

Testimony of SFC Daniel J. Nibbs

Regarding Bill No. 36-0320

Honoring and Commending Mr. Kevré L. Hendricks

36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection

September 28, 2026

Good morning, Honorable Chair Senator Avery L. Lewis, members of the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection, members of the 36th Legislature, fellow testifiers, and members of the Virgin Islands community.

My name is **Sergeant First Class Daniel J. Nibbs**, and it is an honor and privilege to provide testimony concerning **Bill No. 36-0320**, recognizing and commending **Mr. Kevré L. Hendricks** for his outstanding contributions to music, education, military service, and cultural preservation in the Virgin Islands.

I have had the privilege of **serving under Mr. Hendricks for more than 20 years**, during which I have witnessed firsthand his leadership, musicianship, mentorship, and commitment to the Soldiers and people of the Virgin Islands.

Mr. Hendricks' influence reaches far beyond his own military service. Over the years, he has challenged his students to develop and strengthen their musical abilities while encouraging them to see how those talents could become a means of service to their community and their country. His mentorship has influenced several of his students to take the next step and join the Virgin Islands Army National Guard Band, allowing them to continue developing as musicians while serving as Soldiers.

That is an important part of his legacy. He did not simply teach individuals how to become better musicians; he encouraged them to become **leaders, Soldiers, mentors, and contributing members of their community**.

I have also personally witnessed Mr. Hendricks mentor and motivate Soldiers under his leadership to take the skills and experiences they developed through the Army Band and give those talents back to the Virgin Islands community. Several of these Soldiers went on to become music instructors within our public-school system.

That influence can be seen today throughout schools on St. Croix, in which all music instructors, both past and present, are current members of the Virgin Islands Army National Guard Band under the Command of Chief Warrant Officer 3 **Kevré L. Hendricks**. Those schools are **St. Croix Central High School, Lew Muckle Elementary School, Alfredo Andrews Elementary School, Claude O. Markoe Elementary School, Eulalie Rivera K-8 School, and Pearl B. Larsen School**.

This is what makes Mr. Hendricks' contribution particularly meaningful. His impact did not end when a military performance or rehearsal was completed. Through mentorship, he helped create

a cycle in which musicians became Soldiers, Soldiers became educators and mentors, and those educators began developing another generation of young Virgin Islands musicians.

For more than two decades, I have had an opportunity to see the results of that leadership firsthand. As someone who has served under him, I can say that his example demonstrated that leadership is not simply about the position or rank a person holds. It is also about what you inspire others to become and what they, in turn, contribute to their community.

Mr. Hendricks' influence represents the connection between **military service, music, education, mentorship, and community service**. His contributions have helped preserve and strengthen music within our community while creating opportunities for others to serve and give back.

Today, some of the individuals he influenced are continuing that work by teaching our children, mentoring young musicians, serving in the National Guard, and passing their knowledge to another generation. That continuing impact speaks strongly to the legacy Mr. Hendricks has established throughout the Virgin Islands.

It has been an honor for me to have served under Mr. Hendricks for more than 20 years and to have witnessed the influence he has had on Soldiers, students, musicians, educators, and our community.

I thank the members of the **36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands** for providing me with the opportunity to offer this testimony and to share my personal perspective on Mr. Kevré L. Hendricks' military service, mentorship, and lasting contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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