

**BILL NO. 36-0218**

**Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**January 12, 2026**

An act honoring and commending Jerome Austin Browne for his outstanding achievements and contributions to baseball and the youth of St. Croix by renaming Prince Street in Christiansted “Jerry Browne Street”

---

**PROPOSED BY:** Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.

---

1       **WHEREAS**, Jerome Austin Browne, nicknamed “The Governor” was born in  
2 Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, on February 13, 1966; and

3       **WHEREAS**, he was the fourth of five children born to Rudolph and Iris Browne; and

4       **WHEREAS**, Mr. Browne played Little League, Babe Ruth League, and American  
5 Legion baseball; and

6       **WHEREAS**, Mr. Browne started playing baseball through his uncle who introduced him  
7 to Horace Clarke and Elmo Plaskett, two major-leaguers from St. Croix who became  
8 government-paid baseball instructors when they retired from baseball; and

9       **WHEREAS**, according to Mr. Browne, Horace Clarke and Elmo Plaskett arranged for  
10 Mr. Browne and his teammates to travel to Puerto Rico opening opportunities to play winter  
11 ball and to gain recognition; and

12       **WHEREAS**, in March 1983, before he graduated from Central High School, the Texas  
13 Rangers signed Mr. Browne as an undrafted free agent scouted by Orlando Gomez. Gómez, a

1 longtime catcher and manager in Puerto Rico, had played with Horace Clarke, Joe Christopher,  
2 and José Morales, all from St. Croix; and

3       **WHEREAS**, Mr. Browne showed off his excellent speed on four minor-league teams:  
4 Sarasota Rangers (Rookie League, 1983); Burlington Rangers (Midwest League, 1984); Salem  
5 Red Birds (Carolina League, 1985); and Tulsa Drillers (Texas League, 1986); and

6       **WHEREAS**, Mr. Browne hit .303 with 39 stolen bases in the Tulsa Drillers Minor  
7 League Baseball Team in 1986; and

8       **WHEREAS**, in the winter of 1986-87, Browne became the fourth Virgin Islander to win  
9 Rookie of the Year in the Puerto Rican Winter League, batting .316 and scoring a league-  
10 leading 36 runs for the Santurce Cangrejeros. Luis Rodriguez Mayoral, who was the Latin-  
11 American liaison for the Rangers, secured an exemption for Mr. Browne to play as a “native”  
12 of Puerto Rico, and not as an “import”; and

13       **WHEREAS**, Mr. Browne played ten seasons in Major League Baseball (MLB) with the  
14 Texas Rangers from 1986 to 1988, the Cleveland Indians from 1989 to 1991, the Oakland  
15 Athletics from 1992 to 1993 and the Florida Marlins from 1994 to 1995;

16       **WHEREAS**, Mr. Browne played second base, third base and outfield during his ten  
17 seasons in Major League Baseball; and

18       **WHEREAS**, Mr. Browne was awarded the Rangers Rookie of the Year in 1987; and

19       **WHEREAS**, Mr. Browne was awarded the Cleveland Baseball Writers Association of  
20 America (BBWAA) Man of the Year Award in 1989; and

21       **WHEREAS**, Mr. Browne was awarded the Cleveland Gordon Cobbledick Golden  
22 Tomahawk Award in 1989; and

23       **WHEREAS**, Mr. Browne finished his major-league career in 1995 with 23 home runs,  
24 288 RBIs, and a .271 average. He played in 982 games, second only to Horace Clarke on the  
25 lifetime list among Virgin Islanders; and

