

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERANS
AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

11/22/2024-REASSIGNED TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

BILL NO. 35-0410

Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

November 19, 2024

An Act honoring and commending Mr. Salvador “Sal” Sanpere for his dedication and contribution to St. Croix by naming the Christiansted boardwalk in his honor

PROPOSED BY: Senator Samuel Carrión

1 **WHEREAS**, Salvador “Sal” Sanpere was born on November 1, 1938, in Barcelona,
2 Spain, and relocated to South America when he was two years old to seek refuge during the
3 Spanish Civil War;

4 **WHEREAS**, in June 1960, Sanpere settled in Miami with his wife, Jeanine Sanpere. the
5 love of his life;

6 **WHEREAS**, in 1966, Sanpere, his wife, Jeanine and their two daughters relocated to St.
7 Croix;

8 **WHEREAS**, in 1972, Sal raised funds for the team from the Virgin Islands to compete
9 in the three-position rifle marksmanship division in the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich,
10 Germany;

11 **WHEREAS**, in 1973, Sal opened his own business, Olympic Rental Car, in homage to
12 his most treasured experiences;

1 **WHEREAS**, at the age of 32, Sal’s eyesight began to fail, and he was diagnosed with
2 early onset of Macular Degeneration;

3 **WHEREAS**, in 1992, Sal became legally blind, but this did not stop him from living a
4 full and active life;

5 **WHEREAS**, Sal worked with Toyota and Budget Rent-A-Car as a General Manager;

6 **WHEREAS**, he raised funds to set up a shooting range at the Martin Marietta aluminum
7 plant and later built a shooting range at the Boys Scout Camp in the east end of St. Croix;

8 **WHEREAS**, he served as a board member for the Virgin Islands Council of the Boys
9 Scouts of America for twenty-nine years;

10 **WHEREAS**, he has been a board member of the Independent Living Association for
11 over 20 years and organizes a luncheon every year for 100-plus members with disabilities for
12 National Disability Awareness Month at the Palms at Pelican Cove;

13 **WHEREAS**, for the past 25 years Sal has been the Chairman and organizer of the St.
14 Croix Christmas Boat Parade, which takes place on the second Saturday of December at the
15 Christiansted boardwalk;

16 **WHEREAS**, on December 3, 2016, Sal was honored at the Lechon Festival as the
17 “Hispanic Man of the Year.”

18 **WHEREAS**, in 2017, he was awarded the “Lifetime Achievement Award” by Governor
19 Kenneth E. Mapp and the St. Croix Chamber of Commerce, and the Congressional Award was
20 bestowed upon him by Delegate Stacy Plaskett;

21 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Sanpere has made extensive contributions to the community and has
22 been recognized with multiple honors, such as: “Rotary Father of the Year” - Rotary West;
23 “Man of the Year” - Rotary Club of Mid Isle; “Man of the Year” – St. Croix Yatch Club;
24 “USVI International Man of the Year” from Abdul Ali; and “The Silver Beaver Award” – the
25 highest honor from the United States National Boy Scouts of America;

1 **WHEREAS**, Sal raised funds to send twenty athletes to compete in the Special Olympics
2 in Dublin, Ireland;

3 **WHEREAS**, he also raised \$30,000 to construct a playground for the Montessori School
4 and secured the initial funding for the St. Croix Foundation to purchase and install surveillance
5 cameras in downtown Christiansted;

6 **WHEREAS**, Sal has been an active member of the Chamber of Commerce for 45 years
7 and a board member of the Hotel and Tourism Association for 19 years;

8 **WHEREAS**, Sal used his talents to raise money for many organizations such as the
9 Rotary Club, the Boys Scouts, the Special Olympics, the Make a Wish Foundation, the Center
10 for Independent Living, the VI Olympic Committee, Hospice Care, the VI Police Department,
11 and other charitable organizations;

12 **WHEREAS**, Sal was instrumental in raising \$750,000 for the Boy Scout Dream Camp,
13 which is complete with showers, bathrooms, bungalows housing thirty-six bunk beds, and a
14 boat house;

15 **WHEREAS**, in addition to his contributions to the St. Croix community, Sal is an
16 exemplary family man as a devoted husband and the father of two adult children who have
17 benefited from their father's example;

18 **WHEREAS**, Sanpere has been instrumental in various community projects, including
19 the Make a Wish Foundation, the Boys and Girls Club, Toys for Tots initiative, that
20 demonstrates a steadfast commitment to the betterment of St. Croix; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Salvador "Sal" Sanpere has been a pillar of the Virgin Islands community,
22 and renaming the boardwalk in his honor is a fitting tribute for his invaluable contributions;
23 Now, Therefore,

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

