

Testimony of Carl Gotts
Bill No. 35-0195
To the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and
Consumer Protection
June 28, 2024

Good morning, my name is Carl Gotts and I am privileged to join you in praising our friend Willard John and recognizing his *many* contributions to the youth and culture of the Virgin Islands.

I thought long and hard to put together the right words to properly describe Willard's decades of selfless efforts in bringing the rich and vibrant culture of the Virgin Islands to generations of young men and women. And my words fell well short to fully praise a man of such dedication and drive.

So I instead went directly to the source. The remainder of my speech today are not my words, but the words of Willard himself. They are profound, they are intelligent and they are powerful.

"It is My Mission and My Passion to educate, promote and preserve the unique aspects of our Culture."

"The Only Way to preserve Culture is to Live It."

"Take not for granted our surroundings."

"Life does not always come with a bow but it is still a gift."

"There is a critical need to shed light on the intricacies of life to illuminate the uncertainty of darkness."

“It is my mission and my passion to educate, promote, preserve the unique Father’s Day. The male proactive participation in the growth and development of youth is a valuable contribution to mankind. The male presence and perspective contributes to a well maintained and balanced family. Let us continue to protect, provide and participate in family affairs to help balance all the negative activity on this planet. We must build a positive, spiritual and solid foundation to support the structure of life.”

I learned that Willard is a poet as well. I poured over all of his poems that I could find and each was powerful and challenging. Challenging the reader, as good poems should, to be read and re-read.

The Whole of my Soul

I sense the collective consciousness of our ancestors while visiting the catacombs of my soul.

I experience the quintessence of being

Divulging a complex set of interrelated people, places, experiences and knowledge.

This summation, kallalooo, gumbo, conglomerate is the indelible antecedent nucleic imprint.

The liberation of the soul from self while synchronizing with the inevitable universal cosmic frequencies is the true expression of the absence of necessity.

Reality like materiality is a phantasm that is as fluid as water and fluctuating as the lit wick of the kerosene lantern producing dim and light so frequently, that distinguishing them becomes unattainable.

The quest to search, adjust and discover continues like the symbol of infinity which is being.

I will close with of course one more of Willard’s quotes.

“We strive to uplift and empower our amazing community, encouraging everyone to embrace and cherish the beauty and diversity of the Virgin Islands. Join us as we embark on this journey of motivation, celebration, and VI Pride! Let’s inspire each other to embrace all aspects that make our islands truly special.”