

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,  
VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

03/09/2023-AMENDED AND REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR

02/28/2023-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

**BILL NO. 35-0006**

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

**January 31, 2023**

An Act honoring and commending former Senator George E. Goodwin for his many years of expansive contributions to the Virgin Islands community as a whole, through his roles in various areas of service to the territory as well as advocacy for social justice for underserved people in the Virgin Islands; to rename the Cricket Field located on Parcel H of Tract 1, Estate Nazareth, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands in his honor; and to award former Senator George E. Goodwin the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor; and for other related purposes

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senators Carla J. Joseph, Donna A. Frett-Gregory, Milton E. Potter,  
Alma Francis Heyliger, Ray Fonseca, Marvin A. Blyden,  
Javan E. James, Sr. and Samuel Carrión  
Co-sponsors: Angel L. Bolques, Jr., Diane T. Capehart,  
Kenneth L. Gittens, Marise C. James and Samuel Carrión

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1       **WHEREAS**, George E. Goodwin was born on September 15, 1941, in the Village of  
2       Liberta in Antigua, West Indies to James E. Goodwin and Hilda G. Matthew;

3       **WHEREAS**, he graduated from Antigua Boys Grammar School and continued his  
4       education at the then College of the Virgin Islands where in 1968, he received his A.A. degree  
5       in Hotel Management;

6       **WHEREAS**, He also studied at Monmouth University and at George Washington  
7       University. Goodwin has an extensive background in management, accounting, and insurance;

8       **WHEREAS**, from 1968 to 1979, George E. Goodwin served as an accountant at the  
9       Departments of Finance and Labor and subsequently became the Department of Labor's

1 Director of Comprehensive Employment and Training Administration and Business  
2 Administration (CETA);

3 **WHEREAS**, George E. Goodwin left CETA in 1982 to become Special Assistant to  
4 Congressman Ron deLugo, and in 1984, Mr. Goodwin left the Congressman's Office and  
5 became the Director of the Virgin Islands Processing Center (BlueCross/Blue Shield), and from  
6 there he became the Director of Marketing/Caribbean Region;

7 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Goodwin was owner and operator of Goodwin's Bookkeeping Service,  
8 established in 1971, and an active member of social organizations such as the Caribbean  
9 Development Correlation the American Caribbean Alliance Democratic Club, Virgin Islands  
10 Cricket Association, Virgin Islands Port Authority Board, Governor's Citizen Advisory  
11 Council, Legal Services Board of Directors and the Association of Caribbean Organizations,  
12 among others;

13 **WHEREAS**, in 1991 Governor Alexander Farrelly appointed George E. Goodwin as  
14 Administrator of the Government Employee's Retirement System;

15 **WHEREAS**, the game of cricket was a unifying sport that brought nonresidents and  
16 residents together;

17 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Goodwin played a critical role in organizing local cricket teams and  
18 bringing in teams from the Caribbean region to play in the Virgin Islands thereby enriching the  
19 overall game of cricket;

20 **WHEREAS**, in 1993 George E. Goodwin was sworn in as a Senator of the 20<sup>th</sup>  
21 Legislature of the Virgin Islands and served a second term in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Legislature;

22 **WHEREAS**, from January 1997 to July 1998, Mr. Goodwin served as Special Assistant  
23 with then Delegate to Congress, The Honorable Donna Christensen;

1           **WHEREAS**, George E. Goodwin’s name is identified with numerous pieces of  
2 legislation and the Alien Interest Movement, which worked to bring about social justice in the  
3 areas of education and employment for non-immigrants also referred to as aliens;

4           **WHEREAS**, the Alien Interest Movement was the catalyst for the June 26, 1970  
5 landmark declarative judgement rendered by District Court Judge Almeric Leander Christian in  
6 the case of *Hosier vs. Evans*, 314 F.Supp. 316 (D.V.I. 1970), Judge Christian ruled that non-  
7 immigrant children were entitled to attend public schools in the Virgin Islands;

8           **WHEREAS**, through the Alien Interest Movement, Mr. Goodwin was instrumental in  
9 making these aliens aware of their rights as legal residents of the territory and assisted many in  
10 pursuing adjustments to their residency status;

11           **WHEREAS**, former Senator Goodwin was married to the late Bernice Pickering, and is  
12 the father of six children: Gregory, Maureen, Bernard Neil, Juliet, and Alex;

13           **WHEREAS**, as a result of this case and Mr. Goodwin’s advocacy, thousands of non-  
14 immigrant children were admitted into the public schools of the Virgin Islands and would later  
15 become productive residents as well as citizens thereby enriching the fabric of Virgin Islands’  
16 society; Now, Therefore,

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

18           **SECTION 1.** (a) The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the  
19 Virgin Islands, honors and commends former Senator George E. Goodwin for his many years  
20 of expansive contributions to the Virgin Islands community as a whole, through his roles in  
21 various areas of service to the territory as well as advocacy for social justice for underserved  
22 people, and renames the Cricket Grounds located on Parcel H of Tract 1, Estate Nazareth, St.  
23 Thomas, Virgin Islands, O.L.G. Map No. D9-8847-T014, consisting of 2.296 U.S. acres more  
24 or less, “George E. Goodwin Cricket Grounds” in his honor.

1 (b) The Virgin Islands Department of Public Works shall cause to be prepared a  
 2 distinctive sign bearing the inscription “George E. Goodwin Cricket Grounds”, in a  
 3 conspicuous place at the Cricket Grounds.

4 **SECTION 2.** (a) The sum of \$10,000 is appropriated is appropriated in the fiscal year  
 5 ending September 30, 2023, from the General Fund of the Virgin Islands to the Department of  
 6 Public Works to erect the appropriate signage.

7 (b) The funds appropriated in subsection (a) remain available until expended.

8 **SECTION 3.** Pursuant to title 1 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 7, section 103, George E.  
 9 Goodwin is awarded the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor, cast in gold, for his outstanding public  
 10 service.

11 **SECTION 4.** The President of the Legislature, or the President's designee, shall prepare  
 12 and present a perma plaque copy of this Act and the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor for Public  
 13 Service to George E. Goodwin, or his designee, at an appropriate ceremony.

#### 14 **BILL SUMMARY**

15 This bill honors and commends former Senator George E. Goodwin for his many years  
 16 of expansive contributions to the Virgin Islands community as a whole, through his roles in  
 17 various areas of service to the territory as well as advocacy for social justice for underserved  
 18 people in the Virgin Islands, renames the Cricket Grounds located on Parcel H of Tract 1, Estate  
 19 Nazareth, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands in his honor and awards him the Virgin Islands Medal of  
 20 Honor.

21 **BR23-0108/January 17, 2023/PFA**

22 [..\..\..\AMENDS\35th Legislature\JOSEPH, CARLA J\Amendment 35-227\Amend 35-  
 23 227 - DRAFTED ON YELLOW.docx](#)

24 [..\..\..\AMENDS\35th Legislature\JOSEPH, CARLA J\Amendment 35-197\Amend 35-  
 25 197 - DRAFTED ON YELLOW.docx](#)