

TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,  
VETERAN'S' AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

Good afternoon , Chairwoman Carla Joseph, Members of the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans' Affairs and Consumer Protection, other Senators present, Legislative Staff, fellow testifiers, guests, and the viewing and listening audience.

My name is Ivy Ashwood and I am a Retired Clinical Care Supervisor living on St. Croix, US Virgin Islands. It is an honor for me to give testimony in support of Bill No. 35-0102 - An Act honoring and commending Ralph A. deChabert, M.D. for his outstanding contributions in the medical field and to the people of the Virgin Islands and his many civic contributions to the community, especially to the island of St. Croix and to name the Labor and Delivery/Post-Partum Unit "Maternity Services" at the Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center North in his honor.

I met Dr Ralph A. deChabert in 1966 when I joined the Obstetrics staff at Charles Harwood Memorial Hospital as an RN and Certified Nurse Midwife.

I have worked with him for 33 years from Charles Harwood Hospital to the present Juan F. Luis Hospital. Dr. deChabert loved St. Croix and the people. I have seen his dedication and selfless giving of his time and expertise to the people not only in the health field, but in the wider community. He was the only trained Obstetrician working in the hospital at the time which means he was on call 24 / 7 besides his regular work hours. He was instrumental in having the Sickle Cell Clinic in St. Croix through the March of Dimes. He also started a treatment clinic for heroin addiction in the early 1970's through the 1980's. This was not a government entity; it was his love and compassion to help those people overcome their habits. To say that this clinic was successful, would be an understatement. Under his administration, Charles Harwood Hospital was accredited, and that accreditation extended to Juan F. Luis hospital when we moved there. Dr. DeChabert love and dedication to patients and staff knew no bounds.

In 1989 when Hurricane Hugo struck St. Croix, he came into Juan F. Luis hospital that Sunday at 4:00 p.m. when the hurricane started and during the onslaught Dr. Ralph A. deChabert worked through it all making sure that patients, staff, and the people who were sheltering in the hospital from the

trailer park were safe. Dr. deChabert was still on duty when I left on Tuesday morning.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Bill Sponsor: Senator Marise James Esq. for taking the lead in recommending this honor for Ralph A. deChabert, M.D. I can think of no other person that is such a hardworking and so well deserving Physician and Obstetrician who elevated the care of childbearing and non-childbearing women of St. Croix and beyond. I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage other senators to sign-on on this Bill.

This concludes my testimony and thank you again for the opportunity and I stand ready to answer any questions that you may have.