

A Tribute to Salvador Sanpere December 11, 2024

Good day Senators:

I have known Sal Sanpere for 35 of the 39 years that I have lived in the Virgin Islands. Sal stands out to me as one of the most passionate and determined supporters of worthwhile causes that I have ever met. I am sure that most of you know Sal's history in the Virgin Islands, but I will list some highlights:

Sal represented the USVI at the 1972 Olympic Games, in shooting. His passion for this sport led him to be involved in the promotion of shooting in the VI for several decades.

Sal was a member of the VI Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Sal raised money to send dozens of Virgin Islands youth to a National Jamboree, affording these kids an opportunity that would not have been possible without Sal's energy and drive.

As a board member of the VI Association for Independent Living, Sal was a dedicated fund raiser and organizer of an annual luncheon for recognition and fellowship.

Sal has been the driving force behind the St. Croix Boat Parade for many years. What started as an enjoyable evening for some boat owners and spectators, has grown into one of the highlight events of the St. Croix Calendar, with one of the most spectacular fireworks displays ever seen in the Virgin Islands.

The key to Sal Sanpere's success in all of these activities is his relentless pursuit of sponsors and donors. He has an infectious passion to do whatever he can to improve the lives of others. As a

manager of a St. Croix business for the last 20 years, I always found it impossible to say no to Sal. It is evident from his success that others felt the same way.

But it was not just his persistence. Sal recognized how important these organizations are to the St. Croix community. Sal was determined to do whatever he could to improve the lives of Virgin Islanders. Whether it was Boy Scouts, those with disabilities, or simply families that looked forward to the Boat Parade and fireworks, Sal has made it his mission to make a difference in our community.

I am so happy that the Legislature is working to honor Sal Sanpere. He is one of the most deserving members of our community that I know of. Recognizing Sal will not only let him know how much his life's work is appreciated, but will serve as an example to others.

Respectfully submitted,

John Harper
President, Marshall + Sterling St. Croix, Inc.