

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
VETERAN AFFAIRS, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

08/23/2023-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

BILL NO. 35-0014

Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

February 15, 2023

An Act posthumously honoring and commending Wayne “Facts Man” Adams for articulating and bringing events of historic significance to the people of the Virgin Islands, by naming the bridge at the Nadir intersection on the island of St. Thomas the “Wayne ‘Facts Man’ Adams Bridge

PROPOSED BY: Senators Alma Francis Heyliger and Marvin A. Blyden
Co-sponsor: Ray Fonseca

1 **WHEREAS**, Wayne Adams was born to Mario and Doreen Adams on July 12, 1963, at
2 the Knud Hansen Memorial Hospital on the island of St. Thomas; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Wayne Adams attended the Jane E. Tuitt Elementary School in Savan from
4 1968 to 1975, completing kindergarten through the sixth grade; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Wayne Adams attended the Wayne N. Aspinall Junior High School, later
6 renamed the Addelita Cancryn Junior High School, and completed the course of study in 1977;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, Wayne Adams, in 1981, graduated from the Charlotte Amalie School and
9 was honored for achieving the fourth best academic record out of 310 graduates; and

10 **WHEREAS**, While at the Charlotte Amalie School, Wayne Adams enrolled in the
11 ROTC program, ultimately attaining the rank of Cadet First Lieutenant; and

1 **WHEREAS**, after graduating from high school, Wayne Adams wrote editorials, which
2 were published in the Daily News, a newspaper of general circulation within the U.S. and
3 British Virgin Islands; and

4 **WHEREAS**, from 1982 to 1983, Wayne Adams worked for several senators of the
5 Virgin Islands Legislature; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in 1983, Wayne Adams visited the island of Jamaica where he met with the
7 High Priest of the Maroons, David “Ziggy” Marley, and Winston “The Burning Spear” Rodney,
8 and visited the St. Ann’s Parish where Marcus Garvey, Bob Marley and Burning Spear were
9 born; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in 1984, Wayne Adams ran for a seat in the Legislature of the Virgin
11 Islands, becoming the youngest person in the history of the Virgin Islands to run for a seat in
12 the Legislature; and

13 **WHEREAS**, between 1986 and 1987, the renowned Reginald “Ras Reg” Martin, on his
14 radio show “Reggae Runnings,” christened Wayne Adams with the moniker “Facts Man” for
15 always calling in to the radio show and bringing historical facts to the people of the Virgin
16 Islands. Thus, was born Wayne “Facts Man” Adams; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Wayne “Facts Man” Adams hosted a radio talk show program called
18 “Awareness” on station WWVI 1000, on the island of St. Thomas; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Wayne “Facts Man” Adams was a historian specializing in Black History.
20 He was a licensed publisher and owned a publishing company based on the island of St. Thomas
21 where he published and co-authored fourteen historical posters, and narrated and recorded two
22 historical tapes and discs, and

23 **WHEREAS**, Wayne “Facts Man” Adams sang professionally for more than twenty two
24 years and performed on Saturday evening, July 1, 2006, at the St. John Festival Village named
25 “Thomasville” Festival Village; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Wayne “Facts Man” Adams visited many countries in Africa, the
2 Caribbean and Mexico, which allowed him to bring accurate facts about historic events to the
3 people of the Virgin Islands, and

4 **WHEREAS**, Wayne “Facts Man” Adams, while enjoying professional success, was the
5 first to admit his personal challenges and struggles and when he overcame them, thanked his
6 parents for being at his side when he needed them the most; Now Therefore;

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

8 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin
9 Islands, honors and commends Wayne “Facts Man” Adams posthumously for his outstanding
10 historical, musical, intellectual and spiritual contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands
11 and the international community.

12 **SECTION 2.** The bridge at the Nadir intersection on St. Thomas, Virgin Islands is
13 named “The Wayne “Facts Man” Adams Bridge” in memory of the late Wayne “Facts Man”
14 Adams.

15 **SECTION 3.** The Commissioner of the Department of Public Works shall provide for the
16 erection of appropriate signage in an appropriate location at the Nadir Bridge bearing the
17 inscription, The Wayne “Facts Man” Adams Bridge.

18 **SECTION 4.** (a) The sum of \$10,000 is appropriated for the fiscal year ending
19 September 30, 2023, from the General Fund of the Virgin Islands to the Department of Public
20 Works for the erection of signage for the purpose set forth in section 2.

21 (b) The sum appropriated in subsection (a) remains available until expended.

22 **SECTION 5.** In recognition and appreciation for his contributions to the people of the
23 Virgin Islands, the President of the Legislature or the President’s designee shall have a perma
24 plaque copy of this act prepared and presented to the family, of the late Wayne “Facts Man”
25 Adams, or to the family’s designee, at an appropriate ceremony.

Bill Summary

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Section 1 honors and commends Wayne “Facts Man” Adams for his historical contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands.

Section 2 names the bridge at the Nadir intersection on the island of St. Thomas, The Wayne “Facts Man” Adams Bridge.

Section 3 directs the Commissioner of Public Works to erect the appropriate signage to commemorate the event.

Section 4 appropriates the sum of \$10,000 to fund the cost of the placement of the signage.

Section 5 requires the Legislature to present a perma plaque copy of this act to the family of the late Wayne “Facts Man” Adams at an appropriate ceremony.

BR23-0092/January 18, 2023/AA