COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

10/22/2026-AMENDED AND REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR
10/19/2026-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

BILL NO. 36-0241

Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

February 10, 2026

An act honoring and commending Rashida Hodge for her being on a global scale in the field of technology as well as philanthropic efforts towards the people of the Virgin Islands through the establishment of the Rashida Hodge Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands and awarding her the Official Key to the Virgin Islands

PROPOSED BY: Senator Milton E. Potter
Sponsors: Angel L. Bolques, Jr., Avery L. Lewis, Dwayne M. DeGraff and Marvin A. Blyden
Co-sponsor: Ray Fonseca

WHEREAS, Rashida Hodge is the daughter of Karen E. Hodge and Dwayne M. DeGraff;

WHEREAS, Ms. Hodge attended the Jane E. Tuitt Elementary School, the Addelita Cancryn Junior High School, and the Charlotte Amalie High School;

WHEREAS, Ms. Hodge attended the North Carolina State University, obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering in 2002, and in 2003, she obtained a Master of Science degree;

WHEREAS, she also obtained a Masters of Business Administration from Duke University;

WHEREAS, from 2001 through 2021, Ms. Hodge worked for International Business Machine b/k/a IBM and ascended to the position of Global Vice-President for Global Markets;

WHEREAS, from 2021 to the present, Ms. Hodge works for Microsoft as its Corporate Vice-President;

WHEREAS, over the course of Ms. Hodge's career, she has received many awards and has been formally recognized for her accomplishment, to include:

- North Carolina State University Industrial and Systems Engineering Young Alumni Award (2018)
- North Carolina State University Young Alumni Award Recipient (2019)
- Founding Member -Black women On Boards (2020)
- Recognized by Forbes Magazine as one of the Women Leading the Fight for More Women in Artificial Intelligence (AI) (2020)
- Fortune Magazine's 40 Under 40 List of Top Emerging Leaders in Technology (2020)
- North Carolina Technology Association's 2021 Tech Woman of the Year (2021)
- Triangle Business Journal: Named Top Women in Business (2022);

WHEREAS, Ms. Hodge is the holder of four United States patents for the following:

- Cognitive Integrated Image Classification and Annotation
- Context Based Cognitive Speech Text Engine
- Controlling a Video Capture Device Based on Cognitive Personal Action and Image Identification
- Optimizing Resources Allocation to a Bid Request Based on Cognitive Analysis of Natural Language Documentation;

WHEREAS, Ms. Hodge has established the Rashida Hodge $1 Million Hodge Scholarship Fund at the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands; Now, Therefore,

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin honors and commends Ms. Rashida Hodge for her achievements on global scale in the field of technology as well as for her philanthropic efforts towards the people of the Virgin Islands, through the establishment of the Rashida Hodge Scholarship Fund at the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands.

SECTION 2. In recognition of her outstanding global achievements in the field of technology and her philanthropic efforts towards the people of the Virgin Islands through the establishment of the Rashida Hodge Scholarship Fund at the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands, the governor and the president of the legislature, or the president's designee, shall present the "Official Key to the Virgin Islands" established under title 1 Virgin Islands Code, section 103a, and a perma plaque of this act to Ms. Rashida Hodge at an appropriate ceremony.

BILL SUMMARY

This bill honors and commends Ms. Rashida Hodge for her achievements on global scale in the field of technology as well as for her philanthropic efforts towards the people of the Virgin Islands, through the establishment of the Rashida Hodge Scholarship Fund at the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands and awarding her the Official Key to the Virgin Islands.

BR25-0102/February 2, 2026/SLR

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