

Honorable Shawn.Michael Malone

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Statement in Support of Bill No 35-0029 by President of the 30th Legislature

It is my understanding that Senate President Novelle Francus and Senator At-Large Angel Boquez, Jr. are sponsoring a Bill honoring and commending the Honorable Dona M. Christian for her tireless service to the US Virgin Islands as Delegate to Congress and for a life-long profession as a Doctor and medical provider.

I am Shawn-Michael Malone. President of the 30th Legislature and former Congressional Aide for Delegate Christian's first three terms in the US Congress.

I write in support of the proposed Bill, one that is long overdue and should be amended to bestow the prestigious Virgin Islands Medal of Honor, if I may suggest. As someone who has been there from her second campaign that won her the Virgin Islands Congressional Seat, I can remark from first-hand personal experience that Donna Marie Christian is more than deserving of this accolade. I know of few leaders with whom I have met and have gotten to know who truly possess the qualities of authenticity, sincerity, integrity and honesty in the execution of their duties as public servants and elected officials in the manner that which Delegate Christian has. I saw up close as her District Manager what I had sensed and perceived in her character as a Candidate during her 1996 Congressional Campaign. I saw a selfless, dedicated, competent and compassionate LEADER! Interestingly, a little known fact about my decision to work for and with her was that I only accepted the job because I was convinced she was "the real deal," serious about making a positive difference for Virgin Islanders and placing our interests and needs above her own. Delegate Christian's love for her family, her patients, constituents and the Virgin Islands as a whole was and still is, on display in her actions both as an elected official and now as a private citizen. Delegate Christian is GENUINE and CONSISTENT!

Delegate Christian's contributions are numerous and impactful spanning across local, regional, national and international spheres. We can recall her major accomplishment in securing over \$300 million dollars to fight HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean during the Clinton/Gore Administration; one of the major authors of the landmark Affordable Care Act or Obama Care; getting St. Croix designated as a Rural Area that qualifies it for increased funding for farmers, businesses and many other federal programs; and most recently her leading role as a management consultant to the Territory's response to the COVID Pandemic.

Frankly, I cannot recall many of our past Delegate to Congress' serving their constituents long after leaving office in the manner the Honorable Donna Marie Christian has been doing. She continues to inspire me and many others in a positive and remarkable way. The proposed Bill, along with its amendments, is a fitting gesture in honor of Delegate Christian's 18

productive years in the US Congress, as our Assistant Commissioner of Health, as a Family Doctor, the Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands National Committee Woman and so much more.

I respectfully ask all members of the 35th Legislature to vote unanimously in the affirmative for this legislation, along with the proper and deserving ceremony that should accompany this prestigious honor for a most outstanding daughter of our beloved Virgin Islands of the United States of America! Thank you kindly for this opportunity and for your favorable consideration of my request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'S' followed by 'M' and 'M', and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Shawn-Micheal Malone