

TESTIMONY
Bill No. 35-0208

January 23, 2024

**Committee on Government Operations, Veteran Affairs,
and Consumer Protection**

Good morning:

Lest I exceed my allotted time, let me at the outset state, without equivocation or hesitancy, that I give my full support to Bill 35-0208—A Resolution that honors and commends Mrs. Bernice Alma Turnbull for her lifetime of service and dedication to the people of the US Virgin Islands community.

As I traced the growth, development, and contributions of Mrs. Bernice Turnbull, as documented in Bill 35-0208, and bolstered by my personal observations, I saw a life that reflected a well-defined work ethic, self-discipline, and a heavy dose of faith. This daughter of James and Miss Viola not only accepted those work experiences that aligned with her interest in financial and office management, but she also filled the remaining hours of the day with classes at City College in New York.

However, life and priorities changed following her return to St. Thomas. Mrs. Bernice Alma Turnbull was now balancing and managing increased responsibilities as wife, mother of two, full-time employment, and partnership in LB Construction and Landscaping Company. In 1971, she was named Chief of the Reconciliation Section at the Department of Finance. Employees and the general public were able to observe, at close range, her performance, commitment, and management skills.

To her credit, Mrs. Turnbull had sought and achieved balance in her life through her involvement with numerous organizations and groups, including the Girl Scouts, Historical Trust Board, Sunday School teacher, Class Leader, Methodist Resource and Development Committee, and the Methodist Circuit Evangelism and Outreach Committee. She remains a Methodist, dedicated, fervent, enthusiastic. Missing a Sunday Service at Wesley Methodist is rare and unusual. Her unapologetic shouts of “Amen” are familiar and expected.

Mrs. Bernice Alma Turnbull’s commitment to the Virgin Islands community and her professional growth has been visible and evident throughout her life. She is a worthy candidate for this honor.