

Testimony in Support of Bill No. 36-0320
Honoring and Commending Kevré Hendricks

Presented by Essi Gaston-Edwards

Good afternoon, Honorable Senators, members of the Committee, invited guests, and members of our community.

It is truly an honor to stand before you today in support of Bill No. 36-0320, recognizing someone who, to me, is far more than a colleague or a friend. Kevré Hendricks is family.

For 20 years, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the extraordinary passion Kevré brings to everything he does. Whether it is music, education, military service, cultural preservation, or serving his community, he gives wholeheartedly. What I admire most is his remarkable ability to dedicate his time and energy to every area of his life without compromising the quality of his commitment. He gives his very best to his students, his soldiers, his family, his friends, and his community, ensuring that each receives the same level of love, attention, and dedication.

Despite his countless accomplishments, Kevré remains beyond humble. He does not seek recognition, applause, or accolades. His greatest satisfaction comes from seeing those around him succeed. At the heart of all he does is a desire to inspire others, especially his students, to aspire to greatness, to recognize their potential, and to become the very best versions of themselves. He wants his students to excel, his soldiers to thrive, his family to flourish, and his community to be the very best it can be. His passion has never been about the spotlight shining on him, but rather about creating opportunities for others to shine.

Beyond his professional accomplishments is the Kevré I know and love as family. His unwavering loyalty, generosity, and genuine concern for others are qualities I deeply admire. He celebrates the successes of those around him, lends his talents without hesitation, and consistently shows up for the people who matter to him. No matter how much he accomplishes or how demanding his schedule can be, he continues to make time for those he loves and the community he proudly serves.

Kevré, today we have the privilege of pouring some of that same love and appreciation back into you. While you may never seek recognition, your contributions, sacrifices, and unwavering commitment have certainly not gone unnoticed. Your legacy is not simply measured by what you have achieved, but by the countless lives you continue to touch, inspire, and uplift.

To the members of the Thirty-Sixth Legislature, I wholeheartedly believe that Bill No. 36-0320 honoring and commending Kevré Hendricks is a well-deserved recognition of a man who has given so much of himself in service to others. Thank you for recognizing and honoring him and for ensuring that his contributions to the United States Virgin Islands are celebrated in this meaningful and lasting way.

Kevré, I am immensely proud of you, my family. Congratulations on this truly well-deserved honor.

Thank you.