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Honorable Ronald Russell, Esq.
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June 27, 2024

To: The Honorable Members of the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs,
and Consumer Protection

35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

Capitol Building, Charlotte Amalie

P.O. Box 1690

St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00804

Subject: Written Testimony in Support of Bill No. 35-0239

Dear Honorable Members,

I am writing today to express my unwavering support for Bill No. 35-0239, an Act to honor and commend 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."

It is both a privilege and an honor for me to recommend that this significant recognition be bestowed upon Mrs. Roker, a remarkable individual whose contributions have left an indelible mark on our community. I have known Mrs. Roker all my life, and she has been closely connected to my family, particularly to my grandmother, Ms. Eulalie Rivera. Mrs. Roker's relationship with my grandmother has always been one of mutual respect and admiration, highlighting the deep roots she has in our community.

Mrs. Roker's exemplary service began long before she joined my team. Her commitment to community outreach and cultural preservation has been a cornerstone of her life's work. When I first took office during the 25th Legislature, I had the great fortune of having Mrs. Roker serve as my Community Outreach Coordinator. Her dedication and effectiveness in this role were unparalleled, helping to bridge the gap between my office and the constituents we served. Her

tireless efforts ensured that the voices of our community were heard and that their needs were met with compassion and efficiency.

As I advanced to the presidency of the 29th Legislature, Mrs. Roker transitioned into the role of Office Manager. In this capacity, she demonstrated exceptional organizational skills, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to public service. Her ability to manage the demands of the office while maintaining a personal touch with every constituent interaction was truly remarkable. Mrs. Roker's work ethic and dedication to excellence were evident in every task she undertook.

Beyond her professional achievements, Mrs. Roker is a revered Culture Bearer. Her knowledge and preservation of our cultural heritage have been invaluable to the Virgin Islands. She has played a pivotal role in promoting and safeguarding our traditions, ensuring that future generations remain connected to their roots. Her efforts have fostered a sense of pride and continuity within our community, making her a cherished figure among us.

Naming the visitors center at the Ann E. Abramson Marine Facility in her honor is a fitting tribute to a woman who has dedicated her life to the service of others. The "Claire L. Roker Visitors Center" will stand as a testament to her enduring legacy and the profound impact she has had on our community. It will serve as a reminder of her contributions and inspire future generations to continue her work of community building and cultural preservation.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support Bill No. 35-0239 and urge the esteemed members of this Committee to approve it. Mrs. Claire Lorraine Brown Roker's dedication, service, and cultural contributions merit this honor, and it is a privilege for me to advocate for the naming of the visitors center in her honor. Her legacy will continue to inspire and benefit the Virgin Islands community for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald E. Russell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ronald E. Russell, Esq.