

BILL NO. 36-0337

Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

July 31, 2026

An act honoring and commending Camille “King Derby” Macedon for his lifelong achievements and contributions as a calypsonian, educator and cultural ambassador and renaming the public road known as Colqouhoun_PR01, “Camille “King Derby” Macedon Lane”

PROPOSED BY: Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.

1 **WHEREAS**, Camille Macedon was born in Frederiksted, St. Croix, in 1939, and is
2 fondly known as “King Derby,” and in recent years also as “Pastor Derby”;

3 **WHEREAS**, in addition to singing calypso, Macedon also engaged in stints as a boxer,
4 baseball player, and skater;

5 **WHEREAS**, Macedon started playing banjo at age eight and at age nine and a half,
6 performed with the locally renowned Simmons Brothers, who had a live radio broadcast on
7 Saturday nights;

8 **WHEREAS**, in 1948, Camille played for a visit from U.S. President Harry S. Truman;

9 **WHEREAS**, Camille began singing calypso as a young man in 1957, later performing
10 professionally in 1966;

11 **WHEREAS**, before singing calypso, Camille Macedon worked as a racehorse jockey
12 for 15 years and received the stage name “Derby” from his former teacher, the late attorney
13 Gerard “Luz” A. James, Sr.;

1 **WHEREAS**, he became an 11-time winner of the Crucian Christmas Calypso Monarch
2 competition, including seven consecutive monarch titles before being forced to take a break by
3 others who felt they could not win while he was competing;

4 **WHEREAS**, Camille “King Derby” Macedon was married to the late Leona Edney for
5 forty years, with whom he shared two adult children;

6 **WHEREAS**, he was employed with the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works for
7 forty years;

8 **WHEREAS**, Macedon served as a Virgin Islands ambassador under the administration
9 of Governor Juan F. Luis at a time when St. Croix was working to rebound from the negative
10 publicity caused by the 1972 tourist killings known as the “Fountain Valley Massacre”;

11 **WHEREAS**, during his ambassadorship, Macedon was granted seven months
12 administrative leave by Governor Juan F. Luis to travel throughout the United States as an
13 ambassador to sing on behalf of the Virgin Islands;

14 **WHEREAS**, his calypso career spanned performances in St. Lucia, Dominica, Canada,
15 Chicago, and other locations, and he recorded popular compositions including “Juan Luis Jam,”
16 recognized as the first official St. Croix Road March in 1979, as well as “Rum and Coke” and
17 other notable works;

18 **WHEREAS**, Macedon became widely regarded as the best extemporaneous singer in the
19 Virgin Islands, known for coining witty lyrics on command from the stage or any performance
20 setting, and noted that his lyrics have at times been considered controversial because he sings
21 about issues affecting the people, describing his work as similar to the reporting of the former
22 St. Croix Avis and the Virgin Islands Daily News;

23 **WHEREAS**, in 1982, he founded Calypso Incorporated (Calypso Inc.) with the mission
24 of bringing calypso music into schools on St. Croix and preserving local culture, including
25 Quelbe music;

1 **WHEREAS**, Camille “King Derby” Macedon has generously shared his knowledge of
2 banjo playing and calypso with young Virgin Islanders. He began this initiative in the 1970’s
3 at Pearl B. Larsen School and continues to teach weekly at Seventh-day Adventist School,
4 School of the Good Shepherd, Alexander Henderson Elementary School, Claude O. Markoe
5 Elementary School, and Eulalie Rivera Elementary School;

6 **WHEREAS**, winners of Calypso Inc.’s annual competitions receive savings bonds
7 ranging from \$100 to \$250, and Macedon proudly notes that approximately 170 former
8 members have gone on to college, crediting the program’s structure, including topic
9 development, lyric learning, writing skills, public speaking, confidence building, and stage
10 presence, for supporting their academic and personal success;

11 **WHEREAS**, among his standout students have been “Mighty John” Williams, who at
12 age 17 defeated veteran calypsonians to win the Monarch crown in 2003, and Kasaun “K-
13 Force” Baptiste, who won first runner-up in the Monarch competition in 2012, both of whom
14 Macedon speaks of with great pride;

15 **WHEREAS**, on April 5, 2018, Macedon was honored in the Bronx, New York, by the
16 VI. Freshwater Association at a benefit dinner for his significant role in mentoring youth,
17 including helping several young musicians perform banjo in Philadelphia for three nights in
18 August of 2001 as part of the Grove Place Weed and Seed Program;

19 **WHEREAS**, Camille Macedon has devoted countless hours to teaching the art of
20 calypso and banjo playing to children of the Virgin islands, working with junior calypsonians
21 ranging from age 6 to 15, who have impressed audiences at the Crucian Christmas Festival and
22 various community performances;

23 **WHEREAS**, in 2025, Macedon turned 86 years old, continues to sing and released a
24 two-song CD with his 14-year-old granddaughter, DeMaris Belardo. a seven-time winner of

the junior calypso competition, featuring the song “Love is a Business,” a witty commentary on female relationships;

WHEREAS, before his granddaughter’s entry into calypso, Macedon’s daughter Monique won the junior calypso competition in 1987 and 1988, earning her first crown at age 11, and now assists her father with the work of Calypso Inc.;

WHEREAS, Macedon has also written lyrics for other calypsonians, including his cousin and one-time festival monarch Karen “Lady Mac” McIntosh, and has performed jingles for the Virgin Islands Lottery and the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority;

WHEREAS, as a freelance banjo player, he has performed with three of the leading Quelbe bands: Stanley and the Ten Sleepless Knights, Jamesie and the All Stars, and Bully and the Musical Kafooners;

WHEREAS, Macedon expressed that he lives for moments of witnessing youth succeed and always strives to help children in the Virgin Islands do their best, proudly contributing “his little part” wherever possible; Now, Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands, honors and commends Camille “King Derby” Macedon for his lifelong achievements and contributions as a calypsonian, educator and cultural ambassador.

SECTION 2. In recognition and appreciation of his contributions, the President of the Legislature, or the President’s designee, shall present a perma plaque copy of this resolution to Mr. Camille “King Derby” Macedon at an appropriate ceremony.

SECTION 3. (a) The public road known as Colqouhoun_PR01 is hereby renamed “Camille “King Derby” Macedon Lane”.

(b) The Department of Public Works shall erect and maintain appropriate signage.

1 The sum of \$10,000 is appropriated from the General Fund of the Government of the
2 Virgin Islands, in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, to the Department of Public
3 Works to erect the appropriate signage.

4 **BILL SUMMARY**

5 This bill honors and commends Mr. Camille “King Derby” Macedon for his lifelong
6 achievements and contributions as a calypsonian, educator and cultural ambassador and
7 renames the public road known as Colqouhoun_PR01, “Camille “King Derby” Macedon
8 Lane”.

9 **BR25-0907/July 27, 2026/PFA/Revised July 31, 2026**