



June 25, 2024

Good morning Honorable Carla J. Joseph, Legislative Secretary, 35<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the Virgin Islands and all others present.

This testimony is regarding the Committee on Government Operation, Veterans Affairs and Consumer Protection in reference to:

Bill No. 35-0239– An Act honoring and commending Mrs. Claire Lorraine Brown Roker for her dedicated service to the Virgin Islands community by naming the visitors center at the Ann E. Abramson Marine Facility, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, the “Claire L. Roker Visitors Center” is sponsored by Senators Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Javan E. James, Sr., and Angel L. Bolques, Jr.

My name is Dr. Clema S. Lewis, DHL, Executive Director of the Women’s Coalition of St. Croix a forty-three-year-old non-profit agency, advocating for victims of crime in our community.

On behalf of the employees, staff, volunteers and Board of Directors of the Women’s Coalition of St. Croix, we congratulate Mrs. Claire Roker on this momentous occasion.

A daughter of the soil, Mrs. Claire Lorainne Roker is a trailblazer in our own right. She joined the Women’s Coalition of St. Croix as a volunteer and served as a member of the Board of Directors from 2006 to 2023. She also served as one of our Victim Advocates of domestic violence and sexual assault for many years. She has dedicated her life to serving this community for the past sixty years, mentoring young women including myself. Claire has used her own powerful voice to speak out against violence targeting women and children. She is full of life and has a big heart.

Her mentorship of young women thru the VI Talented Teens Pageants brought notoriety and attention to the Virgin Islands for many years. She is one of the best fundraisers I have ever met in my life. She has shown me by her actions

the importance of giving back to our community, without expecting anything in return. She will stand up for what she believes is right even if she must stand alone and "I love that about Claire." She is my Shero-a woman that I truly respect and admire! She is most deserving of this honor. Her life's work will live on in the "Claire L. Roker Visitors Center" and will continue to positively impact the people of Frederiksted, and the Virgin Islands and all those who visit our shores.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dr. Clema S. Lewis, DHL

Executive Director

Women's Coalition of St. Croix