

The Honorable Avery L. Lewis  
Chairperson  
Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, Consumer Protection  
36<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the Virgin Islands  
Capitol Building  
St. Thomas, USVI 00802

Dear Chairperson Lewis:

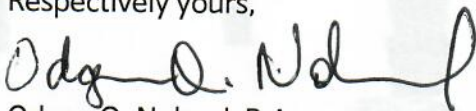
Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony on Bill#36-0075, a resolution honoring and commending Austin A. Venzen for his contribution to music education and the arts throughout the community. Due to scheduling conflict, I cannot attend today's hearing on Bill 36-0075. However, I would like the following to be read into the record sharing my support for the legislation.

I offer my full support for this posthumous recognition of Austin A. Venzen affectionately known as "Professor Venzen." I met Professor Venzen when I began my educational journey at the University of the Virgin Islands, where he taught me the Fundamentals of Teaching Elementary and Secondary Music Instruction and Conducting. He also taught me how to play Brass and Woodwind instruments as part of my musical journey. We developed a lifelong bond which was only enhanced when I became the Musical Director at the ChristChurch Methodist Church for which he attended. Through the years we collaborated on countless musical projects.

Professor Venzen displayed a strong conviction for music and an overall passion for the Fine Arts. He has been an inspiration to many musical talents both locally and abroad. His presence can be felt through the various genres of music you hear.

This posthumous recognition will not only honor the legacy of Professor Venzen but will serve as an inspiration for generations to come. Once again thank you for giving me the opportunity to give testimony to this worthwhile piece of legislation.

Respectively yours,

  
Odgen Q. Noland, B.A.

Music Educator, Lockhart K-8

Music Director

Christchurch Methodist Church