

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERAN  
AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

**BILL NO. 35-0102**

**Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**June 12, 2023**

An Act honoring and commending Ralph A. deChabert, M.D. for outstanding contributions in the medical field to the people of the Virgin Islands and his many civic contributions to the community, especially to the island of St. Croix and to name the Labor and Delivery/Post Partum Unit “Maternity Services” at the Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center North in his honor

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senator Marise C. James

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1       **WHEREAS**, Ralph A. deChabert was born on July 6, 1930 as the oldest child of Ralph  
2 Demain and Ansetta “Annie” deChabert; and

3       **WHEREAS**, Ralph A. deChabert grew up and went to school in Christiansted, St. Croix  
4 where he attended the St. Mary’s Grammar School and the Christiansted High School which  
5 had an integrated junior high school; and

6       **WHEREAS**, Ralph A. deChabert after graduating from high school, attended and  
7 graduated from New York University in 1954; and

8       **WHEREAS**, after graduating from New York University Ralph A. deChabert completed  
9 two years of medical school in Toulouse, France; and

1           **WHEREAS**, Ralph A. deChabert studied for three years at, and graduated from the  
2 University of Lausanne’s School of Medicine in Switzerland in 1959 with a Medical Degree  
3 and earned the right to affix the initials “M.D.” after his name; and

4           **WHEREAS**, when Ralph A. deChabert attended the University of Lausanne’s School of  
5 Medicine, his medical school roommate was Bradford Marshall now deceased; and

6           **WHEREAS**, Dr. deChabert met Dr. Wook Suh during his first year of OB-GYN  
7 residency at Harlem Hospital; and

8           **WHEREAS**, Dr. deChabert, met Dr. Jose Poblete during the second and third year of his  
9 OB-GYN residency at Sydenham Hospital; and

10           **WHEREAS**, Dr. deChabert completed a Obstetrics and Gynecology residency at Harlem  
11 Hospital in New York in 1962; and

12           **WHEREAS**, both Sydenham Hospital and Harlem Hospital are within the New York  
13 City Hospital System; and

14           **WHEREAS**, in 1963, Dr. deChabert became an Obstetrics and Gynecology practitioner  
15 in St. Croix; and

16           **WHEREAS**, on June 27, 1964, Dr. deChabert married the beautiful and kind Mildred  
17 “Millie” Cecilia Amritt-de Chabert (deceased); and

18           **WHEREAS**, Danielle E. deChabert, RPh and Gisele F. deChabert, Esq., are the children  
19 of Dr. and Mrs. deChabert; and

20           **WHEREAS**, Danielle deChabert, RPh is a licensed pharmacist at the Governor Juan F.  
21 Luis Hospital and Medical Center; and

22           **WHEREAS**, Gisele deChabert practices real estate law with the Rockefeller Group in  
23 New York, New York; and

24           **WHEREAS**, Dr. deChabert and his siblings (Rita deChabert-Schuster, Attorney Mario  
25 N. deChabert (deceased), Austin deChabert (deceased), and Shirley deChabert-Highfield,

1 Ph.D.) were the members of Esperanza Development Corporation and Sunny Isles Shopping  
2 Incorporated; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Dr. deChabert was an integral part of the Esperanza Development  
4 Corporation which constructed, owned, and operated the Sunny Isles Shopping Center on St.  
5 Croix, Virgin Islands; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Dr. deChabert was the president of Esperanza Development Corporation  
7 and Sunny Isles Shopping Center Incorporated; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Sunny Isles Shopping Center Incorporated donated No. 6 Estate Diamond,  
9 Christiansted, St. Croix, a 17-acre plot of land to the Virgin Islands Government for the  
10 construction of a new hospital on St. Croix Hospital; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the St. Croix Hospital opened in October 1982 and replaced the Charles  
12 Harwood Hospital; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Rita deChabert-Schuster, sister of Dr. deChabert served as a member of the  
14 St. Croix Government Hospital Facilities Board of Trustees from June 1996 to June 1999; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the name of the St. Croix Hospital and Medical Center, was changed to the  
16 “Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center” with the enactment of Act No. 5876 on  
17 July 19, 1993; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the St. Croix District Governing Board adopted a resolution on April 19,  
19 2002 that named the Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital Dialysis Unit in honor of Mrs. Ansetta  
20 “Annie” deChabert and Attorney Mario N. deChabert to recognize their contributions to the  
21 development of the unit; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the same resolution also named the Labor & Delivery Unit in honor of Dr.  
23 deChabert for his professionalism, dedication, and commitment to patients in the St. Croix  
24 Community; and

1           **WHEREAS**, Dr. deChabert’s nephew, Troy A. Schuster-deChabert, was Acting  
2 Chairman of the St. Croix District Governing Board with jurisdiction over the Governor Juan  
3 F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center from September 9, 2014 to October 3, 2015; and

4           **WHEREAS**, Mr. Schuster-deChabert became chairman of the St. Croix District  
5 Governing Board from November 3, 2015 to April 1, 2018; and

6           **WHEREAS**, Dr. deChabert was Chief of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
7 at the Charles Harwood Hospital and the Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center  
8 from 1963 until 2000; and

9           **WHEREAS**, Dr. deChabert maintained continuous OB-GYN services at the Governor  
10 Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center when St. Croix was being ravaged by Hurricane  
11 Hugo, a Category 4 Hurricane, on September 17, 1989; and

12           **WHEREAS**, for more than one year after Hurricane Hugo ravaged St. Croix, Dr.  
13 deChabert provided medical services to expectant mothers in U.S. Military-deployed medical  
14 units, a/k/a “DEP-MEDS”; and

15           **WHEREAS**, Dr. deChabert presented at and hosted Continuing Medical Education  
16 conferences for the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department; and

17           **WHEREAS**, Dr. Ralph A. deChabert was in private practice with Dr. Manuel Camoes  
18 (deceased) and Dr. Ernest Batenga (deceased) at Island Medical Center in Sunny Isles on St.  
19 Croix; and

20           **WHEREAS**, Dr. Jose Poblete (a retired surgeon and a former VI Commissioner of  
21 Health), Dr. Wook Suh (a retired surgeon), the late Dr. Bradford Marshall (a physiatrist), the  
22 late Dr. Claudius Henry (an orthopedic surgeon), the late Dr. Warren Briscoe (an obstetrician-  
23 gynecologist), Dr. Cheryl Wade (a retired surgeon), Dr. Michelle Berkeley (an obstetrician-  
24 gynecologist), and Dr. Angelo K. Galiber (a diagnostic radiologist) are some of the exceptional

1 physicians whom Dr. deChabert recruited to work in St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands;  
2 and

3 **WHEREAS**, Dr. deChabert was the Director of the Virgin Islands Drug Rehabilitation  
4 Program from the 1960s until 1975; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Dr. deChabert was the Assistant Commissioner of Health from 1973 to  
6 1976; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Dr. deChabert was the Medical Director of Charles Harwood Hospital from  
8 1973 to 1976; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Dr. deChabert was a St. Croix District Governing Board member from  
10 January 28, 1993 to January 27, 1995; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Dr. deChabert was the Virgin Islands Medical Society's 1995 Physician-  
12 Of-The-Year; and

13 **WHEREAS**, on June 8, 2002, the Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center  
14 administration honored Dr. deChabert at its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual ball; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Dr. deChabert delivered over 15,000 Crucian babies during his career; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Dr. deChabert retired from hospital service and his private OB-GYN  
17 practice at the end of January 2004; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Dr. deChabert has been a member of the Virgin Islands Medical Society in  
19 good standing for many years; now therefore:

20 ***Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

21 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin  
22 Islands, honors and commends Dr. Ralph A. deChabert for his distinguished obstetrics and  
23 gynecology career and his major roles in the development of St. Croix health system.



- 1 Section 5 requires the Legislature to present a perma plaque copy of the resolution to Dr.
- 2 Ralph A. deChabert at an appropriate ceremony.
- 3 **BR23-0510/June 9, 2023/AA**