

Good morning, Chairwoman and to all the Senators, their staff, listening and viewing audiences. My name is Melvin Forbes better known as Trumpet. I am a promoter my promotion company's name is Rush Entertainment; I am also a friend of Miguel Santos DJ Pops and I feel honored to testify on behalf of this resolution honoring him.

It was in 1985 that I met Miguel Santos while working at Hondo's Nightclub a very popular top 40 club. Top 40 meaning that it was a Rock n Roll and Disco music club, playing the top 40 classics. Miguel Santos "DJ Pops" played there on Saturday Nights. I met Miguel Santos DJ Pops and we immediately bonded and became good friends. I witnessed the growth of His popularity on his radio show on Isle 95 called The Reggae Jam Session. This growth brought him many offers to play in the Caribbean and the US mainland, like Atlanta, Miami, Texas, Baltimore, BVI, St. Maarten, Anguilla just to name a few. We agreed that I would become his booking agent/ manager in 1986. Because of the immense growth of Miguel Santos "DJ Pops" on The Reggae Jam Session on Isle 95, Hondo's Nightclub decided and changed the dynamics of the music thus making Hondo's a local melting Pot. From a Rock N Roll and Disco music only nightclub, Pops introduced the Reggae, Dancehall, Calypso and Latin music genre and it was a huge success. I remember the long lines of people waiting to get in Hondo's Nightclub attendance was between 600 to 1000 persons on the weekends. I remember we were always on the Road during the Holidays. He also played in many establishments to include, Footprints, Moonraker, Rags, The Mill in Frederiksted, Crusaders, Club Z AKA Copa Cabana, Pier 69, Rip Tides, Hard Rock Café in the waterfront, and Club Insomnia in St. Thomas.

Miguel Santos would give back to his community as much as he could. When it came to the youth, he volunteered his services free of charge at The Boys and Girls club, Police Athletic League, UVI 4-H club, and at Sunny Isle during Woolworth's Department Store back to school events. The giving back didn't stop there after a long recovery he is back, and he is training those interested in becoming DJ's through the DJ Pops Music Academy.

One of the many things I admire about him is his devotion to his children , Omarie, Lianna. Tichelle, and Dante Santos. They are his number one priority. I also admired the way he supported the artist in the Virgin Islands in a time of no social media platforms, and a very small market Miguel Santos gave them much needed exposure. Artist like the Apostle, Deh General, Danny I, Midnite, Reggae Bubblers you name it when it came to supporting VI artist, Miguel Poppy Pops Santos was at the forefront.

I am grateful for his friendship and to have been a part of this journey for the past 26 years. I have learned a lot and will always carry the great memories we created. Thanks to all the Senators, and Senator Bolques thanks for introducing the resolution it's an honor to be a part of this historic occasion honoring one of ours Miguel Santos DJ Pops.