

DR. OLAF “BRONCO” HENDRICKS

GOOD AFTERNOON AND GREETINGS TO THE CHAIRPERSON, THE HONORABLE SENATOR CARLA JOSEPH, TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND TO ALL SENATORS PRESENT. A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE HONORABLE SENATOR FRANKLYN JOHNSON FOR SPONSORING THE RESOLUTION TO HONOR DR. OLAF HENDRICKS FOR HIS COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FOR HIS PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS.

THE MEMBERS OF THE ST. MARY’S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1962 IS HONORED AND EXTREMELY PLEASED TO SAY A FEW WORDS IN SUPPORT OF OUR ESTEEMED CLASSMATE, DR. OLAF HENDRICKS, BRONCO, AS HE IS AFFECTIONATELY CALLED. YES, WE SAY A FEW WORDS BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT WE DO NOT HAVE ALL DAY TO SPEAK OR REMINISCE ON THE MANY EXCEPTIONAL THINGS OUR BELOVED CLASSMATE HAS DONE. IT IS QUITE APPROPRIATE THAT DR. OLAF “BRONCO” HENDRICKS IS DULY BEING RECOGNIZED FOR HIS COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FOR HIS PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS. HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE TO MENTION SOME MEMORIES FROM HIS CHILDHOOD DAYS AT ST. MARY’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND BEYOND THAT HELPED TO MOLD HIM INTO THE WELL-ROUNDED PERSON HE IS TODAY.

DR. OLAF “BRONCO” HENDRICKS ATTENDED ST. MARY’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL FROM KINDERGARTEN THROUGH THE TWELVE GRADE. OUR TWELVE GRADE CLASS CONSISTED OF NINETEEN STUDENTS. IN THOSE DAYS, OUR SCHOOL DAY BEGAN WITH A CHURCH SERVICE. WE THEN MARCHED FROM CHURCH TO THE SCHOOL YARD WHERE WE STOOD AT ATTENTION TO SING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM AND OUR SCHOOL SONG. THEREAFTER, INSPECTION WAS DONE TO MAKE SURE ALL OF THE STUDENTS WERE

NEATLY DRESSED IN FULL UNIFORM. WHEN WE MEET AT SOME OF OUR SOCIAL GATHERINGS, OUR CLASSMATES WOULD OFTEN TIMES SPEAK ABOUT HOW STRICT THE NUNS WERE. WHAT A DIFFERENCE IT IS TODAY. WE, HOWEVER, CONCLUDED THAT THE NUNS “DID NOT SPARE THE ROD AND SPOILED THE CHILD”. FOR THAT, WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL.

IT WAS OBVIOUS TO ALL OF BRONCO’S CLASSMATES THAT HE HAD A PHYSICAL DISABILITY. BRONCO DID NOT LET THIS GET IN HIS WAY! WITH HIS DETERMINATION, HE GOT INVOLVED WITH EVERY ACTIVITY WE HAD. FOR EXAMPLE, THE BOYS IN OUR CLASS ENJOYED RUNNING RACES. BRONCO WOULD SAY THAT HE WILL ALSO RACE. HOWEVER, HE SAID BECAUSE OF HIS DISABILITY, HE SHOULD BE GIVEN A HEAD START. GUESS, WHO WON THE RACES? THAT’S RIGHT, BRONCO! HE WOULD THEN LAUGH AND SAY TO THE OTHER RUNNERS, “YOU ALL MIGHT BE FAST, BUT I AM SMARTER”. BRONCO ALWAYS HAD A SENSE OF HUMOR! IN SPITE OF THE MANY YEARS SINCE OUR GRADUATION, DR. HENDRICKS HAS NEVER LOST TOUCH WITH HIS FELLOW CLASSMATES. AS A MATTER OF FACT, HE HAS OPENED HIS HOME TO US ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS FOR OUR SOCIAL GATHERINGS. HE WOULD ALSO REMIND US THAT HIS HOME IS OPENED TO US AT ANY TIME WE FELT LIKE GETTING TOGETHER.

DR. HENDRICKS IS ONE OF THE FIRST LOCAL PSYCHIATRIST ON ST. CROIX. IN ADDITION, HE IS A RENOWNED MUSICIAN. HE IS ALSO ONE OF THE BEST RADIO PERSONALITIES ON ST. CROIX, AND THE LIST GOES ON. OLAF IS DEDICATED TO HIS FAMILY AND REMAINS HUMBLE AND DOWN-TO-EARTH; HE MINGLES WITH ALL. BRONCO TAKES THE TIME TO TALK WITH ANYONE WHO SEEKS HIS ADVICE. ONE OF OLAF’S EXCEPTIONAL ATTRIBUTES IS THAT HE LOOKS UP TO PEOPLE AND NOT DOWN ON THEM. DR.

HENDRICKS HAS A WAY OF BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN PEOPLE WHO FIND THEMSELVES AROUND HIM. HE KNOWS HOW TO UPLIFT PEOPLE WHEN THEY ARE MOST IN NEED OF SOMEONE TO TALK TO, OR EVEN IF THEY JUST NEED SOMEONE TO SIMPLY LEND A LISTENING EAR. HE CERTAINLY MAKES TIME TO TALK TO ANYONE WHO SEEKS HIS ADVICE. DR. OLAF “BRONCO” HENDRICKS TRULY LOVES THESE VIRGIN ISLANDS, HIS FAMILY, HIS FRIENDS AND HIS COMMUNITY.

IN CLOSING, THE HONOR THAT OUR BELOVED CLASSMATE, DR. OLAF “BRONCO” HENDRICKS IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR IS NOT ONLY FITTING, BUT IT IS ALSO WELL DESERVING. THE ST. MARY’S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1962 WHOLEHEARTEDLY AGREE THAT OUR CLASSMATE WILL MAKE THIS BODY AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS PROUD AS HE CONTINUES TO BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR THIS BELOVED TERRITORY.

AGAIN, A HEARTFELT “THANK YOU” TO ALL OF YOU FOR CONSIDERING DR. OLAF “BRONCO” HENDRICKS, A PROUD VIRGIN ISLANDER, FOR THIS HONOR. AS OUR ELDERS WOULD SAY, “GIVE ME MY FLOWERS WHILE I CAN SMELL AND ENJOY THEM”. DR. HENDRICKS IS WELL DESERVING OF THIS HONOR; AND A FAVORABLE VOTE FOR THIS PRESTIGIOUS RECOGNITION WOULD BE GRATEFULLY APPRECIATED.

MAY GOD BLESS THE MEMBERS OF THE 35TH LEGISLATURE OF VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES.