

September 28, 2026

ORAL TESTIMONY ON BILL NO. 36-0323

To: The Honorable Senator Avery L. Lewis and Members of the 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

Re: Bill No. 36-0323 — Honoring Maude “Maudie” Dowdy Roberts and Designating Prince Street in Frederiksted as the “Maude ‘Maudie’ Dowdy Roberts Drive”

Proposed by: Senator Kenneth L. Gittens

Honorable Senator Avery L. Lewis, members of the 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands, invited testifiers, and members of the listening and viewing audiences, good day.

I respectfully submit this testimony regarding Bill No. 36-0323, honoring the late Mrs. Maude “Maudie” Dowdy Roberts and proposing that Prince Street in Frederiksted be designated the **“Maude ‘Maudie’ Dowdy Roberts Drive.”**

Please accept my sincere apologies for being unable to appear before you in person due to a prior engagement. Nevertheless, it is important to me that my reflections on this remarkable Crucian woman become part of the record.

Maude Dowdy Roberts was born on September 3, 1922, in Frederiksted, St. Croix, where she lived throughout her life. Those who knew Maudie will remember one of her favorite declarations: **“I am a Virgo.”** She said it with the confidence and personality that defined who she was.

Raised by her paternal grandmother, Mrs. Juliana Dowdy, Maudie developed a confidence and fearlessness that remained with her throughout her life.

She helped raise and nurture many children, several of whom became stalwarts within our community. She was one of those rare adults whom children were comfortable calling by her first name. To generations of them, she was simply and affectionately known as **“Maudie.”**

Maudie was also a living historian of Frederiksted. She knew its people, places, personalities, and events and could recount stories that formed part of the rich history of our town.

She loved sports and regularly attended Sunday afternoon baseball and softball games at Paul E. Joseph Stadium and Terrence Martin Ballpark, cheering enthusiastically for her favorite teams.

And then there was the music.

Although Maudie did not dance quadrille, she certainly enjoyed attending the dances, especially when Stanley and the Ten Sleepless Knights were performing. She was affectionately regarded as the **“Queen of the Band.”**

Before the evening was over, the late Eldred “Edgie” Christian would often serenade her with **“Danny Boy.”** Maudie would rise to her feet and join him in song. Those were special moments that reflected the friendship, culture, and sense of community that characterized Frederiksted.

But perhaps there is no better description of Maudie than the **“Woman of Prince Street.”**

She kept a watchful eye on those passing by. People would call out to her, knowing they would receive one of Maudie’s unmistakable, thunderous responses. She did not simply reside on Prince Street—**she became part of Prince Street.**

She attended Frederiksted’s fish fries, public lectures, political gatherings, and community events. She enjoyed close friendships with the late Governors Juan F. Luis and Dr. Roy L. Schneider. She was also a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Frederiksted and was married to the late Anthon Roberts. She had one son, Alfred “Pavco” Hansen; grandchildren Janice Hansen- Murray, Juliene and Alfred Hansen; great-grandchildren; great-great-grandchildren; and many adopted children and extended family members.

Then came an extraordinary conclusion to an extraordinary life.

On September 3, 2022—the very day Maudie reached the remarkable milestone of her **100th birthday**—she departed this earthly life and returned to the God whom she loved.

There is, therefore, something especially fitting about placing Maudie’s name upon Prince Street.

Future generations may travel that street and ask:

“Who was Maudie?”

And I hope there will always be someone prepared to answer that question—to tell them about the fearless woman who watched over Prince Street; the woman who nurtured generations of children; the historian who remembered Frederiksted’s people and stories; the sports fan; the “Queen of the Band”; and, above all, a woman whose personality became woven into the fabric of her community.

I extend my appreciation to Senator Kenneth L. Gittens for proposing Bill No. 36-0323 and to the members of the 36th Legislature for considering this recognition of one of St. Croix’s memorable community figures.

Our history is not shaped only by those who hold public office. It is also shaped by ordinary citizens who live extraordinary lives and leave their footprints upon their communities.

Maude “Maudie” Dowdy Roberts was one of those individuals.

May her name, her story, and her contributions to Frederiksted continue to be remembered for generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to have these words entered into the record.

Respectfully submitted,

Alvin (Marcus) Milligan
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands