



GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



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Virgin Islands Office of Veterans Affairs Legislative Testimony

January 24, 2024

Honorable Carla J. Josph, - Chairman of the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection, other Senators of the 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands of the United States, all that are present, listening via radio, or viewing via the Legislature's LEGIT TV, pleasant good day to you. Additional greetings to my comrades in and out of uniform known to you as the Veterans of this beloved territory; Thank You once again for your service to country. Last but never least, to the staff of the Virgin Islands Office of Veterans Affairs to whom I refer to as the "Pillars" of this agency, Ms. Daniel, Mrs. Frederick, Mrs. Gordon, and Ms. Hewitt, thank you for your service to our territory's Veterans.

I am Patrick D. Farrell, your Director of the Virgin Islands Office of Veterans Affairs.

Today I am here to provide solid support for **Bill No. 35-0184** – An Act to honor and commend Viggo E. Sewer posthumously for his ultimate contribution to the Virgin Islands and renaming East End Road on Route 10 on the island of St. John, in his honor.

Viggo E. Sewer valiantly served our nation during the Korean War. His commitment to duty, displayed since joining the military in 1951, marks a legacy of sacrifice that remains etched in the accounts of our community's history.

Viggo as he was affectionately known, who unfortunately became the first from our community to perish in the Korean War, exemplified the highest ideals of patriotism and selflessness. Renaming a road in his honor is absolutely a fitting tribute, a tangible reminder of his ultimate contribution to both our community and the nation he served with unwavering dedication.

As we consider this legislation today, please join me and the entire staff of the Virgin Islands Office of Veterans Affairs in also extending our heartfelt gratitude to the family of this fallen hero. Their sacrifice, which is often unsung, deserves acknowledgment and appreciation. They shared him with us as a community, allowing him to serve with courage and honor. That willingness that they displayed, supporting him as he supported us all, embodies the very strength and resilience that defines our community, the Virgin Islands of the United States.

By us as the leaders of this community supporting this legislation, we are sending a powerful message; a message that will resonate through the years, acknowledging the sacrifices made not just by the late Viggo Sewer, but by EVERY servicemember, Veteran, and their families. It is a testament to our commitment to remember, appreciate, and preserve the legacy of those who gave their all for the freedoms we cherish each and every day.

Chairman Joseph, distinguished members of the Committee on Government Operations and Consumer Protection, and other Senators of the 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands of the United States, the Virgin Islands Office of Veterans Affairs respect the important work that you have done and continue to do to enhance the quality of life and well-being of our territory's Veterans and their families. With your help and continued support, we can ensure our Veterans and their needs are adequately resourced and remain a priority. The challenges we overcome today become the foundation of our promise to serve those who have borne the battle, their families, and their survivors. Our commitment to Veterans of the Virgin Islands and those Veterans who decide to make their home within our shores will remain steadfast. Subject to your questions, this concludes my testimony.

Thank You.