

**TESTIMONY ON PROPOSED BILL NO. 35-0041 - AN ACT
AWARDING THE VIRGIN ISLANDS MEDAL OF HONOR
POSTHUMOUSLY TO FORMER SENATOR EDGAR MILTON ILES**

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERANS
AFFAIRS, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

35TH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2023

11:30 A.M.

TESTIFIERS:

KISHA ILES, DAUGHTER

JUANITA ILES RICHARDS, DAUGHTER

RAY ILES, SON

Good afternoon, Honorable Senator Carla J. Joseph, Chair of the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection, other members of the 35th Legislature, the media, ladies, and gentlemen in the listening and viewing audience. I am Kisha Iles, Daughter of former Senator Edgar Iles.

I am appearing before you today along with my siblings Ray Iles and Juanita Iles Richards to provide testimony on proposed Bill No. 35-0041 - an Act awarding the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor posthumously to former Senator Edgar Milton Iles.

As many of you may know, Dad held a passion and dedication for the advancement of sports and working with young athletes and fellow sports enthusiasts in The Territory. This led him to the position of Assistant Director of Sports within the Division of Parks and Recreation in the 1970's. Dad expanded his service to the development of Virgin Islands Sports by serving in numerous capacities in the Boxing, Softball, Track & Field, and Volleyball Federations. In 1976, he became President of the Virgin Islands Olympic Committee and served in this role for twenty years. As President, not only did he nurture and mentor young athletes, but Dad also paved the way for the next generation of Sports Leaders. He brought greater national and international exposure to the Athletes and Sports in the Virgin Islands and was recognized for his efforts by the Virgin Islands Olympic Committee body when they approved his nomination as Honorary President of the Virgin Islands Olympic Committee.

His active participation in various civic and sporting organizations allowed him to travel around the globe. He visited every continent, except for Africa and Antarctica. He took VI pride with him wherever he went.

Dad loved celebrating Virgin Islands Culture and was a frequent participant in the Crucian Christmas Festival events, and the Agriculture and Food Fair, where he won ribbons for his sorrel drink. He always encouraged us to do the same and to bring him a mesple, lazenga, dondeslaw, or coconut tart! Dad was born in NYC, but he was a Crucian “to de bone.” I am convinced that his navel string was buried under the Frederiksted Fish Market which is where he spent many afternoons in his retirement, enjoying the world class sunset.

My favorite thing about Dad is that his joy was spending time with his family. I miss the days when we would pile into his truck for a trip to the beach followed by a stop at Armstrong’s or drive out to the countryside to pick mangos and genip.

As a family, we are united in our support of this measure honoring our beloved patriarch, Edgar M. Iles. We are prepared to answer any questions that would encourage passage of the bill.

Thank you for your consideration.