`COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

10/22/2026-REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR
09/28/2026-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

BILL NO. 36-0323

Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

July 21, 2026

An act honoring and commending Maude "Maudie" Dowdy Roberts posthumously and concurrently designating Prince Street in Frederiksted the "Maude 'Maudie' Dowdy Roberts Drive"

PROPOSED BY:	Senator Kenneth L. Gittens, Sponsors: Franklin D. Johnson, Clifford A. Joseph, Sr., and Avery L. Lewis Co-sponsors: Ray Fonseca and Novelle E. Francis, Jr.

WHEREAS, Maude Omaha Dowdy Roberts, affectionately known as "Maudie", was born on September 3, 1922, in Frederiksted, St. Croix to the late Evelyn Agatha McIntosh and Joseph Dowdy;

WHEREAS, she was the eldest of ten siblings and a lifelong resident of Frederiksted, where she became a beloved and respected member of her community;

WHEREAS, "Maudie" was baptized and worshipped at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and received her early education at the Old Dane School, now known as the Arthur Able Complex in Frederiksted, St. Croix;

WHEREAS, she was a devoted mother to her son, the late Alfred Meredith Hansen, and a matriarch whose legacy extends through her grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces, nephews. and children in the community whom she lovingly helped to raise;

WHEREAS, "Maudie" was widely known for her generosity, compassion, and dedication to children, earning recognition as a trusted and self-employed caregiver whose home was always open to the youth of Frederiksted;

WHEREAS, she was civically engaged and politically active, supporting democratic participation as a member of the Independent Citizens Movement (1CM) and as a dedicated campaign supporter for various candidates;

WHEREAS, "Maudie" embraced the cultural richness of the Virgin Islands, enjoying festivals, carnival celebrations, horse racing, and traditional quadrille dancing. "Maude" was fondly recognized as a "queen" of the quelbe band Stanley and the Ten Sleepless Knights;

WHEREAS, she cherished community, friendship, and music, including her love for the song "Oh Danny Boy," and maintained strong social ties throughout St. Croix and St. Thomas;

WHEREAS, "Maudie" lived a full and vibrant life, celebrating her centennial birthday on September 3, 2022, before peacefully passing later that same day, marking a full century of impact and service;

WHEREAS, her life stands as a testament to resilience, cultural pride, and community devotion and her legacy should be permanently recognized in a meaningful and visible manner;

WHEREAS, the Legislature seeks to balance the preservation of historic place names with the need to honor individuals whose contributions have shaped the identity and spirit of the community; 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 the life, legacy, and cultural contributions of Maude "Maudie" Dowdy Roberts to the Virgin Islands and the Frederiksted communities.

SECTION 2. The President of the Legislature, or the President's designee, shall present a perma plaque copy of this act to the family of the late Maude "Maudie" Dowdy Roberts at an appropriate ceremony, at which time the signage authorized in section 3 shall be unveiled.

SECTION 3. (a) Prince Street in Frederiksted, St. Croix, is hereby concurrently designated as "Maude 'Maudie' Dowdy Roberts Drive", while the historic name "Prince Street, Frederiksted" shall be retained and preserved as the primary and official identifier.

(b) The Department of Public Works shall erect and maintain appropriate signage reflecting both the historic and honorary names, ensuring that the designation of "Maude 'Maudie' Dowdy Roberts Drive" is prominently displayed alongside "Prince Street".

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

SECTION 4. Nothing in this act shall be construed to alter or remove the historic name of Prince Street in Frederiksted, St. Croix. This act is intended solely as an honorary designation and "Prince Street" shall remain the primary name for legal, postal, and administrative purposes.

BILL SUMMARY

This act posthumously honors and commends the life and legacy of Maude "Maudie" Dowdy Roberts to the Virgin Islands community by concurrently naming Prince Street in Frederiksted, St. Croix the "Maude 'Maudie' Dowdy Roberts Drive".

BR26-1089/June 18, 2026/PFA