

Honorable Senate President, Novelle Francis, Honorable Senator Marise James who sponsored Bill 35-0102, Honorable other Senators of the VI 35th Legislature, de Chabert family members, fellow distinguished testifiers, and all other Virgin Islanders in the room; your interest in Dr. Ralph A de Chabert's achievements.

I am Dr. Angelo Galiber, a radiologist from Christiansted, St. Croix. Dr. Cora Christian and I, on the authority of the Virgin Islands Medical Society, coauthored the proposed resolution that the very good Senator James generously incorporated in Bill 35-0102. The resolution chronicles Dr. de Chabert's accomplishments and contributions that he and his siblings made to the Virgin Islands. These facts make writing about him an easy pleasure.

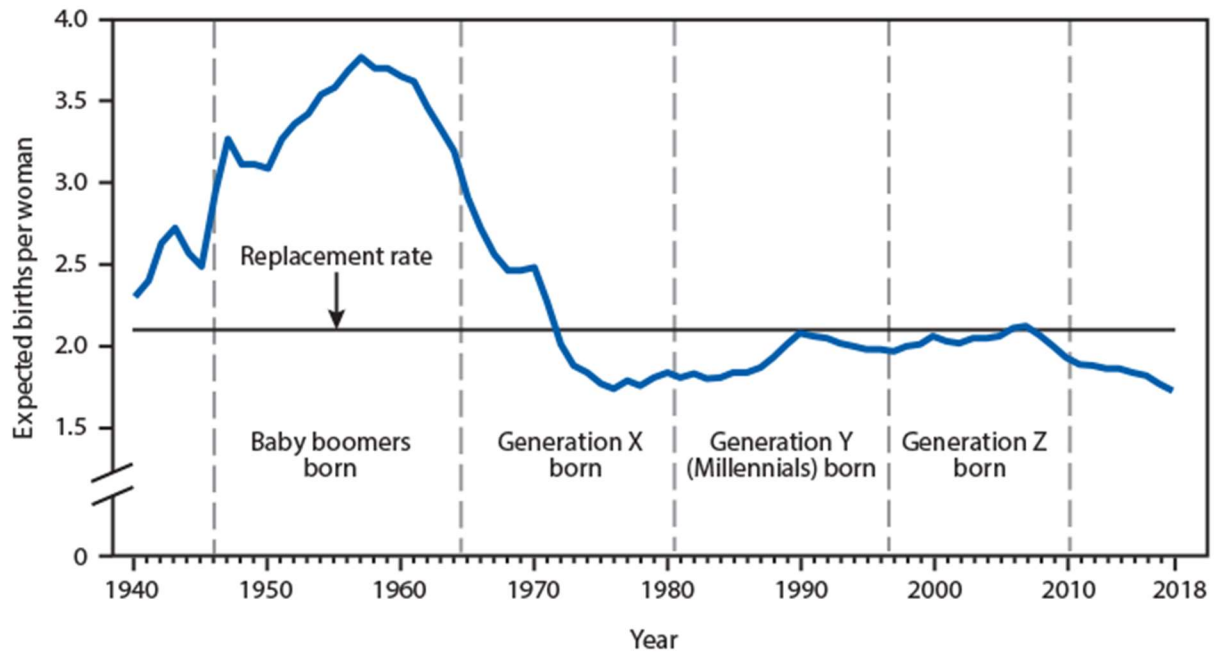
People say we "stand on the shoulders of giants" - like Lincoln, Faraday, Madame Curie, King, Jobs, and Gates. I say that Dr. de Chabert nurtured our shoulders to be giant! Many of us worked with de Chabert the doctor, businessman, farmer, horse racing enthusiast, family man, and/or patient. His tenderheartednesses during these encounters enriched us. He always gave us wise counsel in few soft-spoken words. He typically did what he said he was going to do. He mentored many people and he recruited some of us. The United States of America knows more about its eastern most possession because of what this doctor did here. In the grand category, the de Chabert family and favorable U.S. legislation enabled our economy to harness what was once the world's largest oil refinery! De Chabert transactions in Crucian Queen and Company Quarter estates provided financial opportunities for thousands of Virgin Islanders - those who grew up here and those who came here to live.

If you know Dr. D well, you know that he dislikes flying. His desire to be well-grounded made him more available. He was on-duty when rotating descendants of climate change damaged Juan Luis Hospital. He delivered tiny Crucians in a military deployed tent. Careful planning and his contributions will enable us to build healthcare to suit for our future needs.

During the last 50 years, baby birth numbers have declined significantly in many countries including the United States\*. Some reasons why this has happened are: that women defer childbearing to get a higher education or a higher income, that women have limited access to affordable health care, that child rearing is very expensive, that children do not have enough after-school programs, or that women cannot work-from-home when their young children are sick. As a result, no generation of Americans has been large enough to sustain our retirement expectations since the baby boom ended in 1965. The aging Virgin Islands population will depend very much on Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reform.

Dr. de Chabert actively induced the growth of Virgin Islands families. He promoted a VI Brand that is generous, inclusive, confident, and very good! For these reasons, our elected officials should place his name on the Hospital's sprouting Obstetrics and Gynecology Department.

\*



The USA Total Fertility Rate (TFR) = the expected number of births a woman would have over her lifetime. “Except for 2006 and 2007, the TFR has been below the level needed for a generation to replace itself (2.10 births per woman) since 1971. 2018 TFR = 1.73.”, says the CDC

[QuickStats: Expected Number of Births over a Woman’s Lifetime — National Vital Statistics System, United States, 1940–2018 | MMWR \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/quickstats/expected-number-of-births-over-a-woman-s-lifetime)