

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERANS
AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

BILL NO. 36-0220

Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

January 12, 2026

An act honoring and commending former Senator Lorraine L. Berry posthumously for her decades of outstanding public service by renaming Hull Bay Road located in North Side, St. Thomas, the “Lorraine L. Berry Drive”

PROPOSED BY: Senator Avery L. Lewis
Sponsor: Angel L. Bolques, Jr.

WHEREAS, Lorraine Ledee Berry was born on the island of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands,
on November 15, 1949, to Joseph and Emelda Ledee;

WHEREAS, Lorraine L. Berry developed a strong interest in politics and social justice
as a teenager after being inspired by the oratory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his historic “I
Have a Dream” speech on August 8, 1963;

WHEREAS, Lorraine L. Berry was a Democrat all her adult life, having cast her first
vote as a Democrat in 1968 and subsequently founding the Virgin Islanders for Democratic
Action Club, in addition to serving innumerable terms as a member of the Territorial Committee
of the Virgin Islands Democratic Party;

WHEREAS, Lorraine L. Berry first became actively involved in politics as a result of
her work as PTA President of the Robert Merrick School (now Joseph Sibilly Elementary

School), prompting Earle B. Ottley and Roy Gottlieb to initiate a write-in campaign, without her knowledge, to draft her to serve in the Democratic Territorial Committee;

WHEREAS, prior to her legislative service, Lorraine L. Berry served the people of the Virgin Islands in various capacities, including the Office of Delegate to Congress Ron de Lugo, the Bureau of Audit and Control (now the Office of the Inspector General), the Industrial Incentive Board (now the Economic Development Authority), and the Neighborhood Youth Corps In-School Program;

WHEREAS, Lorraine L. Berry won a seat in the 15th Legislature of the Virgin Islands and began her term of office in January 1983, marking the commencement of a distinguished 24-year tenure in the Legislature, serving from the 15th through the 26th Legislatures;

WHEREAS, Senator Berry received numerous honors and awards throughout her career, including the Legislator's Award, the Holy Family Catholic Church Mother of the Year Award, the Legislature's Cup Award, the Beacon Schools Award, to name a few;

WHEREAS, Lorraine L. Berry, in addition to serving as President of the 22nd and 25th Legislatures, served the body in a number of key leadership positions including Chair of the Committee on Government Operations in the 15th Legislature, Chair of the Committee on Finance in the 17th, 18th, and the 23rd legislatures, Majority leader of the 18th Legislature, Chair of the Committee on Health in the 19th and 20th Legislatures, and Vice-President and Chair of the Committee on Public Safety, the Judiciary, Homeland Security and Justice in the 25th Legislature;

WHEREAS, Lorraine L. Berry's twelve consecutive terms in the Legislature of the Virgin Islands distinguishes her as having the longest continuous tenure of any member in the history of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands;

1 **WHEREAS**, in addition to Lorraine L. Berry's legislative service, she served the people
2 of the Virgin Islands on numerous boards and commissions including Co-Chair of the
3 Commission on Status and Federal Relations; Ex-officio member of the Public Services
4 Commission; Governor Farrelly's Task Force on Health Care Reform; the Judicial Council; the
5 Law Review Commission; the Law Enforcement Planning Commission; the Cruise Ship Task
6 Force; the Family Support 360 Advisory council of the University of the Virgin Islands Center
7 for Excellence in Development Disabilities; the VI EPSCOR Governing Board; Governor
8 Turnbull's Interagency Council on Homelessness; the Virgin Islands Cultural Endowment for
9 the Humanities; and the Salt River Task Group;

10 **WHEREAS**, Lorraine L. Berry, over the course of her tenure, improved the lives of
11 thousands of Virgin Islands residents by spearheading a number of important legislative
12 initiatives including the Government Financial Accountability Act, The Virgin Islands
13 Economic Development Program, the creation of the Enterprise Zone Program, the enactment
14 of the Hospital and Health Facilities Corporation Act which led to the semi-autonomy and
15 accreditation of hospitals on St. Thomas and St. Croix, the Child Protection Act of 2002, the
16 Justifiable Use of Force Policy, the Comprehensive Omnibus Justice Act of 2005, and the
17 Donated Leave Program;

18 **WHEREAS**, Lorraine L. Berry throughout her tenure as a public servant, was a tireless
19 advocate on behalf of women, children, and families in the territory and not only enacted
20 legislation but sponsored programs, annual women's conferences, essay contests and other
21 programs to empower women and families and to heighten awareness of the challenges they
22 face;

1 **WHEREAS**, Lorraine L. Berry was a staunch advocate of fiscal responsibility and
2 accountability, often waging war against what she termed the “four horsemen of the
3 Apocalypse” fiscal irresponsibility, corruption, cronyism and rampant waste;

4 **WHEREAS**, Lorraine L. Berry’s service to the community has been recognized by
5 numerous community, professional and business organizations, thus earning her hundreds of
6 awards including: 1997 Rotary Person of the Year Award, the St. Thomas- St. John Chamber
7 of Commerce Wilbur “Bill” La Motta Public Service Award, the Project Hope Award, the
8 Virgin Islands Commission on the Status of Women Award, induction into the Women’s Hall
9 of Fame in 2007, the Orde National du Merite Award from Jacques Chirac, former President
10 of France, the AFT Feddy Award, COAST outstanding Legislature’s Cup Award honoring her
11 service from the 15th to the 26th Legislatures, the Beacon Schools Award;

12 **WHEREAS**, Lorraine L. Berry retired from the Legislature in 2007 after twenty-four
13 uninterrupted years of service, leaving behind a legacy of leadership, advocacy, and civic
14 responsibility;

15 **WHEREAS**, Lorraine L. Berry passed away on July 19, 2010, after a year-long battle
16 with colon cancer, to the sorrow of thousands of Virgin Islanders;

17 **WHEREAS**, Lorraine L. Berry is and will forever remain an iconic figure in Virgin
18 Islands politics, symbolizing civic responsibility, government accountability, public service,
19 and the empowerment of women in leadership; Now, Therefore,

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

21 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin
22 Islands, hereby posthumously honors and commends the late Senator Lorraine L. Berry for her
23 decades of outstanding public service as a legislator and community leader.

SECTION 2. In recognition and appreciation of her contributions, the President of the Legislature, or the President’s designee, shall present perma plaque copy of this act to the family of the late Senator Lorraine L. Berry at an appropriate ceremony, at which time the signage authorized in section 3 shall be unveiled.

SECTION 3. The public road currently known as Hull Bay Road, located on the North Side of St. Thomas is hereby renamed the “Lorraine L. Berry Drive.” The Department of Public Works shall erect and maintain appropriate signage to reflect this designation.

SECTION 4. The sum of \$10,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, from the St. Thomas Capital Improvement Fund to the Department of Public Works to erect and maintain the signage mandated in section 3.

BILL SUMMARY

This act posthumously honors and commends former Senator Lorraine L. Berry for her decades of outstanding public service by renaming the Hull Bay Road located on North Side St. Thomas, the “Lorriane L. Berry Drive.”

BR25-0859/November 20, 2025/PFA