

GOOD DAY TO ALL THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE 35<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATURE, AND TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, CHAIRED BY THE HONORABLE: SENATOR CARLA JOSEPH, AND TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. TODAY HAS BEEN A LONG TIME HOPED FOR. I AM MOST GREATFUL TO MY FAMILY FOR ENCOURAGING ME TO KEEP ON TRYING UNTIL WE SAW THIS DAY; TO MY COMRADES OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 131, HEADED BY OUR COMMANDER HARRY DANIEL FOR HELPING IN THE INITIATION PROCESS, AND MOST OF ALL TO SENATOR DWAYNE M. DeGRAFF AND HIS STAFF FOR THEIR GUIDANCE IN THE DRAFTING AND SUBMITTAL OF WHAT IS NOW BILL NO.35-0109. IF I MISSED ANYONE THAT WE SPOKE TO ALONG THE WAY THAT HAD ANY INPUT, MY GRATITUDE IS EXTENDED TO YOU AS WELL; AS I HAVE SPOKEN TO A FEW PEOPLE OVER THE YEARS ABOUT THIS MATTER. MY BROTHER WAS A SMALL FRAME MAN 5ft 7in ABOUT 155 LBS., BUT BIG AT HEART AND GUTSY. HE WAS A LEADER, HAD A CALM DEMEANOR WHEN GIVING INSTRUCTIONS, SO IT WAS EASY TO WORK WITH HIM. HE WAS ALSO NOT TOO JUDGEMENTAL; HE WOULD GIVE YOU THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT, THAT YOU COULD DO BETTER IF YOU CAME UP SHORT OF YOUR GOAL, SO MOST OF HIS FRIENDS DIDN'T MIND HANGING OUT WITH HIM. HE WAS A HELPFUL MAN, ALWAYS WILLING TO LEND A HAND, HE WAS A BRAVE MAN, EAGER TO TRY ANYTHING, A MAN, DEDICATED TO DUTY OR HIS MISSION WHATEVER IT WAS, HE WAS A MAN OF HONOR, HIS WORD COULD BE TRUSTED, HE WAS ALSO A MAN OF INTEGRITY, HE WILL NOT GIVE YOU A SIX FOR A NINE, AN HONEST MAN, HE WAS A LOYAL MAN, I THINK THAT'S WHY HE JOINED THE MARINE CORPS, BECAUSE HE THOUGHT THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE MARINES WAS THAT CLOSE KNIT, AND THAT THEY WERE THERE FOR EACH OTHER, AND FINALLY HE WAS A MAN OF PERSISTENCE, HE WOULD NOT QUIT UNTIL THE JOB WAS DONE. HE DID HAVE AN AREA OF CONCERN TO ME AS HIS BROTHER AND THAT WAS HIS HEARING WAS NOT A 100%, BUT HE DID NOT LET THAT DETER HIM FROM BEING A MARINE HE LOVED WHAT HE WAS DOING, AND GAVE HIS ALL [LIFE] FOR THE LOVE COUNTRY AND HIS HOME LAND, THESE VIRGIN ISLANDS. THIS IS WHO HE WAS. ALL ELSE IS CITED IN THE BILL. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO TESTIFY ON HIS BEHALF TODAY.