COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

BILL NO. 35-0286

Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

June 20, 2024

An Act honoring and commending Verne Antonio Hodge for his years of dedicated service to the people of the Virgin Islands and its jurisprudence by renaming the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas/St. John, the "Judge Verne A. Hodge Superior Court of the Virgin Islands"

Senator Kenneth L. Gittens PROPOSED BY: 1 WHEREAS, Verne Antonio Hodge was born on November 16, 1933, on the island of 2 St. Thomas, Virgin Islands; 3 WHEREAS, in 1956, Verne Antonio Hodge graduated magna cum laude with a 4 Bachelor of Science from Hampton University and in 1969, he graduated cum laude from 5 Howard University with a Juris Doctor degree, ; 6 WHEREAS, from 1958-1961, he worked as an internal auditor and an internal revenue 7 agent in the Virgin Islands Government; 8 WHEREAS, from 1961-1965, he worked as a public accountant, comptroller with 9 Mannassah Busline, Inc., in St. Thomas; 10 WHEREAS, from 1965-1966, Verne Antonio Hodge worked as a business manager, 11 personnel director with the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works;

1	WHEREAS, from 1969-1973, he established a private practice in law in the Virgin
2	Islands;
3	WHEREAS, from 1973-1976, he became the Attorney General of the Virgin Islands;
4	WHEREAS, from 1976 until October 31, 1999, he served as the Presiding Judge of the
5	Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands, until it was renamed the Superior Court of the Virgin
6	Islands in 2004;
7	WHEREAS, he served as past chairman of the Eastern Region National Association of
8	Attorneys General, and from 1963-1964, he was a member of the Virgin Islands Industrial
9	Board, and from 1964-1966, he was a member of the Virgin Islands Board of Elections;
10	WHEREAS, his many achievements included being a member of the Virgin Islands Bar,
11	the District of Columbia Bar, the United States Court of Appeals for the 3 rd Circuit and the
12	Supreme Court of the United States;
13	WHEREAS, Verne Antonio Hodge held a certificate of advanced income tax law from
14	the United States Internal Revenue Service;
15	WHEREAS, he served in the United States Army and received an award of merit for the
16	9 th Infantry Division;
17	WHEREAS, he was awarded the American Jurisprudence in state, local and federal
18	taxation;
19	WHEREAS, Verne Antonio Hodge has purposely shied away from public recognition
20	of his lifelong service and achievements as a jurist;
21	WHEREAS, his service was steeped in excellence, efficiencies and forward-thinking to
22	make the Virgin Islands courts respected by all;
23	WHEREAS he is characterized by his down-to-earth humility: and

1	WHEREAS, it in only fitting that the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands in the St
2	Thomas/St. John District be renamed the "Judge Verne A. Hodge Superior Court of the Virgin
3	Islands", as a testament to his service of jurisprudence in the Virgin Islands; Now, Therefore,
4	Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:
5	SECTION 1. The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin
6	Islands, honors Verne Antonio Hodge by renaming the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands
7	St. Thomas/St. John, the "Judge Verne A. Hodge Superior Court of the Virgin Islands."
8	SECTION 2 . The sum of \$5,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30.
9	2024, from the General Fund to the Virgin Islands Judiciary, for the signage to be erected at
10	appropriate locations at the Court.
11	SECTION 3. In recognition and appreciation of Verne Antonio Hodge's contributions
12	to the people of the Virgin Islands, the President of the Legislature, or the President's designee
13	shall have a perma plaque copy of the Act prepared and presented to Verne Antonio Hodge, at
14	an appropriate ceremony to be held for the renaming of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands
15	St. Thomas/St. John to the "Judge Verne A. Hodge Superior Court of the Virgin Islands" in his
16	honor.
17	BILL SUMMARY
18	This Act honors Verne Antonio Hodge by renaming the Superior Court of the Virgin
19	Islands, St. Thomas/St. John District, the "Judge Verne A. Hodge Superior Court of the Virgin
20	Islands" for his years of dedicated service to the people of the Virgin Islands and its
21	jurisprudence.

22 BR23-0945/February 22, 2024/CBM