

Testimony in Support of Bill No. 35-0410
Honoring and Commending Mr. Salvador "Sal" Sanperez

Good morning, Honorable Members of the Legislature,

My name is Nancy Torres, and I am here today to voice my strong support for Bill No. 35-0410, *An Act honoring and commending Mr. Salvador "Sal" Sanperez for his dedication and contribution to St. Croix by naming the Christiansted Boardwalk in his honor.*

I first met Sal in 2009 when I joined the Rotary Club Mid-Isle organization. From that time onward, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand his incredible spirit, boundless energy, and unwavering commitment to our community. Sal's numerous contributions, many of which are detailed in this bill, speak volumes about his dedication to St. Croix. His active involvement in a variety of organizations and committees has significantly enriched our island and its people.

Beyond the achievements already outlined in the bill, what sets Sal apart is his extraordinary approach to life. Despite being legally blind, Sal lives with a determination and humor that inspire everyone around him. He is a person who doesn't just participate—he leads. I often say he's the only blind person I know who can tell you how to drive or teach you to captain his boat! His keen instincts, sharp mind, and incredible understanding of his environment often leave those who know him in awe.

Sal is also a role model for individuals with disabilities, showing what can be achieved with courage and perseverance. His infectious sense of humor and positivity make him a joy to be around. He has an uncanny ability to make people laugh, share a joke, or offer a kind word, no matter the situation.

In particular, Sal's 25-year leadership as chairman of the annual boat parade is a shining example of his dedication. Held along the Christiansted Boardwalk every second Saturday of December, this event has grown into one of the island's most cherished family traditions, drawing residents and visitors alike. Sal's tireless efforts ensure its success year after year, and naming the boardwalk in his honor is a fitting tribute to his incredible commitment.

This honor goes beyond just naming a landmark. It is a heartfelt "thank you" to a man who has given so much to St. Croix.

Naming the Christiansted Boardwalk after Sal is not just an honor for him; it is an honor for all of us to celebrate someone who represents the best of our community. This iconic location, a gathering place for residents and visitors alike, is the perfect tribute to a man whose contributions and legacy continue to inspire generations.

I urge the members of this legislature to pass Bill No. 35-0410. Let this be a lasting recognition of Sal's immeasurable impact on St. Croix. Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts and for considering this well-deserved honor.

being legally blind, he accomplishes things most of us can only dream of, always with a smile and a sense of humor that lights up any room.

Naming the Christiansted Boardwalk after Sal is not just about honoring his past contributions but also about celebrating his enduring legacy. It connects his name to a place that reflects the vibrant community he has helped foster.

I urge the members of this legislature to pass Bill No. 35-0410. By doing so, you will honor the man behind one of St. Croix's most beloved events and show appreciation for all he has done to make our island a better place. Thank you, Sal, for everything.

Thank you, Honorable Chair, for this opportunity.