

Good morning,

Senator Carla Joseph, Chair of the Committee on Government Operations, Veteran Affairs and Consumer Protection and Senators present. My name is Omari Peterkin, and I am honored to have the opportunity to speak about Coach Myron Corbett. Coach Corbett dedicated his life to helping the youth and student athletes of the US Virgin Islands to achieve their dreams. He assisted in applying and obtaining full scholarships in collegiate sports of all levels. He created educational and sports programs that allowed the youth of the Virgin Islands to travel and expand their knowledge of the world. He was also instrumental in molding numerous young adults into responsible, hardworking, and generous citizens.

As a young athlete growing up in the Virgin Islands, I never thought I could play basketball beyond the islands, much less play in college and professionally on an international level. I lacked the belief in myself, but Coach Corbett had confidence in me and encouraged me to apply to several division 1 programs in the United States where I was able to obtain a full basketball scholarship and additionally was able to complete multiple master's degrees. He saw my potential and encouraged me to pursue basketball, igniting a passion in me that I never knew I had. As a result of his great coaching skills, vision, support, guidance and belief in me, it allowed me to play basketball in different regions of the world, experiencing different cultures, languages, religions and forming life long friendships.

Coach Corbett had a great impact on my life and played a significant role in molding the person that I am today. I cannot express enough gratitude to him for influencing my life in such a positive way. He was a kind, caring person, well respected who made the youth of this territory a priority. He believed that "the youth are the future" and as a result, he devoted much

of his life to this fact. He promoted education, taught life lessons, promoted diversity, and involvement in sports. He was one of the best life coaches I could have asked for.

It is a privilege to be a part of the dedication of this basketball court at Anna's retreat to honor Coach Corbett. It is also an honor to speak about him as he was a visionary. May his legacy continue to inspire and influence generations of youth of the Virgin Islands. May he always be remembered as a man who dedicated his life, love, knowledge, and wisdom to the youths of the Virgin Islands.

Thank you, senators, for inviting me to be a part of this dedication ceremony.

Sincerely,

Omari Peterkin