impresses me the most. He has been playing his saxophone with TSK since the early seventies, having beforehand gained experience playing with other bands here and on the mainland, like all the

members of TSK had done at that time. Despite his status as a man of higher learning than the most of us, he is a down-to-earth, kind and honest person. He serves as our Resident Psychiatrist, fits in well with the band character, and more about that will remain unsaid here.

When we were growing up in the Gallows Bay section of Christiansted, all the children knew each other and were either good friends or simply friendly with each other. Putting that together with our ardent devotion to music produced the positive relationship that the members of TSK enjoy till up to now. Bronco played with us on and off depending on when he got a break from his educational and professional obligations both here and abroad. He learned to phrase melodies in Crucian, and I am still proud of that. He is an extraordinary saxophone player, but his musical talent extends beyond that. In addition to playing, he also composes melodies. Among his compositions, two of my favorites are: Bronco Jig, and the WTJX theme song. To me, these tunes speak to his musical greatness.

On behalf of the Ten Sleepless Knights, please let it be known that I completely agree with Bill No. 35-0101, in that Dr. Olaf "Bronco" Hendricks, psychiatrist, physician, social and political activist, radio personality, racehorse owner, farmer, musician, and so much more, is truly worthy of this Virgin Islands Legislature's prestigious honor.