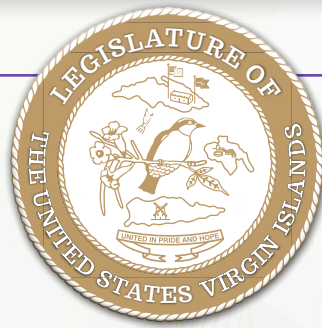


36TH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

Oath of Office Ceremony

David Monsanto Bandstand
Emancipation Garden
St. Thomas, USVI

Monday, January 13th, 2025 · 10:00 A.M.



SENATORS

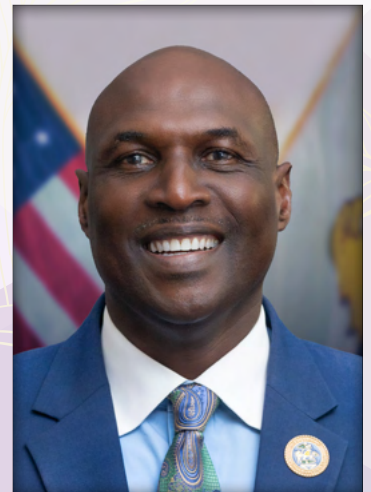
OF THE
36TH LEGISLATURE
OF THE
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS



Ray Fonseca



Alma Francis Heyliger



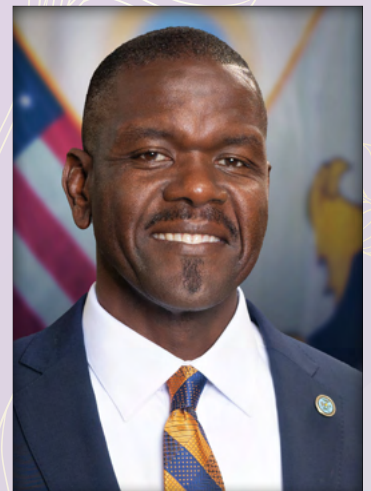
Novelle E. Francis, Jr.



Franklin D. Johnson



Carla J. Joseph



Clifford A. Joseph



Marvin A. Blyden



Angel L. Bolques, Jr.



Dwayne M. DeGraff



Hubert L. Frederick



Kenneth L. Gittens



Marise C. James



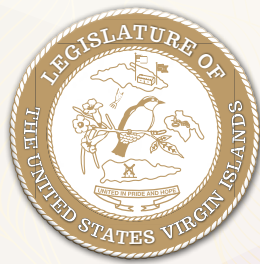
Avery L. Lewis



Milton E. Potter



Kurt A. Violet



36TH LEGISLATURE OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025

3:00 P.M.

PRE-OATH OF OFFICE ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Cruz Bay Seventh Day Adventist Church, St. John

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY

MEET AND GREET

Legislature Annex, St. John

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025

10:00 A.M.

OATH OF OFFICE CEREMONY

Emancipation Garden, St. Thomas

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY

ORGANIZATION OF THE 36TH LEGISLATURE

Earle B. Ottley Legislative Chamber, St. Thomas

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025

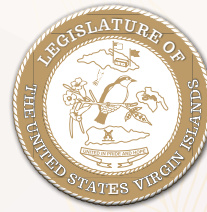
10:00 A.M.

COMMEMORATIVE SESSION

Frits Lawaetz Legislative Hall, St. Croix

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY

MEET AND GREET



Senator Milton E. Potter

President, 36th Legislature of The United States Virgin Islands

A Message from the Incoming President

We stand on the threshold of a new chapter in the vibrant history of the U.S. Virgin Islands. As President of the 36th Legislature, it is with great joy and profound responsibility that I extend my warmest welcome and heartfelt congratulations to each of you. The election results reflect not only the trust placed in us by the people we serve but also the hope they hold for a brighter future for our beloved territory.

Your voices have echoed through the ballot box, affirming the values of democracy, resilience, and unity that define our community. Each elected Senator brings a unique perspective, passion, and dedication, and together, we form a tapestry of leadership that is both diverse and dynamic. As we embark on this journey, let us remember that our primary duty is to listen to our constituents and advocate for their needs, aspirations, and well-being.

The challenges ahead may be formidable, but they are not insurmountable. With the strength of our shared commitment, innovative ideas, and collaborative spirit, we can work towards solutions that uplift every resident of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Together, we will strive to address the pressing challenges that face our community and seize the opportunities that lie ahead.

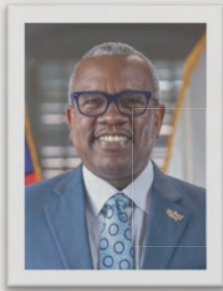
As we convene in the halls of the Legislature, let us carry with us the hopes and dreams of our community. May our deliberations be guided by wisdom, compassion, and a steadfast resolve to make decisions that reflect the best of who we are as a people.

Congratulations once again to my colleagues in the 36th Legislature and to all the residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Let us move forward with courage and purpose, knowing that the work we do will shape the future of our islands and the lives of those we serve.

With warm regards and unwavering commitment,


Milton E. Potter

Senate President, 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE**

A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

It is with great pride and genuine joy that I congratulate the esteemed members of the 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands on this significant occasion—the Oath of Office Ceremony. For many of you, today marks the start of your journey in public service and ushers in a new chapter filled with possibilities for our vibrant and beloved Virgin Islands.

As you stand before your fellow citizens and take the sacred oath, remember that you carry the hopes and dreams of our communities on your shoulders. You have been chosen to be the voices of the people, to advocate for their needs, champion their causes, and embody the very essence of leadership.

Your commitment to public service is a noble calling. It requires courage, integrity, and a deep love for our islands and their diverse peoples. I am excited to witness how your unique talents, experiences, and visions will shape the future of the Virgin Islands in the coming years.

Your role as a legislator will be pivotal in these times of opportunity and challenge. Your decisions will pave the path toward sustainable growth, social equity, and environmental stewardship. Together, you hold the power to inspire change that resonates not only within our islands but also beyond our shores.

Let this be a time of collaboration, innovation, and unity. Stand together in cooperation, and let our collective passions fuel a brighter future for Virgin Islanders. Remember, authentic leadership is not just about policy but about connecting with the heart and soul of our communities.

Congratulations on this prestigious honor. I am confident that your tenure will be defined by compassion, determination, and an unwavering commitment to the people of the Virgin Islands.

May you embrace this journey enthusiastically and resolve, and may your service bless all.

With warmest regards,

Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor



**OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**



MESSAGE FROM THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

The Oath of Office ceremony signifies the commencement of the new term of the Legislature of the United States Virgin Islands. It also represents the peaceful transition of office for our legislators and ensures the continuity of service to the people of the Territory. I offer this message of congratulations to our fifteen elected officials from both Districts as they are sworn in today, collectively as the 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands.

The 36th Legislature comprises a number of dynamic individuals who, despite their diverse backgrounds and competencies, have a common interest in making the Virgin Islands a better place. I salute you for your willingness to be the voice of the people through implementing effective legislation, and by regulating government spending in a manner that is beneficial to us all. I trust that you will utilize innovative approaches to introduce or amend legislation, while working together with transparency and integrity. Further I wish you much success as you implement your individual campaign platforms to effectuate change, while maintaining the perspective that the safety and betterment of the people are our first priority.

I also extend my gratitude to the distinguished outgoing senators of the 35th Legislature. Thank you for your dedication and service to the People of the Virgin Islands. Your varied achievements as legislators have contributed to the collective benefit of everyone who has lived on or who has visited these islands. I pray that your new journey will provide you with meaningful opportunities to continue to serve the Territory with dedication and conviction as we pursue a better quality of life for all.

Our enduring democratic system affords us the humble opportunity to make a difference in our communities as public servants. We are grateful for your courage, commitment, and sacrifice. Best wishes to you all for a successful term as senators of the 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands.


Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.
Lieutenant Governor



STACEY E. PLASKETT
VIRGIN ISLANDS

2059 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

A MESSAGE FROM CONGRESSWOMAN STACEY E. PLASKETT

On behalf of the Members of the 118th Congress, my staff, and my family, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations on your recent election as a senator to the 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands and share well wishes for your upcoming term. To the incumbents and the incoming freshmen, I commend you for your success in this past campaign season.

While we navigate through turbulent political times, it is incredibly important to strengthen our commitment to serving our home, the U.S. Virgin Islands; and as legislators, we are indebted to the communities who elect us to office. It is our sacred responsibility to ensure our constituents' voices are heard at every level of government. With the power we have been entrusted, we all have a momentous opportunity to forge a path to educational, economic, and social equity for U.S. Virgin Islanders which can be achieved through collaboration and determination. As you celebrate your success, may you be renewed in your dedication and willingness to uplift your fellow citizen.

My team and I look forward to working with you, prioritizing the needs of our people. God bless each of you and may you have a productive and fruitful term.

Sincerely,

Stacey E. Plaskett
Delegate to Congress

ST. CROIX DISTRICT OFFICE
60 KING STREET
FREDERIKSTED, VI 00840
(340) 778-5900
FAX: (340) 778-5111

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

ST. THOMAS DISTRICT OFFICE
9100 PORT OF SALE MALL, SUITE 22
ST. THOMAS, VI 00802
(340) 774-4408
FAX: (340) 774-8033



**HONOURABLE DR. NATALIO D. WHEATLEY
PREMIER OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE**

INSTALLATION OF THE 36TH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

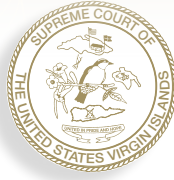
The people of the Greater Virgin Islands share a close and special kinship that spans generations. This bond emanates from our common history, the cooperation of our peoples to overcome mutual challenges, and the ties that have developed between families and friends among the populations across the islands of both Territories. This close and valued relationship is celebrated regularly on occasions such as Friendship Day - which I always look forward to attending, and in the numerous initiatives that our Governments collaborate on. As our neighbours, friends and family, across the water, the happiness and success of your people mean a lot to me and the people I represent.

The United States Virgin Islands has a history of exemplary conduct of its democratic processes and Governance, and I commend you the people for continuing in this tradition. I extend congratulations to the Representatives who have been elected to serve in the 36th Legislature, and I wish each of you a successful term in office. On behalf of my Family, My Government and my people, it is our sincere wish that your tenure is productive and that your work achieves your objectives of advancing your islands and your people.

I take this opportunity to extend to the people of the Virgin Islands and the members of the 36th Legislature best wishes for a Happy New Year 2025.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Natalio D. Wheatley", is positioned below the text.

**Hon. Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley
Premier.**



Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands

Rhys S. Hodge
Chief Justice



Tel: (340) 774-2237
Fax: (340) 774-2258

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE

Dear Members of the 36th Legislature:

On behalf of the Judicial Branch of the Virgin Islands and all its judicial officers and staff, I congratulate you on your election to the 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands.

The Legislature is often called the “First Branch” of government for a variety of reasons. It is the first branch to achieve full local autonomy after the transfer of the Virgin Islands from Denmark to the United States, and the first branch identified in the Revised Organic Act. But more importantly, the Legislature is the “First Branch” because it is the beating heart of our government. The Legislature wields the immense power to make and alter the laws of our Territory, and it is generally only after it exercises that power that the Executive and Judicial Branches are respectively called upon to implement and interpret those laws.

Like the members of the 35 legislatures who came before you, over the next two years you will each be called upon to draft, amend, and vote upon numerous bills that, if adopted, will in some way change the law of the Virgin Islands, and to provide your advice and consent for nominees to important positions in the Executive or Judicial Branches. But regardless of whether a bill appears minor or major, or a vote seems easy or difficult, remember that our community has placed its trust in you to exercise the legislative power with wisdom and care and for the ultimate betterment of our shared community. I am confident that every one of you will rise to the occasion and collectively work with each other, as well as the leaders of the Executive and Judicial Branches, to make the Territory better than we found it.

Again, congratulations on your election and thank you for your willingness to serve our people. The Judicial Branch looks forward to working with the 36th Legislature in the coming years towards achieving our shared mission of improving the administration of justice in the Virgin Islands.

Sincerely,

Rhys S. Hodge
Chief Justice of the Virgin Islands

P.O. Box 590, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00804-0590



SENATOR NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR.
35TH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
PRESIDENT

Message from the Outgoing Senate President

As I prepare to step down from my role from Senate President, I am filled with gratitude for the journey that my colleagues and I have shared during the 35th Legislature. Leading this chamber for the second time in my legislative career has been an extraordinary honor, and I thank each of you – my colleagues, staff and constituents – for your trust, collaboration, and support throughout this tenure.

To my colleagues: The work that we've done together is a testament to the power of public service. We have faced many challenges, debated passionately, and worked hard to find common ground to deliver meaningful change. It is your dedication, intellect and unwavering commitment to the people of the Virgin Islands that make this institution a cornerstone of collaboration and democracy.

To our community: You have been my guiding compass. Every decision that I've made and every vote that I've cast has been rooted firmly in my effort to advance your well-being and prosperity. Thank you for sharing your stories whether joyful or difficult, for holding my colleagues and I accountable, and for reminding us that we serve something greater than ourselves.

While my time as President is concluding, my commitment to our shared vision of a better Virgin Islands endures. Together we have laid a foundation of progress, and I am confident that this chamber will continue to build upon it with courage, audacity and integrity. As I pass the gavel, I do so with utmost faith in the future leadership of this body and in the enduring spirit of public service. Let us continue to lead with purpose and humility, work with unity, and serve with compassion.

Thank you for this privilege of serving as your Senate President.

With deepest respect and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Novelle E. Francis, Jr.".

Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
Outgoing President
35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands



PRE-OATH OF OFFICE ECUMENICAL SERVICE

CRUZ BAY SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, ST. JOHN, VI

JANUARY 12, 2025

WELCOME

..... Loren Abramson Williams

PROCESSIONAL

..... Hear My Cry Oh Lord

MEMBERS OF THE 36TH LEGISLATURE
MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY, MUSIC BY MARVIA PROVIDENCE

WELCOMING OF THE 36TH LEGISLATURE & INVOCATION

..... Reverend Kendrick Glasgow
Pastor, Cruz Bay Seventh Day Adventist Church

OPENING REMARKS

..... The Honorable Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
President, 35th Legislature

1ST SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 1: 2-10 Senator-Elect Avery L. Lewis

2ND SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12: 3-8 Senator-Elect Hubert L. Frederick

LITURGICAL DANCE PRESENTATION

The Prayer Ms. Ruth Ann Fahie

GOSPEL READING

Mark 10: 42-45 Father Anthony Abraham
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

MUSICAL SELECTION

Goodness of God Reverend Dennis Powell
Elder, Cruz Bay Seventh Day Adventist Church

SERMON

..... Reverend Charles L. Brown, Jr.
Chaplain 36th Legislature/Pastor, Family of Faith AME Church

MUSICAL SELECTION

Lead Me Oh Lord, Lead Me Congregation

UNITY PRAYERS

Prayer for Local and National Government Leaders
..... Pastor David Obando
Iglesia de Dios, EDLM

Prayer for Our Children and Our Community
..... Reverend Elva Richards Goodwin
Emmaus Moravian Church

MUSICAL SELECTION

Covered in the Blood Shikima Jones-Sprauve
Administrator, St. John, USVI

CLOSING REMARKS

..... The Honorable Milton E. Potter
President Elect, 36th Legislature

BENEDICTION

..... Reverend Kendrick Glasgow
Pastor, Cruz Bay Seventh Day Adventist Church

RECESSIONAL

..... Who Has the Final Say, Jehovah Has the Final Say

MEMBERS OF THE 36TH LEGISLATURE



**FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY A
MEET AND GREET RECEPTION**

**AT THE
ST. JOHN LEGISLATURE ANNEX**
with Musical Selection by
Michael Goodwin and Welcome March by Love City Cheer Squad





OATH OF OFFICE CEREMONY

DAVID MONSANTO BANDSTAND, EMANCIPATION GARDEN, ST. THOMAS, VI

JANUARY 13, 2025

PRELUDE

..... 73rd Army Band Brass Music Performance Team

MISTRESS OF CEREMONY

..... Shayla Solomon

PROCESSIONAL MARCH

..... 73rd Army Band Brass Music Performance Team

POSTING OF COLORS

..... Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Color Guard
Ivanna Eudora Kean High School

INVOCATION

..... Dr. Gerald McDonald, Pastor
Impacting Your World Christian Ministries

NATIONAL ANTHEM

..... University of the Virgin Islands
Music Program Students

VIRGIN ISLANDS MARCH

..... University of the Virgin Islands
Music Program Students

BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM

..... Partners for Strings Virgin Islands Youth Orchestra

WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

..... Shayla Solomon

MUSICAL SELECTION

"Don't Worry About a Thing" by Stevie Wonder
..... Choirs of Charlotte Amalie and Eudora Kean High Schools

READING OF CERTIFICATION AND PRESENTATION OF SENATORS

..... Caroline Fawkes

POEM READING

Under the Turquoise Skies Ms. Lydia Potter

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE

..... The Honorable Rhys S. Hodge
Chief Justice of The Virgin Islands

MUSICAL SELECTION

..... University of the Virgin Islands
Music Program Students

RETIRING OF COLORS

..... Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Color Guard
Ivanna Eudora Kean High School

BENEDICTION

..... Dr. Gerald McDonald, Pastor
Impacting Your World Christian Ministries

RECESSIONAL MARCH

..... 73rd Army Band Brass Music Performance Team

**ORGANIZATION OF THE
36TH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

EARLE B. OTTLEY LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER, CAPITOL BUILDING
CHARLOTTE AMALIE, ST. THOMAS
(Immediately following the Oath of Office Ceremony)

TEMPORARY PRESIDING OFFICER
THE HONORABLE NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR.
President, 35th Legislature

POSTING OF COLORS

..... Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Color Guard
Ivanna Eudora Kean High School

INVOCATION

..... Dr. Gerald McDonald, Pastor
Impacting Your World Christian Ministries

NATIONAL ANTHEM

..... University of the Virgin Islands
Music Program Students

VIRGIN ISLANDS MARCH

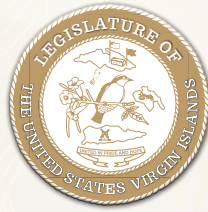
..... University of the Virgin Islands
Music Program Students

ROLL CALL

..... Mrs. Shenika Dowe-Serrano
Chief Journal Clerk

**ORGANIZATION OF THE 36TH LEGISLATURE
POINTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

*36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands will recess until January 27th 2025, to receive the State of the Territory
Address from the Honorable Albert Bryan Jr., Governor of the United States Virgin Islands.*



**COMMEMORATIVE SESSION
36TH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

FRITS E. LAWAEZ LEGISLATIVE HALL
GOLDEN ROCK, ST. CROIX
JANUARY 15, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

..... The Honorable Milton E. Potter
President, 36th Legislature

POSTING OF THE COLORS

..... St. Croix Central High School
Carib Battalion Color Guard

INVOCATION

..... Presiding Elder Uklyn Hendricks,
Pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church, St. Croix

NATIONAL ANTHEM

..... Simply His Singers (S.D.A)

VIRGIN ISLANDS ANTHEM

..... Simply His Singers (S.D.A)

ROLL CALL

..... The Honorable Avery L. Lewis
Secretary, 36th Legislature

POINTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

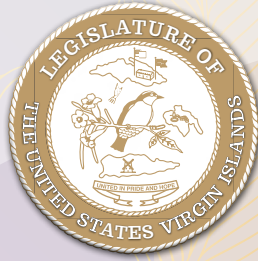
**FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY A
MEET AND GREET RECEPTION**



36TH LEGISLATURE
OF THE
UNITED STATES
VIRGIN ISLANDS

S E N A T O R S

Biographies



S E N A T O R

Marvin A. Blyden



Born as the 11th of 13 children to Mayrose and James Blyden, Sr., Senator Marvin A. Blyden is a native of the Virgin Islands and a proud son of the Nadir community. His formative years in the Virgin Islands public school system laid the foundation for a life of service and leadership. A graduate of Dickinson Business School in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Senator Blyden further honed his skills at the Robert J. Thompson Leadership Academy in Connecticut, where he earned a Certificate of Completion in 2017, and at the Eastern Leadership Academy of the Council of State Governments. There, he not only graduated but also served as a member of the Transportation Policy Committee. His extensive management experience includes Training Manager at Pepsi, Co, for 5 years after graduating

from business school; Manager of the Food and Beverage division of the Frenchman's Reef Hotel & Resort; a small business owner for over 20 years; and for over 20 years Senator Blyden was employed as Housing Manager and District Manager at the VI Housing Authority before being elected to the Legislature.

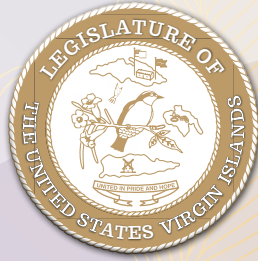
Married to Jacqueline Modeste Blyden for 35 years, a father of three grown children and grandfather of seven, Senator Blyden finds success in a grounded family life that allows him to serve his community well. Known as a natural-born leader, Senator Blyden is driven and optimistic, always willing to uplift those around him.

In the community, Senator Blyden has served as a little league football coach, Zero Tolerance basketball coach, contractor, consultant, and motivator. His philosophy centers on the belief that positively impacting people and their families is a sacred responsibility. This ethos has driven his extensive community engagement, including the annual "V.I. Women United to Empower Scholarship Prayer Breakfast," which has raised over \$60,000 in scholarships for college-bound high school students.

Annually, Senator Blyden holds and supports fundraisers and events that directly supports the St. Thomas and St. John community. He has also co-sponsored/co-chaired the US Virgin Islands/Caribbean Emergency Housing and Safe Waste Summit and hosts a popular bi-weekly radio show on WSTA, "the people's station". Additionally, Senator Blyden was voted best Senator by the Virgin Islands Daily News readers for two consecutive years 2017-2019. In addition to his other public service activities, Blyden and his team regularly engage with community organizations to assist the elderly and other persons in need in activities such as food and sandbag distributions.

In his tenure, Senator Blyden has twice been elected Majority Leader and recently served as the Vice-President of the 35th Legislature. Now serving his sixth term, Senator Blyden is the Chairman of the Housing, Transportation, and Telecommunications in the 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands and is undisputedly known as the territory's foremost advocate for affordable housing, for seniors and for persons with disabilities. Some of the highlights of his accomplishments during his tenure include: the repair and flood control on the Coki Beach Road; approval of a landmark 10-year Affordable Plan that will result in the replacement of every unit in public housing communities; preserving the retirement system; the enactment of legislation to establish a school dental health program; the establishment of Juneteenth as an official holiday in the Virgin Islands; the establishment of a Disability Integration Unit to better serve persons with disabilities during emergencies and natural disasters; landmark legislation to protect our shorelines and to establish the Virgin Islands as the first jurisdiction to implement a ban on reef-harming sunscreens; the protection of VI homeowners from improper liens for work performed under emergency repair programs; to provide protections and benefits for Virgin Islands workers and residents during the COVID-19 pandemic and the creation of the 1st Time Homebuyer Program, which allocates \$4 Million annually via VIHFA to support gap financing for potential new homeowners. He has also successfully advocated the homeownership conversion of the Calabash Boom, Lovenlund, and Amalie Terrace communities, and for the extension of potable water lines in residential neighborhoods on St. Thomas and St. John.

Senator Blyden's legislative priorities for his sixth term include passing a workforce housing development bill, providing free post-secondary technical education, establishing an Office of Landlord-Tenant Relations, and ensuring local contractor participation in government projects. His steadfast belief that every challenge has a solution is encapsulated in his slogan, "Your Choice for Solutions."



S E N A T O R

Angel L. Bolques, Jr.



Angel L. Bolques, Jr., a proud son of the Virgin Islands, has devoted his life to serving the people and improving the Virgin Islands he holds dear. Born on St. Croix and raised in the Peters Rest neighborhood, Angel's early years were filled with family, friends, and Puerto Crucian cultural traditions that shaped his young life. These experiences instilled in him a deep love for his community and a commitment to preserving the cultural heritage of the Virgin Islands.

Angel's academic journey began at Lew Muckle Elementary School on St. Croix before moving to St. John at the age of seven, where he attended Guy Benjamin Elementary School and later the Julius E. Sprauve School. He then traveled daily by ferry to attend and graduate from Ivanna Eudora Kean High School on the island of St. Thomas. He continued his studies in Business Administration, Graphic Arts, and Communications. This well-rounded education equipped him

to meet the challenges of modern society, governance, and community leadership. Throughout his career, Angel has held various roles that prepared him and deepened his understanding of the Virgin Islands' needs. He has served as a Legislative Researcher, a Board Member of the Virgin Islands Board of Education, an Administrative Assistant to the Virgin Islands Board of Elections, a Computer Technology and Spanish Teacher at Giff Hill School, a Junior High and High School Basketball Coach at Giff Hill School, a Sales & Marketing Revenue Manager, and an Assistant Purchasing Manager, to name a few.

Complementing his professional achievements, Senator Bolques has demonstrated a deep commitment to community engagement through active participation in nonprofit organizations and by serving on public and private sector boards, including Community Action NOW, RAS Events Inc., Black Power Theater, the Cultural Enhancement Committee, the Virgin Islands Unity Day Group, the St. Thomas District Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands, the St. John District Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands, the Horace Callwood Democratic Breakfast Club, the East End Democratic Club, as National Committeeman for the Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands, the VI Rastafarian Sacramental Cannabis Council Inc., the U.S. Virgin Islands Cybersecurity Advisory Council, and The Commission on Aging (U.S. Virgin Islands).

On July 25, 2022, Senator Bolques was sworn in as Senator-at-Large in the 34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands. He was then elected to the 35th Legislature, where he chaired the Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports, and Parks, leading efforts to preserve the territory's cultural heritage, promote youth and aging development, and enhance the recreational spaces of the Virgin Islands.

As a senator, Angel L. Bolques Jr. has championed several legislative initiatives to improve the quality of life in the Virgin Islands. Some of his notable accomplishments include:

Act No. 8690: Amending Title 3 of the Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 26, Section 706, to allow retirees to reenter government service through temporary or contractual employment without harming their retirement status or annuities.

Act No. 8696: Securing \$600,000 for fire trucks in St. John and \$250,000 for the Cruz Bay playground.

Act No. 8735: Amending Title 3 of the Virgin Islands Code to clarify the duties and responsibilities of the Executive Director of the Taxicab Commission.

Act No. 8798: Enacting the Safe Haven Newborn Protection Act.

Act No. 8802: Appropriating \$2,500,000 for the purchase of the Department of Labor building in St. Thomas to reduce the Government of the Virgin Islands' rental expenses and expand its operational footprint.

Act No. 8817: Establishing an educational scholarship program to support Virgin Islands residents pursuing careers in the maritime industry.

Act No. 8841: Declaring the official dish and dessert of the Virgin Islands.

Act No. 8878: Increasing the Motor Vehicle Rental Surcharge to support district funding.

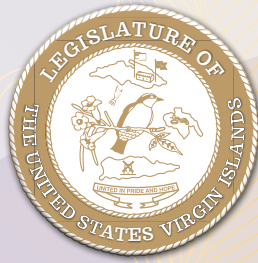
Act No. 8923: Creating the Child Victims' and Child Witnesses' Rights Act to protect children involved in legal cases as victims or witnesses.

Act No. 8952: Establishing school speed zones and enforcement measures for pedestrian safety near schools.

Angel's vision for the Virgin Islands focuses on economic development, housing affordability, youth and aging initiatives, public safety, technological innovation, food security, and education. He is committed to fostering entrepreneurship, creating opportunities for youth and seniors, and promoting sustainable development.

Guided by the values instilled in him by his parents—his late father, Angel L. Bolques Sr., and his mother, Patricia Powell-Mitchell—Senator Bolques approaches leadership with compassion, integrity, and resilience. He draws inspiration from faith and the natural beauty of the Virgin Islands, which fuels his commitment to ensuring a thriving future for its residents.

Senator Bolques' dedication to service, coupled with his proactive and forward-thinking leadership, continues to make a lasting impact across the territory. He believes in the spirit of the Virgin Islands, striving every day to uplift and empower the people he serves.



S E N A T O R

Dwayne M. DeGraff



Dwayne Maurice DeGraff was born in 1961 to Theodore Pershing DeGraff, Sr. and Maria Estrill DeGraff (both deceased). He is the fifth of six children.

As a young boy growing up in Savan, DeGraff began his formal education with the Dober Elementary School, George Washington Elementary School (now known as the Evelyn Marcelli Elementary School), Wayne Aspinall

Junior High School (now Addelita Cancryn Junior High School) and finally graduated from the Charlotte Amalie High School in 1979. Eight days after graduation, and with proficient vocational training in auto mechanics, DeGraff immediately joined the workforce with the Virgin Islands Government – Department of Property and Procurement – Police Motor Pool Division. There he worked as an Auto Mechanic

Helper and later Auto Mechanic where he proudly earned Two Dollars and Thirty-Five Cents (\$2.35) per hour. He was never late nor did he miss a day of work for the eight years he worked there.

In 1983, DeGraff proudly escorted Lizette Turnbull in the Carnival King and Queen competition and successfully attained the carnival throne. DeGraff reigned as the St. Thomas Carnival King from 1983 to 2002.

Compelled to serve his country and advance his leadership skill, in May of 1985, DeGraff joined the Virgin Islands National Guard. He attended basic training in Fort Knox, Kentucky and later advanced to military communication training in Fort Gordon Georgia. He propelled through the ranks and was subsequently promoted to Military Sergeant. In 2006, DeGraff was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq with the 786-Headquarters Unit. While at war, DeGraff was privileged to serve as a Military Police besides the most elite of service men and women of the United States and United States Virgin Islands performing security and enforcement duties. After serving a little over 14 months at war, DeGraff returned home and retired after twenty-three (23) years of honorable service. He is now an active member of the American Legion.

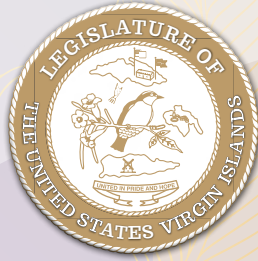
In May of 1987, DeGraff joined the Virgin Islands Police Department and immediately submitted himself to leadership as the Class President of his police class – 87-1. DeGraff worked on all three islands and served in various capacities including Police Officer, Police Sergeant, and Zone Commander. In 1995, he found his passion in the Department when he was assigned to the Special Operations Bureau. In addition to Special Operations, DeGraff was assigned to several other units including the first marine unit and first joint task force unit with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Task Force (now known as the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Unit where he served as a cross designated federal agent. In 2009, he was promoted to Deputy Chief of

Police for the St. Thomas and Water Island District. In 2013, after serving 26 years with the Police Department and 34 years of government service, DeGraff honorably retired.

Throughout the years, DeGraff served as a community leader and activist. He organized numerous island-wide community clean-up initiatives. In the 1990s and for several years thereafter, he served as the PTA president of the Jane E. Tuitt Elementary School. In 1999, he was appointed and continue to serve as the class president of his high school class. Because of his love and passion for football, DeGraff has refereed and coached high school tackle and flag football games since the 1990s and continues to segment his time to assist and mentor aspiring, young football enthusiast. He has also served as President of the St. Thomas/St. John Interscholastic Athletic Association and Chairman of the Judges' Committee for the Virgin Islands Carnival Committee. For his community involvement and service, DeGraff has been the recipient of numerous community service awards from organizations such as Positive Tree, the Virgin Islands Retired Police Organization (VIRPO), the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the St Thomas Lioness Club and the CAHS Athletic Department.

DeGraff was elected as a senator to the 32nd Legislature of the Virgin Islands in November 2016 and began his first term in office on January 9, 2017. He also served in the 33rd, 34th, 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands. On November 5, 2024, DeGraff was re-elected in the General Election to continue serving as senator of the St. Thomas-St. John District in the 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands.


DeGraff is a proud father and grandfather of six. His love and respect for his family impels his affection for the Virgin Islands. DeGraff looks forward to continue serving our TERRITORY, building bridges, and launching new and lasting legacies.



S E N A T O R

Ray Fonseca



enator Ray Fonseca is a proud Virgin Islander, born in Vesta Gade, Savan, and raised in the Bovoni community of St. Thomas. He is the son of David Smith-Fonseca and Linelle Todman-Williams.

Ray Fonseca is a strong advocate for accountability and transparency in government. He is dedicated to promoting a better quality of life for all Virgin Islanders. A proud product of the U.S. Virgin Islands public school system, Fonseca attended Lockhart Elementary School, Addelita Cancryn Junior High School, and graduated from Ivanna Eudora Kean High School.

Fonseca excelled academically, graduating as a high honors student and earning the prestigious Alton A. Adams Scholarship, a full four-year academic scholarship. He completed his undergraduate studies at Florida State University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Hotel Management and Accounting. Fonseca is also a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated. He furthered his education by earning a Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of the Virgin Islands.

Coming from humble beginnings, Fonseca worked hard to support his family. As a young man, he sold newspapers and later worked as a server in the hotel and restaurant industry. He began his government career at the Virgin Islands Housing Authority (VIHA) as an Assistant Accounting Supervisor. During his 19-year tenure at VIHA, he worked diligently, rising through the ranks to become the Chief Executive Officer. Most of his professional career was spent at VIHA, where he gained extensive knowledge and experience in construction management.

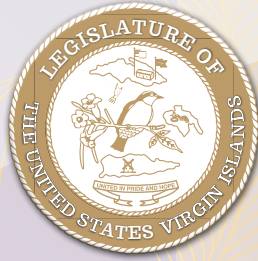
After leaving VIHA, Fonseca joined the Virgin Islands Department of Health as Chief of Staff to the Commissioner of Health. During his tenure, he also served as Director of Mental Health, Alcoholism, and Substance Abuse.

Upon retiring from the Virgin Islands Government System, Fonseca worked as a Project Manager and Contractor for several major construction projects in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. His projects included renovations for all Kmart stores in St. Croix and St. Thomas, and the construction of the University of the Virgin Islands Marine Center. Former Governor Roy L. Schneider also selected him as the Project Manager for the Temporary Emergency Housing Construction. He also completed the Starfish Market development on St. John.

Ray Fonseca is a man of faith with a deep passion for serving others. He has dedicated the majority of his adult life to public service and remains accessible to the community. Fonseca has a strong love for family and is the proud father of four sons.

In the 36th Legislature, Senator Fonseca was unanimously re-elected by his colleagues to serve as Chairman of the Committee on Health, Hospitals & Human Services. He is also the Vice Chairman of the Homeland Security, Justice, and Public Safety Committee, and a member of the Budget and Finance Committee, the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection, as well as the Housing, Telecommunications, and Transportation Committee.

Senator Fonseca understands the importance of public service and remains committed to improving the lives of all Virgin Islanders.



S E N A T O R

Alma Francis Heyliger



ADVOCATE, LEGISLATOR, AND COMMUNITY LEADER

Born on the beautiful island of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, on October 12, 1973, Senator Alma Francis Heyliger embodies resilience, determination, and service. Her upbringing instilled in her a strong sense of self-expression and confidence, values she carries into her

work as a public servant and community advocate.

A proud alumna of Charlotte Amalie High School, Senator Francis Heyliger graduated in 1991 as a proud Chicken Hawk and began her higher education at the University of the Virgin Islands later that year. Her early life, however, was marked by profound tragedy with the loss of both

parents, Leeann Rabsatt Francis and Denzil “Frank” Francis Defreitas, within a year of each other due to illness caused by cancer. Despite these losses, she drew strength from the meaning of her name, “brave and diligent young lady,” and committed herself to turning life’s challenges into opportunities for growth and service.

Senator Francis Heyliger’s career spans over two decades, during which she has demonstrated exceptional dedication to the people of the Virgin Islands. As an employee of the Legislature’s MIS Division and a valued team member for former Senators Lorraine L. Berry and Donald “Ducks” Cole, she laid a solid foundation for her eventual election as a senator. Her work ethic and passion for community upliftment propelled her to the forefront of Virgin Islands leadership.

In December 2010, her family faced another devastating loss with the unsolved murder of her brother, Preston Antonia Francis. This tragedy ignited her determination to advocate for justice and make the Virgin Islands a safer place for all. She has also taken on the role of caregiver for her brother’s two children, raising them alongside her husband of over 20 years, Gilbert “Pugito” Heyliger.

Senator Francis Heyliger’s contributions extend beyond politics. She is a founding member of Intrigue Carnival Troupe, Past-President of the Independent Citizens Movement Party, Past-President of the CAHS Class of 1991, and a member of esteemed organizations such as the East End Lions Club and Rotary of St. Thomas II. She is also the author of the fiction novel *Fallen Petals of the Orion* (2004), which explores themes of resilience and survival and celebrated its 20 year anniversary in 2024.

In December 2020, Senator Francis Heyliger achieved a long-standing goal by acquiring Radio One – AM 1000, becoming one of approximately 18 African American women to own a radio station in the United States. Under her leadership, Radio One has become a hub for education, enrichment, and enlightenment, fostering dialogue and community growth.

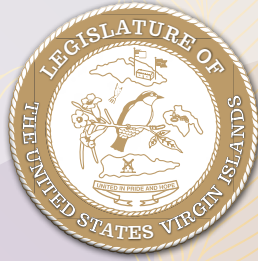
Elected to the 34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands in November 2020, Senator Francis Heyliger

was re-elected to the 35th Legislature in November 2022, and most recently to the 36th Legislature on November 5, 2024. Her legislative accomplishments are notable:

- **Education Advocacy:** Co-sponsored a bill mandating the teaching of Virgin Islands history in schools, ensuring that students are educated about their rich cultural heritage.
- **Property and Economic Development:** Sponsored groundbreaking legislation to address unclaimed property in the Virgin Islands. This initiative led to the creation of a centralized website, usviclaims.unclaimedproperty.com, providing Virgin Islanders with access to over \$50 million in unclaimed government-held assets. The program empowers residents to reclaim funds and property that rightfully belong to them, stimulating economic activity and individual financial empowerment.
- **Public Health and Safety:** Introduced legislation requiring annual testing for lead and copper in public and private water systems, enhancing water safety for residents.
- **Government Accountability:** Proposed a bill to allow Virgin Islanders to elect the Attorney General, aiming to reduce the politicization of the office and enhance democratic governance.

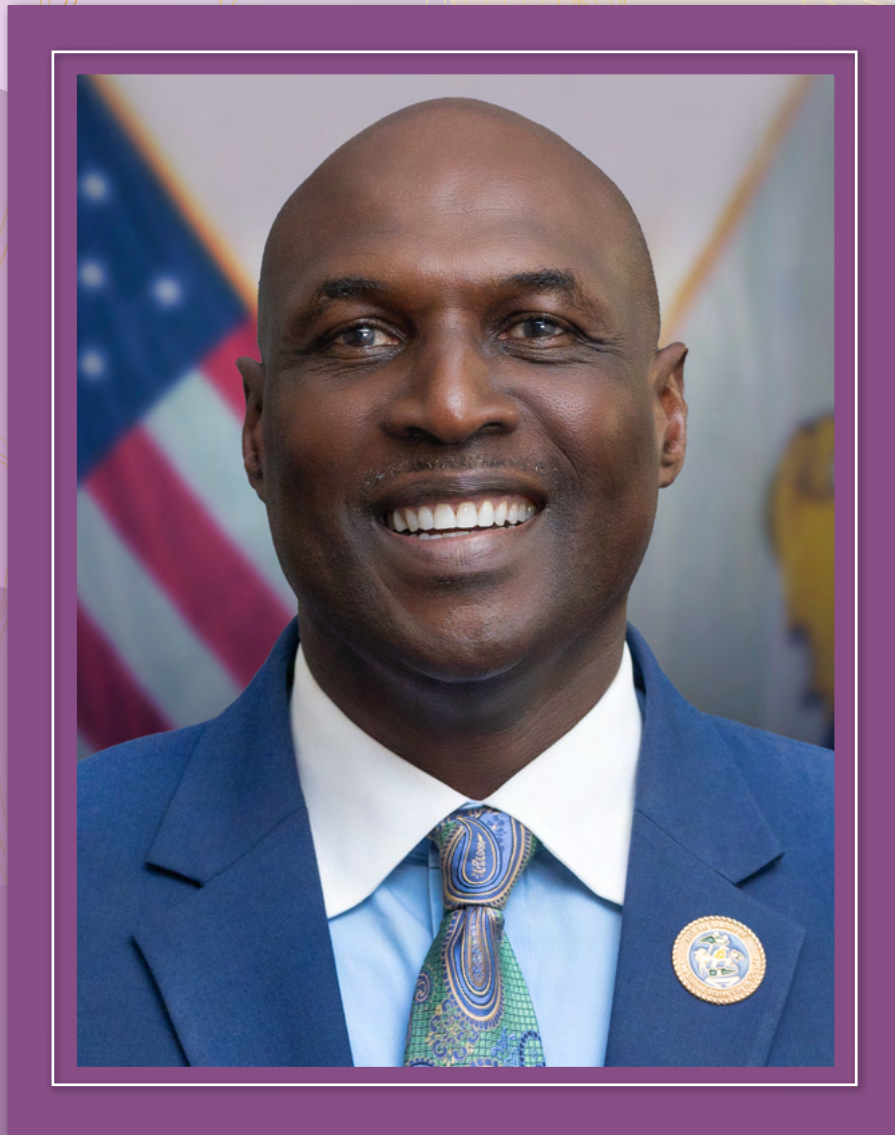
Senator Francis Heyliger’s unwavering commitment to the Virgin Islands is evident in her legislative initiatives and community involvement. Through her radio program, *Alma in the Mornings*, she fostered community dialogue and empowerment, embodying her belief that “Through Discussions, Solutions Can Be Found.”

As a fearless advocate and leader, Senator Alma Francis Heyliger continues to pave the way for prosperity, safety, and empowerment for all Virgin Islanders, guided by her personal motto: “We spend so much time rationalizing mediocrity, we have forgotten what greatness looks like!”



S E N A T O R

Novelle E. Francis, Jr.



Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr. epitomizes dedicated and homegrown leadership, having cultivated his skills over three decades of service to the people of the Virgin Islands. His commitment to servant-leadership experience has been consistently recognized by his peers at the Legislature of the United States Virgin Islands, who elected him President of the 35th Legislature. He has also been honored to serve as the Vice-President of the 34th Legislature and President of the 33rd Legislature. Humbled by the voters' confidence in his record, Sen. Francis is honored to serve a sixth consecutive term representing the district of St. Croix and the Virgin Islands community.

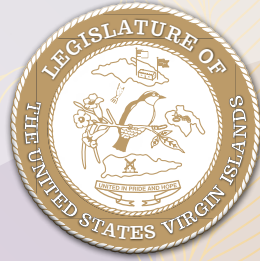
Known for his practical and realistic approach to governance, Novelle's efforts are deeply informed by his diverse background: a public-school graduate, his studies at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, a career in law enforcement, his experiences as a parent, and his years as a small business owner. His legislative initiatives reflect a tireless dedication to addressing the quality-of-life issues impacting all Virgin Islanders, irrespective of race, education or socioeconomic status. Since taking office in January 2015, Senator Francis has passed significant legislation, including:

- Probate reform (Act 8023)
- Dedicated funding for agriculture (Act 8259)
- Creation of the St. Croix South Shore Trade Zone (Act 8376)
- Expansion of the public-school curriculum to require civic courses for all public high school students (Act 7934)
- Comprehensive reform of behavioral healthcare (Act 8688)
- Integration of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (Act 8545)

These initiatives stand as enduring testaments to his commitment to the economic, educational futures and social well-being of the territory.

Novelle's senate leadership is shaped by his extensive law enforcement career, where the collection and analysis of information and evidence gathering were vital to solving cases. He brings this methodical approach to Senate committees - asking probing and insightful questions to ensure thorough oversight of agencies and persons appearing before the Senate. A leader in the Senate, he has chaired numerous committees, including the Committee on Health, Hospitals and Human Services, the Committee on Rules & Judiciary, and the Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety. He has also served as the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance.

Looking ahead, Senator Francis is committed to continuing his work on interrelated priorities, including probate reform, managing distressed properties, and advancing initiatives in economic development, education, senior care and healthcare.



S E N A T O R

Hubert L. Frederick



*H*ubert L. Frederick, most commonly referred to as Lorenzo, was born and raised on the island of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. As one of six siblings, he cherishes the close-knit bonds of his family, whose unconditional support and strong values, rooted in the rich heritage of the Eastern Caribbean, have shaped and instilled in him a deep devotion to family, community, and

service. A proud graduate of St. Croix Central High School, Hubert L. Frederick pursued higher education with steadfast determination, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and Finance from the Florida A&M University and a Master's Degree in Planning and Economic Development from Georgia State University. During his academic journey, he co-established civic and cultural organizations with members that include

many notable leaders within the U.S. Virgin Islands and abroad. These academic achievements laid the foundation for a distinguished career in financial auditing, banking, healthcare administration, insurance brokerage, and business leadership.

With his service in the U.S. Navy Reserve, Hubert L. Frederick began his professional journey established on discipline, integrity, and duty. Following his time in the U.S. Navy Reserve, Hubert L. Frederick embarked on a career in auditing, where he held positions as Auditor at the State of Georgia Department of Audits, HSBC and Marine Midland Bank. He continued to amass his experience in the financial auditing sector at Textron Financial, Horace Mann, and Finova Capital Corporation before rising through the ranks to serve as Senior Auditor at Deutsche Bank, a role that sharpened his expertise in evaluating financial controls, ensuring regulatory compliance, and analyzing complex financial operations across diverse economic industries.

After gaining extensive professional experience across the financial and healthcare sectors, Hubert L. Frederick made the decision to return to his home island of St. Croix, driven by a purpose to bring his expertise back to his community and contribute to its economic growth. In 2004, he served as Deputy Commissioner for the Virgin Islands Department of Health, where he demonstrated exemplary leadership by overseeing healthcare operations that improved the quality and accessibility of care. His work in healthcare administration reflected his dedication to addressing the critical needs of his community, a pledge that continues to shape his vision for public service. Following his tenure in healthcare administration, Hubert L. Frederick transitioned to First Bank Virgin Islands as a Commercial Loan Officer. During his tenure, he focused on supporting local businesses, improving operational processes, and preserving trust within the financial sector to drive economic development in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

As a business owner for over 25 years, Hubert L. Frederick has achieved notable success as the Owner and CEO of Laundry Time and the Broker/Owner of Island Insurance Agency. Through these businesses, he has contributed to economic development by creating employment opportunities and driving local business growth. His ventures exemplify sustainable economic practices and reflect his dedication to strengthening the local economy.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Hubert L. Frederick has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to community development and service. As board treasurer of the Christiansted Federal Credit Union

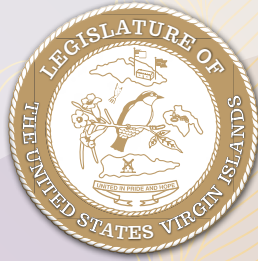
for many years, he ensured financial transparency and upheld ethical financial stewardship, strengthening trust within the organization. His co-founding of the St. Croix Track Club reflects his dedication to youth development, creating opportunities for young people to thrive through discipline, motivation, and athletic excellence. Additionally, Hubert L. Frederick's service on the Advisory Board of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has enabled him to support local small businesses, offer practical guidance and resources, and drive economic opportunities.

Hubert L. Frederick has made a significant impact as a radio talk show host. Through his programs, Money Talk and More and most recently The Robert Moorhead Show, he has engaged the community in meaningful conversations on financial literacy, economic development, and public policy. These platforms have allowed him to educate, empower, and encourage informed civic participation within the Territory.

As a former candidate for Lieutenant Governor in 2014 and 2018 alongside gubernatorial candidate Moleto Smith, Hubert L. Frederick demonstrated his dedication to the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands. His perseverance to public service continued in 2022, when he ran as a senatorial candidate for the 35th Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

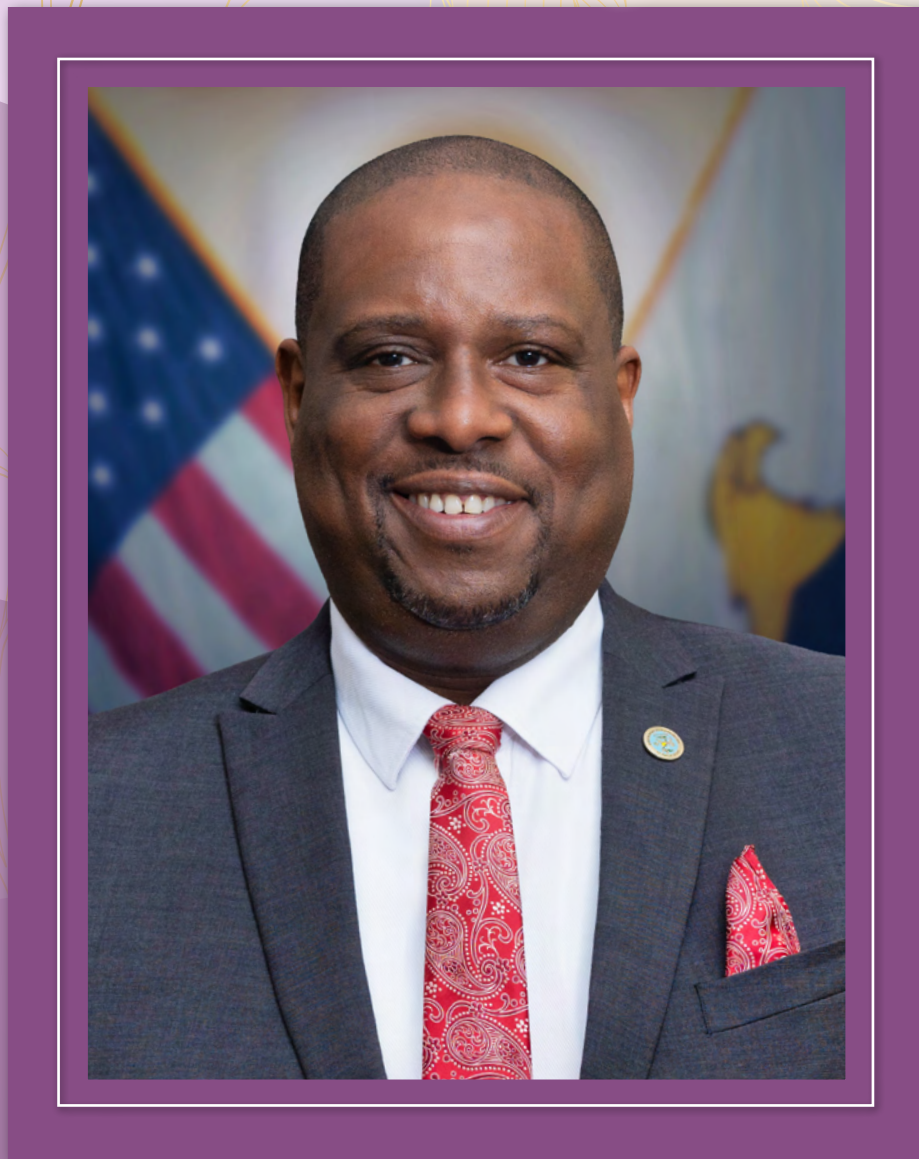
With a vision rooted in economic empowerment, healthcare advancement, and community resilience, Hubert L. Frederick is poised to bring his wealth of experience to the Senate. His legislative priorities include advocating for economic policies that advance sustainable economic growth, revitalizing the agricultural sector through innovative practices, promoting local food security, and enhancing healthcare services by strengthening public health systems and ensuring every resident has the necessary resources for reliable, long-term care. Additionally, he is committed to strengthening eldercare programs to honor and support the territory's aging population.

Hubert L. Frederick's journey is marked by decades of professional experience, significant achievements, and dedicated public service, demonstrating steady progress driven by focus and determination. He has worked tirelessly to improve his community, reflecting his deep and abiding love for the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands, whose trust he holds as a sacred responsibility.



S E N A T O R

Kenneth L. Gittens



Kenneth L. Gittens, was born in Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands on June 3, 1971, to the late Doris L. (Williams) Joseph and Keith R. Gittens, Sr.

Kenny, as he's affectionately known, is a product of the Virgin Islands public school system. Upon graduating from St. Croix Central High School, he joined the Virgin Islands Police Department in November of 1990. While working, he furthered his education at the University of the Virgin Islands, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and Columbia Southern University - obtaining Associates of Science in Police Science and Administration, Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees.

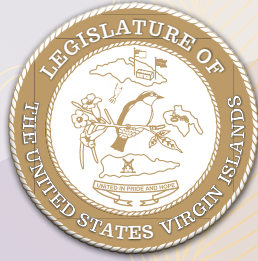
Senator Gittens has an immense interest and admiration for his profession of more than two decades in the fields of law enforcement, criminal justice, and emergency management. During those years, he diligently served in various capacities within the VIPD, as well as a Fraud/Internal Investigator with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security within the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He is also a volunteer Emergency Service Coordinator with the V.I. Territorial Emergency Management Agency.

Senator Gittens is a member of the V.I. Retired Police Organization, National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), and Gentlemen of Jones, Inc. He has been involved with many community organizations, including the Cub Scouts of America, Boys Scouts of America, Law Enforcement Explorers, Police Benevolent Association, Law Enforcement Supervisors Union, Peace Officer Standard Training Council, St. Croix Festival Committee, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's CYFAR program to improve community-based programs for at-risk children and their families. He is an active and lifelong member of the Friedensberg Moravian Church.

Senator Gittens has served in 30th, 31st, 33rd, 34th and 35th Legislatures of the Virgin Islands. His positions held include Senate President; Majority Leader; and Chairman of the Committees on Homeland Security, Justice, and Public Safety; Rules & Judiciary; and Economic Development & Agriculture. He has served four terms as the Senate Liaison to the White House, as well as the Legislature's representative to the V.I. State Council of the Interstate Compact for Juveniles.

As a member of the 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands, Senator Gittens looks forward to ensuring the body maintains the highest standard of accountability and he will remain vigilant in his efforts on behalf of the people.

He is the proud father of daughters, Shawntay and Shonneth, and grandfather to Zyan.



S E N A T O R

Marise C. James



Marise James is an attorney, mediator, educator, and public servant dedicated to uplifting her community and championing justice. A proud Crucian, she has dedicated her life to public service, building a reputation as a compassionate advocate and purposeful leader.

Born and raised on St. Croix, Marise graduated from St. Joseph High School before earning a Bachelor of Arts in Zoology from The George Washington University, where she excelled as a Division I basketball player on an athletic scholarship.

Returning to St. Croix after college, Marise embarked on a mission to inspire and educate the next generation. She taught physical science at Elena Christian Junior High and St. Croix Central High School and served as a GED science instructor for adult learners. Her passion for community growth led her to become the first Tourism Careers Coordinator for the Division of Tourism, fostering local talent in the hospitality industry.

Marise's pursuit of justice took her to the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, where she earned her Juris Doctor. Her extensive career spans the private, public (civilian and military), and nonprofit sectors. She has worked as an associate attorney for the law firm Hodge and Sheen PC, served as legal counsel for the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, advised Senator Gerard Luz A. James II and Governor Roy L. Schneider, and led the Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Program as the Disaster Branch Manager/Supervisory Attorney. Recognizing the need for legal assistants in the Virgin Islands, Marise founded The Paralegal Institute, empowering graduates to succeed locally and nationally.

A proud veteran, Marise answered the call to serve her country by joining the Virgin Islands National Guard. She provided legal expertise and leadership as the Staff Judge Advocate from 2004 until 2018 and during that time served a federal active-duty tour at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. After military service, Marise served in Governor Albert Bryan's administration as the Policy Advisor for Justice and Public Safety, before returning to private practice.

Marise's commitment to her community propelled her to public office, where she was elected to the 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands in November 2022 and re-elected to the 36th Legislature. As Chair of the Committee on Education & Workforce Development

and Vice Chair of the Committee on Housing, Transportation & Telecommunications, and a member of the following committees: Disaster Recovery & Infrastructure; Health, Hospitals & Human Services; and Rules & Judiciary, she championed transformative legislation, including:

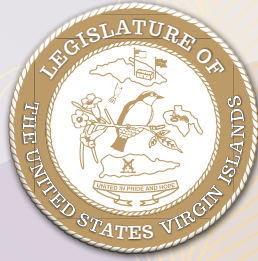
- Establishing the Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program (Act 8795)
- Removing outdated mortgages to clear property titles (Act 8794)
- Eliminating statutes of limitations for child abuse claims (Act 8953)

Her proudest achievement was the Williams Delight Initiative, which provided \$15,000 grants to residents participating in the HUD Section 5(h) Homeownership Program. After nearly three decades of delays, Marise's advocacy is turning the dream of homeownership into reality for dozens of families. Her relentless efforts reflect her commitment to empowering the underserved and ensuring equity for all.

Senator James is a compassionate supporter of children, senior citizens, veterans, and families in need. Known for her hands-on approach, she tirelessly helps constituents navigate red tape, celebrates their achievements, and ensures that territorial services meet their needs. Her collaborative leadership and unwavering work ethic embody her belief that "hope inspires us to keep going, even when we encounter challenges."

Her legislative priorities include quality education, affordable housing, accessible healthcare, and sustainable development in agriculture, energy, and the environment. Marise believes in the transformative power of people to create change for the greater good.


Marise is married to Anthony Paul. Together, they have three adult children—Camille, Sydney, and Jordan—and her husband has two older sons. Guided by her faith and inspired by the words of Edmund Burke—"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing"—Marise has devoted her nearly four-decade career to being a force for good, empowering others to overcome challenges and achieve their fullest potential.



S E N A T O R

Franklin D. Johnson



ranklin D. Johnson most commonly known as “Frankie” to all, was born in Frederiksted St. Croix on September 9, 1960 to Eleanor E. Sealey and Thomas A. Johnson, Sr.

“Frankie” attended the parochial and public-school systems of St. Croix. Mr. Johnson progressed and attended the New Jersey Job Corp Training Center, where he obtained a General Education Diploma (GED) and a Certificate in Small Engine Repair within six (6) months. He then gained the opportunity to attend Union County Vocational School and successfully obtained his Certification as a Welder.

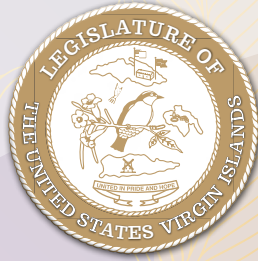
In 1983, Mr. Johnson commenced his long career in Law Enforcement when he joined the Virgin Islands Bureau of Correction as a Correctional Officer. During his tenure at the Bureau of Corrections, he held many roles of responsibility including Kitchen Oversight, Inmate Transport, Staff Transport Trainer, Supervisor of the Vocational Shops and the Developer and Supervisor of the Inmate Work Detail and Work Release Program, of which he is the proudest. Mr. Johnson to date, vividly remembers this program, its participants and their circumstances that allowed him the opportunity to touch the lives of more than three hundred (300+) Inmates, who participated and were given the chance to correct and understand errors of their previous life choices. In the 1990’s with an affinity for nature and a desire to help others, “Frankie” started Johnson’s Landscaping providing services to numerous clients on the island of St. Croix. In 2003, after twenty-one (21) years of service Mr. Johnson proudly retired from the Government of the Virgin Islands Bureau of Corrections.

After a short break in his retirement, “Frankie” was offered an opportunity to continue his involvement in the Law Enforcement profession. In 2003, he accepted and commenced a career with the Federal Government as a District Court Security Officer (CSO) on the island of St. Croix which he continued for twelve (12) years until his Retirement from Federal service in 2015.

Mr. “Frankie” Johnson is known by many near and far for his love of politics and recognized by his characteristic and distinct voice, as an avid Radio Commentator willing to address political and social issues affecting the community and territory. Mr. Johnson’s long-term political zeal provided him with the opportunity in 2015 to serve as the Senior Policy Advisor on Community Affairs under the then Mapp – Potter Administration. This role allowed him to do what he loves and enjoys most - helping people and making a difference in their lives. Mr. Johnson served in this role for four (4) years until his Retirement from the Government of the Virgin Islands in December 2018.

Mr. Johnson loves the sport of Baseball and continues to demonstrate this love by volunteering to serve as an Umpire at Little League Games throughout the territory. “Frankie” is a Member of the St. Croix Umpire Association, has participated in the St. Croix and St. Thomas Little League Tournament; Umpired the Big-League World Series and the Little League Caribbean Tournament in Williamsport, South Carolina and Bonaire respectively; and was selected and served as the Chief of Championship Game at the Latin Caribbean Big League Tournament in Guatemala. Frankie also loves traveling and cooking – a skill learned from and used on numerous occasions with his mother to prepare winning dishes at the St. Croix Agriculture and Food Fair.

Mr. Franklin “Frankie” Johnson has nine (9) Siblings – four (4) Sisters and five (5) Brothers. He is the proud father of five (5) Children: four (4) Daughters – Samika, Shevon, Tia and Thandie; one (1) Son – Franklin, Jr. (Deceased) and four (4) Grandchildren – Malcolm, Zariah, Rashae and Rashai.



S E N A T O R

Carla J. Joseph



A third consecutive term legislator, Sen. Carla Joseph is a grassroots organizer, social justice activist, and public servant with a strong sense of purpose. She is the youngest of four (4) children born to the late Frances Camilla Girleta Joseph of Jennings Village in Antigua and is the only child born in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, to Sylvester and Frances Joseph. Additionally, Senator Joseph has two (2) younger siblings from her father's subsequent marriages.

Senator Joseph's journey began in the Bovoni and Oswald Harris Court public housing communities, a testament to her humble beginnings. A 1988 Ivanna Eudora Kean High School graduate and a University of the Virgin Islands alumna, Senator Joseph holds a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities and a Public Manager Certification. Senator Joseph, an active member of the Memorial Moravian Church, is a proud parent of three girls and one grandchild. Her family, faith, and the well-being of the Virgin Islands community are at the heart of her mission and life work.

As a Senator in the 34th and 35th Legislatures of the Virgin Islands, Senator Joseph chaired the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs and Consumer Protection, and consistently conducted monthly meetings. As Chair, the Committee vetted bills within its purview and invited representatives from various government agencies as well as boards to receive updates on matters of importance to our people. In her second term in the 35th Legislature, Senator Joseph served as the Legislature's Secretary. Throughout her leadership as Chair of the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection as well as the Legislative Secretary, Senator Joseph became known as a stickler for punctuality and timely reporting on proceedings to the legislative body.

Although not a member of the Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance, Senator Joseph attended many meetings as her schedule permitted, resulting in invitations as a non-committee member to participate in the budget mark-up process through which she was instrumental in securing funds for youth organizations and veterans.

Senator Joseph's rise in government to be an elected leader started with a solid foundation. For over twenty years, Senator Joseph worked in the public sector as a civil servant before being elected to the Legislature of the Virgin Islands in November of 2020. She served in

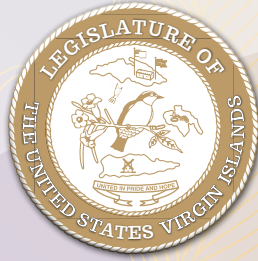
several roles within senatorial offices before taking on the position of Chief of Staff in the late Senator George Goodwin's office. During her more than ten years of employment with the Virgin Islands Housing Authority, she successfully managed two federally funded youth leadership and job development programs. This led to a flawless record of administering federal grants with fidelity and transparency. Which resulted in no federal findings and all funding spent timely.

In 2014, Senator Joseph was recognized as the Law Enforcement Planning Commission Person of the Year for her work with disadvantaged young people and advocating for social justice. Also in 2014, Senator Joseph was elected to the Virgin Islands Board of Elections; and served as Secretary of the St. Thomas/St. John District Board and Vice-Chair of the Joint Board. In addition, she served as Vice-Chair of the Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands, where she represented the Virgin Islands as a Delegate to the 2020 Democratic National Convention and proudly cast her vote for President Joseph Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris.

During her tenure as a member and immediate past President of the Environmental Association of St. Thomas/St. John (EAST), Senator Joseph advocated for a balance between environmental conservation and development. One of Senator Joseph's most significant achievements as President of EAST was her lobbying efforts, which resulted in the government's purchase of Smith Bay Park, one of the last remaining pristine shorelines on the East end of St. Thomas.

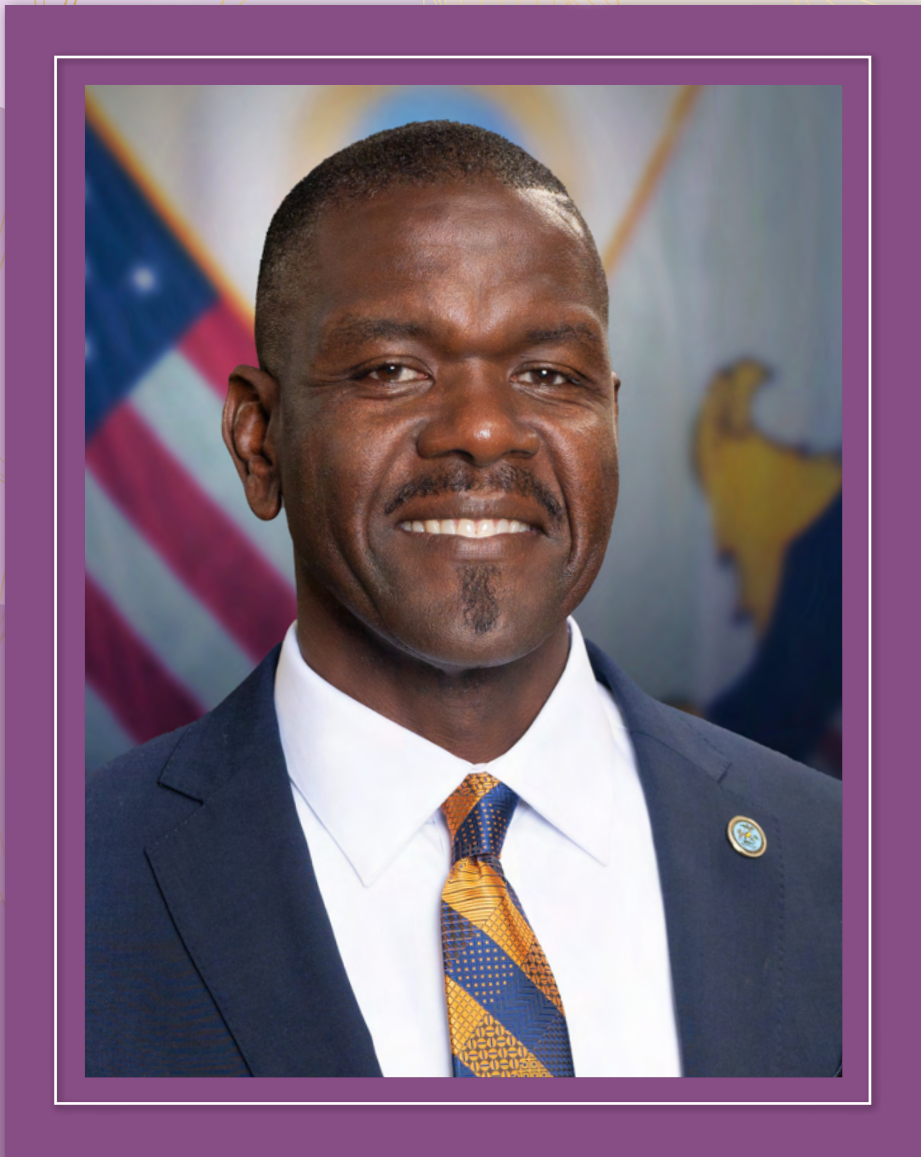
Senator Joseph says that she is more focused than ever on continuing her work to uplift and transform lives through the introduction of meaningful legislation to help our government meet the needs of our people and grow our economic base. Senator Joseph believes in assisting people, improving lives, protecting our environment, growing our economy, and honoring those who have selflessly given to our people, community, and Territory.

As she continues to work to help the people of the Virgin Islands, Senator Joseph intends to continue introducing and supporting impactful legislation to position the Virgin Islands for a positive and robust future. Her motto remains: People help people, and God helps us all.



S E N A T O R

Clifford A. Joseph



Clifford Adrian Joseph, a hard worker, committed and devoted person and business man, was born on February 24, 1969, in St. Croix United States Virgin Islands to Christopher and Gloria Joseph. Joseph the youngest of three biological siblings and the third to last of ten adopted siblings by his parents.

He worked his way through school and graduated in 1987 from the St. Croix Central High School. In May of 2006 he graduated with his Associate of Science-Fire Science degree from Keiser College. During the time period of 2004-2014 he has acquired (1) Virgin Islands Police Department Peace Officer/Law Enforcement Training (2014) (2) Dept. of Health CPR HIPPA & Blood Borne Pathogens (2012 & 2014) (3) St. Croix Rescue Academy First Aid/CPRI/ AED Certification (2012) (4) Hazmat First Responder Awareness (2012) (5) UVI CELL Conflict Resolution for managers in the workplace (2009). (6) UVI CELL Leadership Skills for managers (2008) (7) Weapons of MASS Destruction (2005).

In August, 1989, Clifford Joseph was employed with Viya then VITELCO as an Installer Repair man. In 1993 Joseph worked with the Steelworker Union District Office as a Union organizer. Joseph calls that time in his life “The best education and experience he ever had.” He has credited that experience as crucial-something that shaped his path to being the Fire Service Director. In May of 1995, Clifford Joseph was employed by the Virgin Islands Government-VI. Fire Services as Fire Fighter. He ascended through the ranks to Fire Corporal in 2003, Fire Sergeant in 2005, Fire Lieutenant in 2009, Fire Marshal/Captain in 2012, and Fire Director in 2015.

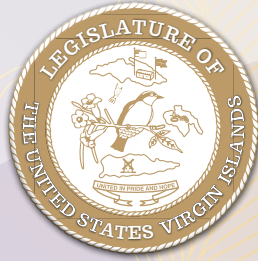
During his tenure as Fire Marshal from 2012 to July 30, 2015, Joseph also served as union president for both the Fire Fighter Union and Supervisor Union. Joseph captured the title of employee of the year in 2002 and where ever he went to work he got perfect attendance. Joseph was recognized by the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve “Patriotic Employer.” On March 31, 2022, Transfer Day, Joseph retired from public service.

While being employ at the Fire Services Joseph took a part-time job to keep his family afloat with O’Rielly Telephone in 1996 until the business closed its doors. That is where he became inspired to open his own telephone business in 1998-Cliffco Telephone Installation and Repair. This small telephone company has successfully completed work throughout the territory, Puerto Rico, Viequez and St. Lucia. On his journey with the telephone company Joseph has met people of every walk of life.

Clifford is an active board member of the Friedensthal Moravian Church. He has volunteered as a parent for Boys Scout Troop 271, cheerleader for the little league games and an active parent for the PTSA.

In addition to his career Joseph has acted as a basketball referee for many basketball leagues in St. Croix, umpire for the softball & Little League, keynote speaker for promotional exercises and other events in this community and a role model for young men and his peers in this territory. In his spare time he enjoys riding bikes, exercising and dancing with the cultural dancers “WE DEH YAH.”

Clifford Joseph is married to the love of his life apart from God, Marilyn Joseph. Joseph is a proud father of four adult sons; Clifford, Jr. (B.A.-Biology and MPH, STX), Kasheem (pursuing a career in entertainment-FL), Chaquille (B.S.-Biology, minor in Chemistry, BA-in Business Management/ and MS-in accounting (deceased) taught geometry in SCEC and Physics teacher, TX), and Christopher (Electrical Engineering Degree-TN.) Grandpa to seven of his favorite little people.



S E N A T O R

Avery L. Lewis



Avery Luis Lewis, a dedicated educator, embarked on his professional journey at Ulla Muller Elementary and Joseph Sibilly Elementary Schools. His unwavering commitment to community service, particularly in the field of education, led him to assume significant leadership roles. These include serving as the President of the American Federation of Teachers, Local 1825, and Chairman of the Virgin Islands Pension Reform Task Force. He also served as President of the Central Labor Council, advocating for workers' rights and pushing for systemic improvements.

Beyond education, Avery's public service extended to several boards and commissions. He served on the Certified Public Managers Board, the Economic Development Authority Board (where he was Secretary), the Unemployment Insurance Board, the Economic Development Bank, and the Enterprise Zone Commission. Avery has also served as Vice Chair of the Magen's Bay Authority Board, Chairman of the Labor Management Committee, and member of the AARPVI State Volunteers and Executive Council.

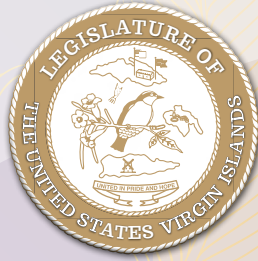
In his role as Administrator of the St. Thomas-Water Island District, Avery addressed critical community issues, focusing on street lighting, traffic safety, abandoned vehicle initiatives, community cleanups, and all other directives from the Governor. His leadership in the district was rooted in a deep commitment to solving problems, advocating for road repairs, and improving residents' overall quality of life. Above all, he prioritized the community's needs, always working to protect the rights of all residents and provide essential services.

As a Senator, Avery Luis Lewis continues his mission to serve the people of the Virgin Islands. He is resolute in finding solutions to the territory's challenges, with a strong focus on creating higher-paying jobs, promoting homeownership, improving resources for home repairs, and fostering sustainable energy development. His dedication to advancing economic growth, improving behavioral health services, enhancing healthcare, reforming education, and supporting crime prevention is unwavering. Avery respects his elders and is committed to working tirelessly on their behalf.

Avery's dedication to education and workforce development is a direct result of his experiences as an educator and community leader. He understands the importance of providing the necessary tools and opportunities for children, young adults, and returning citizens to succeed. Avery is committed to helping build a strong, inclusive public education system that supports all students, ensuring they have the resources and support needed to thrive.

Avery has embodied accountability, transparency, and servant leadership throughout his career. He is committed to maintaining high-performance standards and follow-through in his work for the people of the Virgin Islands. Avery is a proud father to one son, Jaden. Above all, he is a man of deep faith, drawing strength and guidance from God daily. His unwavering dedication to serving the people of the Virgin Islands is fueled by his belief that 'With God, all things are possible.'

Avery was born on April 29, 1976, on St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. His family, a core part of his identity, instilled in him a deep commitment to serving the people of the Virgin Islands with love, respect, and a genuine desire to help. He is the seventh of eight children between Rosemarie Fleming and Angel L. Lewis Sr. His siblings are Angel Jr, Laverne, Alvin (deceased), Antonio "Pumpkin," Annette, Angela, Arnelle, and Lionel Warrell. The family's heritage is deeply rooted in the Eastern Caribbean, with relatives in Tortola, Anguilla, Puerto Rico, Santo Domingo, and Antigua. Avery graduated from Charlotte Amalie High School in 1994, then continued his education at the University of the Virgin Islands before earning a Master's in Educational Leadership from Concordia University.



S E N A T O R

Milton E. Patter



MILTON E. POTTER: A LEGACY OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND FAMILY VALUES

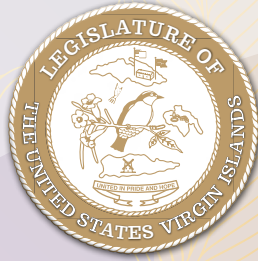
From his humble beginnings on Tortola, BVI, to becoming President of the 36th Legislature, Milton E. Potter's journey embodies the American Dream in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Raised on St. Thomas with seven siblings, Milton learned early from his parents—Margaret, a salesclerk, and Cecil, a Port Authority firefighter—that education, family, and reputation were the cornerstones of success.

After earning degrees in Criminal Justice and School Psychology from Florida A&M University, Milton began his career as a counselor, first at Florida State University and later serving Virgin Islands youth through the University of the Virgin Islands' Upward Bound Program. Additionally, he taught conflict resolution skills, via a unique prison diversion initiative, at the Family Resource Center. His path took a decisive turn in the early 2000s when he earned his Senior Certified Professional credentials from the Society of Human Resources Management.

Milton's Human Resources (HR) career culminated in two pivotal leadership roles: HR Director at the Virgin Islands Port Authority and Director of Personnel for the Virgin Islands Government. In the latter position, he managed a \$43 million budget and revolutionized government recruitment through the implementation of NEOGOV.

Now serving his third legislative term, Milton has distinguished himself as an effective leader, chairing crucial committees and authoring significant legislation. Beyond his political duties, he serves on the St. Thomas Federal Credit Union Board of Directors, helping guide this \$85 million homegrown financial institution.

Despite his professional achievements, Milton considers his greatest success to be his 25-year marriage to the dynamic Paulette Venzen and raising their two sons, Dakarai and Jayvyn. When not serving his community, Milton enjoys exploring the world with his family through travel, but is adamant that there is no place as beautiful, warm and embracing as the place he has dedicated his life to serving, the US Virgin Islands and its people.



S E N A T O R

Kurt A. Vialet



Kurt A. Vialet, Mathematics Teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, first elected in 2014 to serve as a Senator in the 31st Legislature of the Virgin Islands then served in the 32nd - 34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands.

Having been in public service for over 30 years, Kurt A. Vialet has achieved a distinguished career in government. As an active member of the Virgin Islands community, and a proven and dedicated leader within the Department of Education and the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, his journey has allowed him to serve as a Mathematics Educator, an Assistant Principal, a Principal, and an elected leader, Senator, for several terms. His various roles in management and in educating public school students have allowed him to carve his niche in the Virgin Islands' rich, diverse political history.

Kurt Anthony Vialet, was born May 26, 1964, on the beautiful island of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands to parents, Roy Vialet of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands and Helena Matta Vialet of Fajardo, Puerto Rico. Due to his parents' insistence that he grows up grounded, they saw it fit for him to be educated in the public-school system of the Virgin Islands from elementary school to high school, respectively. Upon graduation from the St. Croix Central High

School in 1982, he obtained both a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mathematics from the University of the Virgin Islands in 1987 and a Master of Arts Degree in Administration and Supervision in 1992.

Upon graduation from the University of the Virgin Islands, Kurt A. Vialet began his career with the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands working with the Department of Education. He has long worked for change as a Teacher and an Assistant Principal at the Elena L. Christian Junior High School, Principal at the St. Croix Educational Complex High School (SCEC) and Principal of the Arthur A. Richards Junior High School.

Kurt A. Vialet was charged with the duty of designing and structuring the organization and opening of the 2nd High School on the island of St. Croix, SCEC, and its academic program from its inception in August of 1995. He was the "brainchild" of implementing the very first Science & Math Magnet program in the Virgin Islands to cater to the best and brightest minds. Principal Vialet also designed and implemented the ELMER

(Enhancing Literacy in Math, English & Reading) program which catered to struggling incoming 9th grade students who needed additional learning time in the high school setting. He was instrumental in the coordination of opening the only school-based Health Clinic in the Virgin Islands at the SCEC High School. The SCEC Marching Band, the Quelbe Ambassadors Band, the SCEC Sport programs, and Academic programs thrived and excelled to greatness under his leadership. During his tenure, SCEC embarked on a journey and successfully attained its first accreditation from Middle States Association in May 2005. This is a milestone in SCEC's history. Together with the entire faculty and staff at the SCEC High School, over 5,000 students graduated, and thousands pursued higher education, especially in the fields of Science and Mathematics.

As a proven and dedicated leader within the Department of Education, a beacon of intelligence and hope, in August of 2011 Kurt A. Vialet was then required to be what is known in Education as a "Change Agent of Schools." Thus, he was charged with revamping the Arthur A. Richards Junior High School.

An active member of the Virgin Islands community, Kurt A. Vialet switched careers and entered the political arena in 2014. Once again, his quest was to serve the community and provide opportunities for the citizens of the Virgin Islands. In his bid to the Senate, he was elected, placed first overall, and has served as a Democratic Senator in the 31st, 32nd, 33rd, and 34th Legislatures of the Virgin Islands.

Senator Kurt A. Vialet, served as the Chairperson of Health, Hospitals and Human Services, Vice Chair of Education and Workforce Development and Chair of the Finance Committee for six consecutive years. He continued his journey of service by creating several different laws and amendments to bills that are of high impact to people's daily lives, in his hope of creating a better Virgin Islands.

Fortunate to have grown up in a small yet, vibrant community, Kurt Vialet's very upbringing instilled in him the values and understanding that made him realize that our community is at a crossroad and there are challenges, but also opportunities to make the Virgin Islands a better place for all. His roots, educational background, values and, work ethic gave him insight into the challenges we face, as well as the opportunities that lie ahead. This qualified him in 2022 for his bid for Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States. While together with his running mate, Senator Janelle K. Sarauw, were unsuccessful at this attempt, they won the district of St. Croix and one segment of St. John against an incumbent governor. A victory held in high esteem, Mr. Vialet continues to work in many facets of

the community, consulting as only then can we shape a better future for our islands.

In 2024, Senator Vialet on his journey and his quest for a better quality of life for the people of the Virgin Islands, a strong voice for his District and his dedication and commitment to a better, improved Territory, was again elected, placing first overall, to serve in the 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands.

Kurt A. Vialet, hardworking and determined for a better Virgin Islands, has dedicated himself to countless community involvement ranges from being a Co-Founder of TRASHBUSTERS, a volunteer community environmental Clean Up Crew, former Treasurer and then President of the St. Croix Festival Committee, member of St. Croix Horse Owners' Association, advisor to the CLOSE-UP Foundation, member of the National Association of Secondary Principals, Honorary member of UVI's Golden Key National Honor Society, member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), volunteer with the Virgin Islands Special Olympics, volunteer with the Christiansted Crucian Cultural Group's activities, Frederiksted Festival of Lights activity, Co-Host on WSTX Educational Radio Show, Guest panelist on WTJX "Comes with the Territory" television program, parade participant with the Ten Sleepless Knights Festival Troupe, a member of the Holy Cross Catholic Church, and a member of the National Council of State Legislatures.

In addition, he has been recognized for outstanding service by several organizations to include the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (2004), the SCEC PTSA Image Award (2006), the Frederiksted Health Care Inc. (2007), SCEC Physical Education Department (2013), and Grand Marshall of the Carnival Parade 2015.

Kurt A. Vialet is a community activist and volunteer, an avid reader, an advocate for young people, and a sports enthusiast with basketball and horseracing among his favorites.

Being committed to God and his family are amongst his greatest accomplishments. He is married to Wanda Figueroa-Vialet, of St. Croix, an Elementary Educator. Together they have two daughters, both college graduates, Kurrisa Vialet, (Civil Environmental Engineer) and Kyminis Vialet, (Public Health Communications/Psychology), both of whom are also proud graduates of the public-school system of the Virgin Islands.

HISTORY OF THE GREAT SEAL



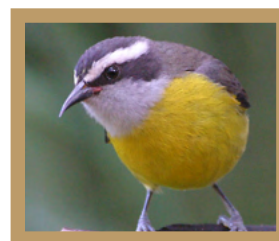
The Great Seal of the United States Virgin Islands became effective on January 1, 1991. It was designed by Mitch Davis and former Senator Donald Cole and was selected from among 33 other submissions from around the world. The symbols depicted thereon are representative of the three major islands comprising the U.S. Virgin Islands and were chosen for their historical as well as future significance. The sugar mill was chosen for St. Croix because it was the center of agricultural productivity during the early years of the island's history. St. Croix was the hub of industrial production in the territory, with the Hess Oil Refinery, Martin Marietta Complex and the Industrial Park. The Annaberg ruins on the island of St. John represent that island's role in the production of sugar and the slave uprisings. The ruins currently sit in the National Park, which is the bastion of preservation in the territory and its environment for the present and into the future. The Legislative building on the island of St. Thomas represents the seat of government and the capitol of the United States Virgin Islands. The two flags being flown are the Dannebrog, which is being lowered, and the U.S. flag. The flags depict the transfer of the islands from Denmark to the United States on March 31, 1917, on the grounds of the Legislature. The boat in the harbor of St. Thomas represents the importance of the islands in interstate and international commerce, from Columbus' arrival to the islands to the present and into the future, with the cruise ship and charter boat industries as well as down island traders.

The motto inscribed on the scroll, "United in Pride and Hope" relates to the fact that the islands are inhabited by varied groups of people of different ethnic, national and religious persuasions and all live together in relative harmony to form one community.

Put the above variables together and you have a seal that

represents pride, dignity, history, culture and the natural beauty of the United States Virgin Islands. The purpose of this design is to instill a sense of pride and dignity in the territory and in our people. Each color that makes up the composition was chosen to exemplify a specific identity of the islands. Working from the outside to the center, the significance of each aspect of the design is described below. The words "Legislature of the United States Virgin Islands" encircle the seal. The yellow color that borders the seal represents our tropical sun with its brilliant rays beaming down and keeping us warm 365 days a year; the green color of the islands represents the foliage that is ever present and creates our natural beauty; the white trim around the islands represents the white sand that is found on our world-renowned beaches; the blue represents the crystal clear waters which surround our islands and the magnificent blue skies that are seldom cloudy.

In addition, the Yellow Breast, our national bird, with its regal-colored chest is perched on a stem of our national flower, the Yellow Cedar, with three of its fruits, three flowers in bloom, and three leaves, all representing the three major islands. These national symbols were especially selected for the following reasons: 1. they are our legally adopted national symbols; 2. they are easily recognized; and, 3. they populate all of the islands.



HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

It has often been said that to fully understand something, you must understand its history. This can truly be said of the Virgin Islands Legislature. The nature of the present body is derived from the experiences of Danish colonialism and from the struggle of our people for self-government under the American flag.

The present Legislature of the Virgin Islands is a fifteen member body in which all the legislative powers of the territory are vested. It enjoys the powers and privileges held by most state legislatures of the Union. The Capitol Building, in which the body is housed, is located just south of Fort Christian on the island of St. Thomas.

The Capitol Building is an exceptional example of 19th century classical architecture. This building replaced two earlier military structures dating to the periods of 1827 and 1873. The present building was constructed in 1874, at a cost of \$29,000, for the purposes of military barracks for Fort Christian and a battery installation. The Roman numerals on the portal of the building are MDCCCLXXIV (1874).

The building was used to house the Danish Militia and the Gendarmes until 1917 when the islands were transferred to the United States. The formal Transfer Day ceremonies of the islands from Denmark to the U.S. took place on the grounds of the building on March 31, 1917.

From that time until 1931, when the transfer to civil government took place, the building was used as a barracks for the U.S. Marines. From 1931 to 1955 the building was used as the site of the Charlotte Amalie High School with an interruption during World War II caused when it was taken over by the military to incarcerate prisoners brought to St. Thomas off a Vichy ship captured by the U.S. Navy in the Eastern Caribbean Sea.

In 1957, the Legislature, which formerly met on the top floor of the Enid Baa Library, and the Department of Social



Welfare, moved into the building with the Legislature occupying the top floor and Social Welfare the first floor. However, as the Legislature and its staff expanded, it became necessary to occupy both floors, and a few years later, around 1970, the Legislature occupied the entire building in the manner that it does now.

The beginning of the Legislature can be traced back to the passage of the Colonial Law of 1852. This law, the first “constitution” of the islands, provided for the establishment of a unified Colonial Assembly and for a Governor as the chief executive, or to be more accurate, as a vice regent of the King of Denmark. The governor, as The King’s direct representative, had the power to issue ordinances

which had the force of law. In addition, he had the power to dissolve the Assembly with the provision that this not be done more than twice in two years and that a new election be held within two months of the dissolution.

The Colonial Assembly, which served all three islands, was basically limited to an advisory role. It could only make recommendations which could be accepted or rejected by the governor. In addition, the King still reserved the final authority to reject or amend any law made in the colony.

The Colonial Assembly, in addition to its lack of decision making power, had serious flaws. It was forced to attempt to combine two incompatible economic systems into one political system. St. Thomas, with a maritime-based economy, had totally different requirements from St. Croix, which had an agrarian one. Because St. Croix had a larger delegation to the Assembly than either of the other two islands, many recommendations were passed which were unfavorable to St. Thomas. To make matters worse for the St. Thomian delegates, meetings were held on St. Croix. Eventually, because of a combination of transportation difficulties and hostilities, St. Thomian delegates ceased to attend meetings and consequently, none were conducted between 1856 and 1859. Needless to say, this legislative system soon fell apart, and eleven years after its inception, was superseded by the Colonial Law of 1863.

HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS



The Colonial Law of 1863 changed the system of government by dividing the islands into two Municipalities which were St. Thomas - St. John, and St. Croix. Each Municipality was served by a Colonial Council, both of which could combine as an Assembly on the call of the governor or both Councils. The Councils had slightly greater powers than their predecessors and they had some measure of financial control that is usually inherent in legislative bodies as we know them. However, many limitations on the powers remained firmly in the hands of the King and his direct representative, the governor. All final decisions rested with the King. In addition, the King appointed four members to the St. Thomas - St. John Council and five to the St. Croix Council. An additional handicap was the amount of deliberation necessary to adopt any measure. Before the Council adopted any measure, it was subject to revision three times. The first revision period permitted general discussion, in the second the governor or the council could make amendments, and in the third, only the governor could make amendments. As aforementioned, any measure was still subject to the approval of the King in order to become law.

The Colonial Law of 1863, besides dictating the structure of government, also dealt with the important matter of enfranchisement. It was the opinion of the lawmakers at the time that landowners and other people of means were those that truly had a stake in the society and therefore should be the ones represented at the polls. As a result, the strict property and income qualifications stipulated by the Colonial Law of 1863 were such that only 5.5 percent of the population was able to vote. This caused a double disadvantage for the average citizen who saw not only a Colonial Council that was practically powerless, but one in which he was unrepresented. To put it simply, the average or "grass roots" people had no voice whatsoever in the running of the government.

The Colonial Law of 1906 was basically an amendment to

the Colonial Law of 1863. Of its provisions, the most noteworthy is one which states that before any ordinance is adopted, the opinion of the Assembly must be solicited. While this further ensured that the voice of the Councils would be heard, it still gave them no power to enact or influence any legislation. This law of 1906 was the last "constitutional" document handed down by the Danes and it reflected the fact that to the very end, the Danish government felt that although the natives should be free to express their opinion, the decision making functions must rest with the government of the "mother country." To the end of Danish rule, Virgin Islanders had little self-government.

The lack of self-government, along with dire economic straits for the islands led to the widespread native approval of the sale of the islands in 1916 and their subsequent transfer in 1917. The natives assumed that along with the rights of American citizenship, they would also receive a greater measure of self-government. As things turned out, they got neither.

When the United States took over the islands, it was a hasty and forced move for which the sole purpose was to prevent the Germans from taking them and thus to improve strategic defense of the Panama Canal. Therefore, the islands, unlike the Louisiana Purchase or many other territories, were not acquired for purposes of expansion, but simply as a military possession. As a result, the natives were not granted citizenship and the administration of the islands was delegated to the Department of the Navy. The Navy, never known for being socio-politically gifted, decided to leave what seemed to be well enough alone and thus, with the obvious exception of having a Naval officer take the post of governor, there was no significant change in the structure of government.

Under the Administration of the Navy, significant progress was made in the more material aspects of life. New roads and hospitals were built, and efforts were made to improve sanitation and education in the islands. However, the years of the "Naval Regime" from 1917-1931 were long, bitter years for those who sought greater self-rule in the Virgin Islands. The training and temperament of the average ranking Naval officer was not at all suited to the running of a popular government for a peaceful group of people. Therefore, according to the natives, the majority of Naval governors conducted island affairs in much the same manner as they would have run a battleship. To make matters worse, the Federal Administration largely lost interest in the islands after World War I as they had served their original purpose. As a result, there was little or no effort on the part of the administration to oversee the affairs of the islands and the governor was thus left quite free from outside interference. This combination of federal neglect, carried over Danish laws, and Naval temperament conspired to effectively stymie any efforts at self-government.

The years of the "Naval Regime" bred many seeds of discontent and produced such "radical" political activists as Rothschild Francis and D. Hamilton Jackson, as well as others who fought for greater civil liberties and the removal of the

Naval administration. In 1927, United States citizenship was granted to Virgin Islanders. Finally, in 1931, with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the native leaders had stirred up enough publicity and outrage that President Herbert Hoover signed an Executive Order. The order provided for the transfer of the administration of the islands from the Navy Department to the Department of the Interior. While the yoke of the Navy had been lifted, no structural changes were made in the government and active leaders continued to press for change.

On June 22, 1936 the United States Congress passed the Organic Act of 1936. Under the provisions of this Act, a true system of civil government was set forth for the Islands. The two Colonial Councils, now Municipal Councils with the exclusion of the appointed members remained and could still combine to form a Legislative Assembly. They were given legislative powers to pass laws and to override the governor's veto by two-thirds vote, although in this event, final veto power went to the President of the United States. The Legislative Assembly, which could convene upon passage of resolutions by both Councils or on the call of the governor, had the authority to enact legislation for the entire Virgin Islands. To be eligible for membership in a Municipal Council, a candidate had to be at least twenty-five years of age, a qualified voter in the municipality in which he sought election, and be a resident of that municipality for not less than three years preceding the date of election.

The Organic Act of 1936 was a major sign of victory for native Virgin Islanders who wanted a greater measure of self-government. Of this act, the greatest features include the granting of universal suffrage and permanent removal of property and income qualifications for voting. This took political control of the islands from the upper class and "landed gentry" and placed it squarely in the hands of the thousands of working and lower class citizens in the Virgin Islands. Thus, the face of the legislative branch was also changed. Conservative legislators preferring the status quo were replaced by more liberal, sometimes even radical ones who were more dedicated to bringing about social and economic changes, better working conditions, etc., for the working man or the "grass root."

Despite the apparent victories, however, there were still items left to be desired in the new governmental system. Although Councils were empowered to enact legislation and override the governor's veto, the Congress of the United States still reserved the power to annul any and all legislation enacted by the Virgin Islands government. The President of the United States retained final veto power in the case of a legislative override of the governor's veto. In addition, the Legislative Assembly, the body that passed laws for the entire territory, was the representative of unified government. It did not meet with the frequency that would have been desirable and was only empowered to act on bills proposed by the governor or by both the separate Councils. In other words, the Legislative Assembly was not capable of independent action. It can be said, therefore, that there was still no viable working instrument to

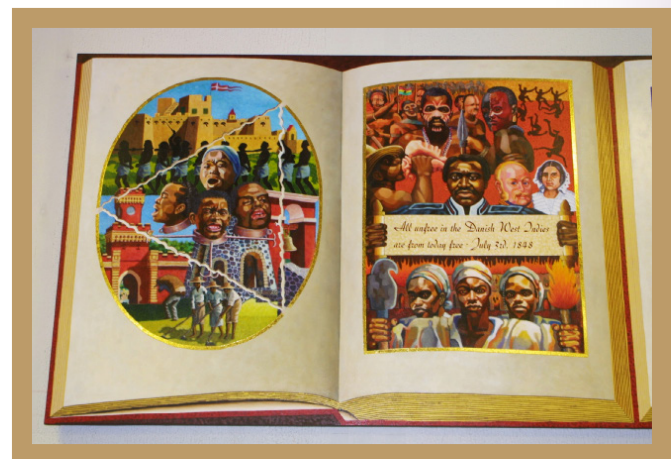
enact legislation for the entire Virgin Islands and that a unified system of government was still woefully lacking. By this point, it was more than high time that one was placed into effect.

In 1954, this unified legislative system was put into effect when the United States Congress passed the Revised Organic Act of 1954. Among other things, this act created a unicameral body called the Legislature of the Virgin Islands in which all legislative power was vested. For the first time since 1863, the government of the Virgin Islands was fused into one entity. A relatively equal balance of power between the executive and legislative branches was finally attained. In addition, equal representation from St. Thomas and St. Croix was achieved.

The unicameral Legislature, created by the aforementioned act, consisted of eleven members: three from the District of St. Croix; three from the District of St. Thomas; one from the District of St. John; and four At-Large, serving all three islands.

The At-Large concept is utilized solely for the purpose of embodying the unified interest and to reduce inter-island deadlocks.

In 1966, the Legislature under-went further change when the United States Congress and the Virgin Islands Legislature passed a resolution. The number of seats was increased from 11 to 15 and the distribution changed to the following: seven from the District of St. Thomas - St. John; seven from the District of St. Croix; and one At-Large who must be a resident of St. John. With that move, the Legislature of the Virgin Islands had finally evolved into its present form. It is now a body with the rights and powers enjoyed by most state legislatures of the Union. With the century-long development of the legislative branch from Colonial Assembly to Virgin Islands Legislature, we see an important part of a people's struggle for self-government.



HISTORY OF THE CAPITOL BUILDING



Senators occupy office space in a jewel of a structure located downtown in the Historic District in the Capitol of the United States Virgin Islands—Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas.

The Capitol Building has a historic background, which is almost comparable to that of its immediate neighbor Fort Christian.

The original building, constructed in 1828, was a wooden structure. These quarters (used as barracks) are documented on a map of St. Thomas of 1730, which shows the barracks and its installations which includes water batteries on which eight cannons were located; officers barracks'; noncommissioned officers' barracks; senior and junior clerks' barracks; musketeers barracks', prison chambers, catchment and wine cellar.

The present building is a reconstruction of the original and was completed in 1874 as the Roman numerals (MDCCCLXXIV) on the

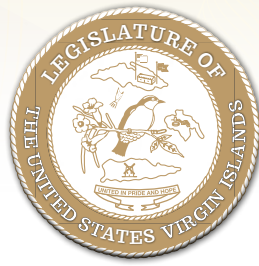
building verify. Among the significant events which took place on its grounds was the official transfer of the Danish West Indies to the United States in 1917.

After 1917 the building served as a barracks for the U.S. Marines. In 1931 when the islands experienced a change of government from Naval Rule to Civil Government the building was transferred to the Department of Interior.

Two other significant uses of the building were Charlotte Amalie High School (1931-1955) and wartime purposes during World War II.

In 1956, with assistance of federal funds, it was restored and later occupied by the Legislature and the Department of Social Welfare.

Presently the building serves the Legislature with accommodations for private and other related offices such as the law library, legal counsel and business offices.



HONOR ROLL MUNICIPAL COUNCILS

ST. CROIX

FIRST COUNCIL: 1937-38

Joseph Alexander, Ralph DeChabert, Halvor Berg, Fredrick D. Dorsch, Isaac Boynes, Christian Joseph, David C. Canegata, Paul E. Joseph, Cornelius Pentheny

SECOND COUNCIL: 1939-40

Joseph Alexander, Arnold M. Golden, C.R.T. Brow, William Johansen, Frederick D. Dorsch, Paul E. Joseph, Robert S. Fleming, Andrew C. Pedro, Cornelius Pentheny

THIRD COUNCIL: 1941-42

Emile A. Abramson, Robert S. Fleming, Joseph Alexander, Percy Gardine, Isaac Boynes, D. Hamilton Jackson, Eric H. Carroll, William Johansen, Cornelius Pentheny

FOURTH COUNCIL: 1943-44

Emile A. Abrahamson, Robert S. Fleming, Joseph Alexander, Percy Gardine, Isaac Boynes, D. Hamilton Jackson, Eric H. Carroll, Cornelius Pentheny, George E. Wulff

FIFTH COUNCIL: 1945-46

Joseph Alexander, Edmund Hurley, Eric H. Carroll, D. Hamilton Jackson, Robert S. Fleming, Daniel Joseph, Percy Gardine, Reuben A. Neazer, Cornelius Pentheny

SIXTH COUNCIL: 1947-48

Joseph A. Benjamin, Walter I.M. Hodge, Canute A. Brodhurst, Aloyslus A. James, James de Castro Christian, Alexander Moorhead, Ludvig E. Harrigan, Reuben A. Neazer, Cornelius Pentheny (died March 8, 1947), William B. Robinson (succeeded C. Pentheny)

SEVENTH COUNCIL: 1949-50

S. Christian Chase, Franke E. Jacobs, A. Sebastian Forbes, Alva Mc Farlane, Ludvig E. Harrigan, Reuben A. Neazer, Walter I.M. Hodge, Gordon M. Skeoch, George E. Wulff

EIGHTH COUNCIL: 1951-52

Eric H. Carroll, Walter I.M. Hodge, Aloyslus A. James, Cydrian A. Gardine, William Johansen (resigned April, 1951), Ludvig E. Harrigan (died March 19, 1951), Alva Mc Farlane, Herbert H. Heywood, S. Christian Chase (succeeded W. Johansen), Henry E. Rohlsen (succeeded L. Harrigan),

NINTH COUNCIL: 1953-54

Ann E. Abramson, Herbert H. Heywood, J. Wilfred Benjamin, Walter I.M. Hodge, Eric H. Carroll, Raymond A. Pedro, John W. Flick, Henry E. Rohlsen, Alex Schade

ST. THOMAS - ST. JOHN

FIRST COUNCIL: 1937-38

Lionel V. Roberts, Conrad Corneiro, Ralph Paiewonsky, Eugene LaPlace, Harry DeLagarde, Leopold Barbel, Julius E. Sprauve

SECOND COUNCIL: 1939-40

Osmond Kean, Ralph Paiewonsky, Weymouth Ryhmer, Lionel A. Roberts, Jacques M. Schiffer, Omar Brown, Julius E. Sprauve

THIRD COUNCIL: 1941-42

Ralph Paiewonsky, Osmond Kean, Valdemar A. Hill, Roy P. Gordon, Omar Brown, Harry DeLagarde, Julius E. Sprauve

FOURTH COUNCIL: 1943-1944

Valdemar A. Hill, Oswald E. Harris, Weymouth Ryhmer, Roy P. Gordon, Ralph Paiewonsky, Omar Brown, Julius E. Sprauve

FIFTH COUNCIL: 1945-46

Oswald E. Harris, Valdemar A. Hill (resigned December 31, 1945), Roy P. Gordon, Weymouth Ryhmer, Omar Brown, Ralph Paiewonsky, Julius E. Sprauve, Carlos A. Downing (succeeded V. Hill),

SIXTH COUNCIL: 1947-48

Earle B. Ottley, Oswald E. Harris, Omar Brown, Carlos A. Downing, Roy P. Gordon, Louis E. Hodge, Sr., Julius E. Sprauve

SEVENTH COUNCIL: 1949-50

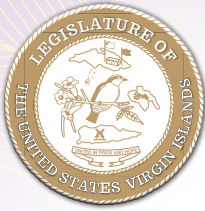
Oswald E. Harris, Earle B. Ottley, Roy P. Gordon, Louis E. Hodge, Sr., Carlos A. Downing, Omar Brown, Julius E. Sprauve

EIGHTH COUNCIL: 1951-52

Earle B. Ottley, Oswald E. Harris, Weymouth Ryhmer, Roy P. Gordon (resigned February, 1952) Henry V. Richards, Omar Brown, Julius E. Sprauve, Henry O. Creque (succeeded R. Gordon)

NINTH COUNCIL: 1953-54

Earle B. Ottley, Percival H. Reese, Joseph A. Gomez, Weymouth Ryhmer, Henry V. Richards, Henry O. Creque, Julius E. Sprauve



HONOR ROLL SERVICE IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

FIRST LEGISLATURE 1955-56

Walter I.M. Hodge – President
Earle B. Ottley – Vice President
Jorge Rodriquez – Secretary
Eric H. Carroll
Joseph A. Gomez
John D. Merwin
Lucinda A. Millin
Frits Lawaetz
Percival H. Reese
Weymouth Ryhmer
Julius E. Sprauve

SECOND LEGISLATURE 1957-58

Aubrey A. Anduze – President
Lucinda A. Millin – Vice President
John D. Merwin (*resigned Dec. 21, 1957*) – Secretary
Ann E. Abramson (*succeeded Merwin*) – Secretary
Ronald DeLugo
Joseph A. Gomez
Walter I.M. Hodge
Frits Lawaetz
Theovald E. Moorhead
Earle B. Ottley
Percival H. Reese
Weymouth Ryhmer

THIRD LEGISLATURE 1959-60

Walter I.M. Hodge – President
Candido R. Gaudalupe – Vice President
John L. Maduro – Secretary
Aubrey A. Anduze
Lucinda A. Millin
Ronald DeLugo
Theovald E. Moorhead
Joseph A. Gomez
Earle B. Ottley
Frits Lawaetz
Percival H. Reese

FOURTH LEGISLATURE 1961-62

Walter I.M. Hodge – President
Candido R. Guadalupe – Vice President
John L. Maduro – Secretary
Joseph Alexander
Aubrey A. Anduze
Joseph P. Gomez
Frits Lawaetz
Lucinda A. Millin
Theovald E. Moorhead
Earle B. Ottley
Percival H. Reese

FIFTH LEGISLATURE 1963-64

Earle B. Ottley – President
Patrick N. Williams – Vice President
David Puritz – Secretary
Ronald deLugo
Augustin Doward
Randall N. James
Frits Lawaetz
John L. Maduro
Lucinda A. Millin
Theovald E. Moorhead
Percival H. Reese

SIXTH LEGISLATURE 1965-66

Earle B. Ottley – President
Randall N. James – Vice President
David Puritz – Secretary
Bertha B. Boschulte
Ronald deLugo
Augustin Doward
Frits Lawaetz
John L. Maduro
Aureo Diaz Morales
Theovald E. Moorhead
Percival H. Reese

SEVENTH LEGISLATURE 1967-68

Earle B. Ottley – President
Randall N. James – Vice President
David Puritz – Secretary
Kenneth D. Alexander
Horace A. Callwood
Augustin Doward
Alexander A. Farrelly
Santiago Garcia
David M. Hamilton
Frank E. Jacobs
Frits Lawaetz
Theovald E. Moorhead
Aureo Diaz-Morales
John L. Maduro
Percival H. Reese

EIGHTH LEGISLATURE 1969-70

John L. Maduro – President
Randall N. James – Vice President
David Puritz – Secretary
Horace A. Callwood
Augustin Doward
Alexander A. Farrelly
Santiago Garcia
Arnold M. Golden
David M. Hamilton
Louis P. Hestres
Frits Lawaetz
Theovald E. Moorhead
Aureo Diaz-Morales
Earle B. Ottley
Percival H. Reese

NINTH LEGISLATURE
1971-72

John L. Maduro – President
Philip C. Clark – Vice President
Percival H. Reese – Secretary
Viridin E. Brown
Ariel Melchior Jr.
Earle B. Ottley
Alexander A. Moorhead Jr.
Hector A. Cintron
Lew Muckle (*died in office May 5, 1971*)
Felix Francis
Jaime Garciaz
Athneil C. Ottley
Claude A. Molloy
David Puritz
Elroy Sprauve
George G. O'Reilly (*succeeded L. Muckle*)

TENTH LEGISLATURE
1973-74

Claude A. Molloy – President
Athneil C. Ottley (*resigned April 5, 1973*) Vice
President
John L. Maduro – Vice President
Viridin C. Brown – Secretary
Britain M. Bryant
Hector L. Cintron
Eric E. Dawson
Juan F. Luis
Cyril E. King
Alexander A. Moorhead Jr.
Elmo D. Roebuck
Ruby M. Rouss
Noble B. Samuel
Albert Sheen
Raymond J. Smith (*succeeded A. Ottley*)
Lloyd L. Williams

ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
1975-76

Elmo D. Roebuck – President
Britain H. Bryant – Vice President
Eric E. Dawson – Secretary
Lloyd L. Williams – Majority Floor Leader
Alexander A. Moorhead Jr – Minority Floor Leader
John A. Bell
Hector L. Cintron
Otis L. Felix
Roger C. Hill
Frits E. Lawaetz
John L. Maduro
Claude A. Molloy
Earle B. Ottley
Jean A. Romney
Noble B. Samuel

TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
1977-78

Elmo D. Roebuck – President
Britain H. Bryant – Vice President
Eric E. Dawson – Secretary
Lloyd L. Williams – Majority Floor Leader
Leroy S. Arnold
John A. Bell
Hector L. Cintron
Otis L. Felix
G. Luz A. James
Roger C. Hill
Cleone Creque Hodge
Frits E. Lawaetz
Sidney Lee
John L. Maduro
Earle B. Ottley

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
1979-80

Elmo D. Roebuck – President
Sidney Lee – Vice President
Cleone Creque Hodge – Secretary
Leroy S. Arnold – Majority Leader
John A. Bell
Hector L. Cintron
Williams S. Harvey
John L. Maduro
Athneil C. Ottley
Earle B. Ottley
Michael A. Paiewonsky
Alli J. Paul
Eddy Rivera
Ruby M. Rouss
Lloyd L. Williams

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE
1981-82

Ruby M. Rouss – President
Gilbert A. Sprauve – Vice President
Ruby Simmonds – Secretary
John A. Bell – Majority Leader
Lloyd A. Williams – Minority Leader
Lilliana Belardo
Hugo Dennis Jr.
Milton A. Frett
William S. Harvey
Edgar M. Iles
Bent Lawaetz
Sidney Lee
Michael A. Paiewonsky
Elmo D. Roebuck
Iver A. Stridiron

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE
JAN. - JULY 21, 1983

Elmo D. Roebuck – President
Lilliana Belardo de O'Neal – Vice President
Ruby Simmonds – Secretary
Milton A. Frett – Majority Leader
Hugo Dennis Jr – Minority Leader
Lorraine L. Berry
Viridin C. Brown
Adelbert M. Bryan
William S. Harvey
Edgar M. Iles
Bent Lawaetz
Kenneth E. Mapp
Cleone Creque Maynard
Sidney Lee
Lloyd L. Williams

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE
JULY 21-1983-84

Hugo Dennis Jr – President
Bent Lawaetz – Vice President
Cleone Creque Maynard – Secretary
Lloyd L. Williams – Majority Leader
Lilliana Belardo de O'Neal
Lorraine L. Berry
Viridin C. Brown
Adelbert M. Bryan
Edgar M. Iles
Milton A. Frett
Sidney Lee
Kenneth E. Mapp
Elmo D. Roebuck
Ruby Simmonds
William S. Harvey

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE
1985-86

Derek M. Hodge – President
Eric E. Dawson – Vice President
Cleone Creque Maynard – Secretary
Clement Magras – Majority Leader
John A. Bell – Minority Leader
Viridin C. Brown
James A. O'Bryan Jr.
Ruby M. Rouss
Holland L. Redfield II
Allan Paul Shatkin
Lilliana Belardo de O'Neal
Adelbert M. Bryan
Iver A. Stridiron
Hector L. Cintron
Lorraine L. Berry

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE
JAN. - MAR 9, 1987

Ruby M. Rouss – President
Bingley G. Richardson – Vice President
Alicia Hansen – Secretary
Bent Lawaetz – Majority Leader
Iver A. Stridiron – Minority Leader
John A. Bell
Lorraine L. Berry
Viridin C. Brown
Douglas E. Canton
Clement Magras
Robert O'Connor Jr.
David A. Puritz
Holland L. Redfield II
Allan Paul Shatkin
Alicia Torres-James

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE
MAR. 9, 1987-88

Iver A. Stridiron – President
John A. Bell – Vice President
Viridin C. Brown – Secretary
Alicia Torres-James – Secretary for Territorial
and Intergovernmental Affairs
Clement C. Magras – Majority Leader
Holland L. Redfield – Minority Leader
Lorraine L. Berry
Douglas E. Canton
Edgar M. Iles
Alicia Hansen
Bent Lawaetz
Robert O'Connor Jr.
David A. Puritz
Allan Paul Shatkin
Bingley G. Richardson
Ruby M. Rouss

EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE
1989-90

Bent Lawaetz – President
Robert O'Connor Jr – Vice President
St. Claire N. Williams – Secretary
Alicia Hansen – Secretary for Intergovernmental
Relations and Territorial Affairs
Lorraine L. Berry – Majority Leader
Holland L. Redfield II – White House Liaison
Lillian Belardo de O'Neal
Viridin C. Brown
Edgar M. Iles
Kenneth E. Mapp (*served until May 16, 1989*)
David A. Puritz
Bingley G. Richardson Sr.
Elmo D. Roebuck
Allan Paul Shatkin
John F. Tutein (*succeeded K. Mapp*)
Celestino A. White Sr.

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
1991-92

Viridin C. Brown – President
Alicia Hansen – Vice President
Almando Liburd – Secretary
Alicia Hansen – Secretary for Intergovernmental
Relations and Territorial Affairs
Adelbert M. Bryan – Majority Leader
Lillian Belardo de O'Neal – White House Liaison
Lorraine L. Berry
Stephanie Scott-Williams
Holland Redfield II
Bent Lawaetz
St. Claire N. Williams
John F. Tutein
Celestino A. White Sr.
Arturo Watlington Jr.
Malcolm C. Callender
Elmo D. Roebuck

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE
1993-94

Bingley G. Richardson Sr – President
Mary Ann Pickard – Vice President
Judy M. Gomez – Secretary
George E. Goodwin – Secretary for Intergovernmental
Relations and Territorial Affairs
Arturo Watlington Jr – Majority Leader
Lorraine L. Berry – White House Liaison
Lillian Belardo de O'Neal
Gerard Luz A. James II
Alicia Hansen
Almando Liburd
Kenneth E. Mapp
Osbert Potter
Holland L. Redfield II
Edgar Ross
Celestino A. White Sr.

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
1995-96

Almando Liburd – President
Lillian Belardo de O'Neal – Vice President
Allie-Allison Petrus – Secretary
Celestino A. White Sr – Majority Leader
Osbert Potter – Secretary for Intergovernmental and
Territorial Affairs
Alicia Hansen – Liaison to the White House
Lorraine L. Berry
Adelbert M. Bryan
Adlah Donastorg Jr.
Judy M. Gomez
Gerard Luz A. James II
Winfield G. James
David S. Jones
Vargrave Richards
Arturo Watlington Jr.

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
1997-1998

Lorraine L. Berry – President
Vargrave Richards – Vice President
Roosevelt St. C. David – Secretary
Carol M. Burke – Majority Leader
Roosevelt St. C. David – Secretary for
Intergovernmental and Territorial Affairs
Judy M. Gomez – Liaison to the White House
Adlah Donastorg Jr – Liaison to the U.S. Congress
Holland L. Redfield II – Republican Charge d'
Affaires to Washington
Adelbert M. Bryan
Miguel A. Camacho
Alicia Hansen
David S. Jones
Stephen Frett
Almando Liburd
Allie-Allison Petrus
Celestino A. White Sr.

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
1999-2000

Vargrave Richards – President
Judy M. Gomez – Vice President
Roosevelt St. C. David – Secretary
Allie-Allison Petrus – Majority Leader
David S. Jones – Secretary for Intergovernmental
and Territorial Affairs
George E. Goodwin – Liaison to the White House
Adlah Donastorg Jr – Liaison to the U.S. Congress
Violet Ann Golden – Republican Charge d' Affaires
to Washington
Gregory A. Bennerson
Lorraine L. Berry
Adelbert M. Bryan
Donald Cole
Alicia Hansen
Norman Jn. Baptiste
Almando Liburd

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
2001-2002

Almando Liburd – President
Norman Jn. Baptiste – Vice President
Donald Cole – Secretary
Celestino A. White Sr. – Majority Leader
Norma Pickard Samuel – Secretary for
Intergovernmental and Territorial Affairs
Alicia Hansen – Liaison to the White House
Donald Cole – Liaison to the U.S. Congress
Lorraine L. Berry
Adelbert M. Bryan
Douglas E. Canton Jr.
Roosevelt St. C. David
Adlah Donastorg Jr.
Carlton Dowe
Emmett Hansen II
David S. Jones
Vargrave Richards

■
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
2003-2004

David S. Jones – President
Lorraine L. Berry – Vice President
Shawn-Michael Malone – Secretary
Douglas E. Canton Jr – Majority Leader
Louis P. Hill – Secretary for Intergovernmental and Territorial Affairs
Douglas E. Canton Jr – Liaison to the White House
Adlah Donastorg Jr – Liaison to the U.S. Congress
Ronald E. Russell – Democrat Charge d' Affaires to Washington
Roosevelt St. C. David
Carlton Dowe
Emmett Hansen II
Norman Jn. Baptiste
Almando Liburd
Luther Renee
Usie R. Richards
Celestino A. White Sr.

■
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
2005-2006

Lorraine Berry – President
Norman Jn. Baptiste – Vice President
Liston A. Davis – Secretary
Celestino A. White Sr – Majority Leader
Usie R. Richards – Secretary for
Intergovernmental and Territorial Affairs
Adlah Donastorg Jr – Liaison to the White House
Shawn-Michael Malone – Liaison to the U.S. Congress
Terrence Nelson – Liaison to the U.S. Department
of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs
Roosevelt St. C. David
Ronald E. Russell
Juan Figueroa-Serville
Louis Patrick Hill
Craig W. Barshinger
Pedro Encarnacion
Neville James

■
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
2006-2007

Lorraine Berry – President
Ronald E. Russell – Vice President
Juan Figueroa-Serville – Secretary
Roosevelt St. C. David – Majority Leader
Louis Patrick Hill – Secretary for
Intergovernmental and Territorial Affairs
Pedro Encarnacion – Liaison to the White House
Craig W. Barshinger – Liaison to the U.S. Congress
Neville James – Liaison to the U.S. Department
of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs
Liston A. Davis
Adlah Donastorg Jr.
Norman Jn. Baptiste
Shawn-Michael Malone
Terrence Nelson
Usie R. Richards
Celestino A. White Sr.

■
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
2007-2008

Usie R. Richards – President
Shawn-Michael Malone – Vice President
James A. Weber III – Secretary
Celestino A. White Sr – Majority Leader
Terrence Nelson – Secretary for
Intergovernmental and Territorial Affairs
Carlton Dowe – Liaison to the White House
Alvin L. Williams – Liaison to the U.S. Congress
Juan Figueroa-Serville
Louis Patrick Hill
Neville James
** Basil Ottley Jr. (**Resigned on September 26, 2008)
Ronald E. Russell
*** Patrick Simeon Sprauve (**Replaced Basil Ottley Jr. on September 29, 2008)

■
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
1/12/2009-4/16/2009

Adlah Donastorg Jr – President
Michael Thurland – Vice President
Sammuel Sanes – Secretary
Neville James – Majority Leader
Patrick Simeon Sprauve – Secretary for
Intergovernmental and Territorial Affairs
Louis Patrick Hill – Liaison to the United States Congress
Craig W. Barshinger – Liaison to the U.S. Department
of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs
Wayne A.G. James – Liaison to the White House
Carlton Dowe
Shawn-Michael Malone
Terrence Nelson,
Usie R. Richards
Nereida Rivera-O'Reilly
Celestino A. White Sr.
Alvin L. Williams

■
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE:
4/16/2009-1/10/2011

Louis Patrick Hill – President
Michael Thurland – Vice President
Sammuel Sanes – Secretary
Neville A. James – Majority Leader
Patrick Simeon Sprauve – Secretary for
Intergovernmental and Territorial Affairs
Louis Patrick Hill – Liaison to the United States Congress
Craig W. Barshinger – Liaison to the U.S. Department
of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs
Wayne A.G. James – Liaison to the White House
Adlah Donastorg Jr.
Carlton Dowe
Terrence Nelson
Shawn-Michael Malone
Usie R. Richards
Alvin L. Williams,
Nereida Rivera-O'Reilly
Celestino A. White Sr.

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE: 2011-2013

Ronald E. Russell – President
Louis Patrick Hill – Vice President
Sammuel Sanes – Secretary
Celestino A. White, Sr. – Majority Leader
Alvin L. Williams, Jr. – Secretary for
Intergovernmental and Territorial Affairs
Usie R. Richards – Liaison to the U.S. Congress
Shawn-Michael Malone – Liaison to the U.S. Department
of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs
Alicia Hansen – Liaison to the White House
Craig W. Barshinger
Carlton Dowe
Neville James
Terrence Nelson
Nereida Rivera-O'Reilly
Patrick Simeon Sprauve
Janette Millin Young

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE: 2013-2015

Shawn-Michael Malone – President
Sammuel Sanes – Vice President
Janette Millin Young – Secretary
Donald “Ducks” Cole – Majority Leader
Diane Capehart – Secretary for
Intergovernmental and Territorial Affairs
Clarence Payne III – Liaison to the U.S. Congress
Myron D. Jackson – Liaison to the U.S. Department
of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs
Kenneth L. Gittens – Liaison to the White House
Craig W. Barshinger
Judi Buckley
Clifford F. Graham
Alicia Hansen
Terrence Nelson
Nereida Rivera-O'Reilly
Tregenza A. Roach

THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE: 2015-2016

Neville James – President
Janette Millin- Young – Vice President
Myron D. Jackson – Secretary
Sammuel Sanes – Majority Leader
Janette Millin-Young – Secretary for
Intergovernmental and Territorial Affairs
Sammuel Sanes – Liaison to the U.S. Congress
Myron D. Jackson – Liaison to the U.S. Department
of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs
Kenneth L. Gittens – Liaison to the White House
Marvin A. Blyden
Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
Jean A. Forde
Clifford F. Graham
Justin Harrigan, Sr.
Almando “Rocky” Liburd
Terrence Nelson
Nereida Rivera-O'Reilly
Tregenza A. Roach
Kurt A. Vialet

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE: 2017-2019

President: Myron D. Jackson
Vice President: Nereida Rivera-O'Reilly
Secretary: Jean A. Forde
Majority Leader: Neville A. James
Secretary For Intergovernmental and Territorial Affairs: Jean A. Forde
Liaison To United States Congress: Marvin A. Blyden
Liaison To The United States Department of the Interior
Office of Insular Affairs: Brian A. Smith
Liaison To The White House: Sammuel Sanes

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE: 1/14/19 - 5/19/2019

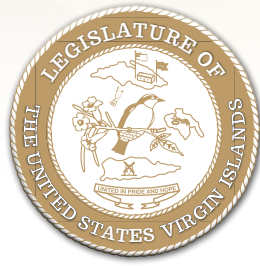
Kenneth L. Gittens – President
Donna A. Frett-Gregory – Vice President
Alicia V. Barnes – Secretary
Marvin A. Blyden – Majority Leader
Athneil J. Thomas – Secretary for Territorial and Intergovernmental Affairs
Allison L. DeGazon – Liaison to the U.S. Congress
Oakland Benta – Liaison to the U.S. Department of Interior,
Office of the Insular Affairs
Stedmann Hodge Jr. – Liaison to the White House
Dwayne M. DeGraff
Novelle E. Francis Jr.
Myron D. Jackson
Javan E. James
Steven D. Payne Sr.
Janelle K. Sarauw
Kurt A. Vialet

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE: 5/9/19 - 1/10/2021

Novelle E. Francis Jr. – President
Myron D. Jackson – Vice President
Alicia V. Barnes – Secretary, Liaison to the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of the
Insular Affairs
Marvin A. Blyden – Majority Leader
Myron D. Jackson – Secretary for Territorial and Intergovernmental Affairs
Allison L. DeGazon – Liaison to the U.S. Congress
Janelle K. Sarauw – Liaison to the White House
Dwayne M. DeGraff
Donna A. Frett-Gregory
Kenneth L. Gittens
Stedmann Hodge Jr.
Javan E. James
Steven D. Payne Sr.
Athneil J. Thomas
Kurt A. Vialet

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE: 2021 - 2022

Donna A. Frett-Gregory, President
Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Vice President
Genevieve R. Whitaker, Secretary
Marvin A. Blyden, Liaison to the United States Congress
Kenneth L. Gittens, Liaison to the White House
Angel L. Bolques, Jr. (succeeded S. Payne Sr.)
Samuel Carrión
Dwayne M. DeGraff
Alma Francis Heyliger
Javan E. James, Sr.
Franklin D. Johnson
Carla J. Joseph
Steven D. Payne, Sr. (served until July 21, 2022)
Milton E. Potter
Janelle K. Sarauw
Kurt A. Vialet



SENATORS OF THE 35TH LEGISLATURE OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

Novelle E. Francis, Jr., *President*

Marvin A. Blyden, *Vice President*

Carla J. Joseph, *Secretary and Liaison to the U.S. Dept. of Interior & Office of Insular Affairs*

Kenneth L. Gittens, *Majority Leader and Liaison to the White House*

Marise C. James, *Secretary for Intergovernmental and Territorial Affairs*

Donna A. Frett-Gregory, *Liaison to the United States Congress*

Angel L. Bolques, Jr.

Diane T. Capehart

Ray Fonseca

Javan E. James, Sr.

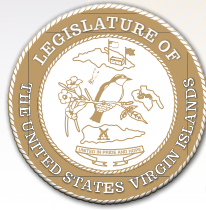
Samuel Carrion

Dwayne M. DeGraff

Alma Francis Heyliger

Franklin D. Johnson

Milton E. Potter



HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

Step 1

A bill may become a law, a resolution, or it may be designed to express the opinion of a Senator or Senators. It may be introduced either by an individual senator or by standing committees.

Step 2

The President then assigns each bill to the committee that is considered most appropriate for acting on it.

Step 3

While in committee, the bill may be dropped, held for further consideration, or sent to public hearings in order to gather information to better gauge the will of the public on the matter.

The Committee Chair sets and publicizes a date for the hearing and invites all interested persons to appear and express their views. The consensus expressed in a public hearing is not binding but can be highly influential in determining the action that is taken after. The bill may then be voted out of the committee with a quorum present and a majority voting.

The bill is then passed on to the Committee on Rules and the same procedures are followed. Once the Committee on Rules completes action on the bill, the President then assigns the bill to the floor agenda for consideration by the full body.

Each Senator receives a package containing all bills to be considered. Bills are acted on according to their order on the agenda. Senators have the privilege to defeat or approve the bill. A quorum of eight Senators present, with a majority voting affirmatively for a bill or an amendment to a bill, is required in order for it to be approved.

The bill is then sent to the office of Legal Council where it is reproduced in the final format. The President of the Senate and Legislative Secretary then signs the document. It is stamped officially and sent with a cover letter signed by the Secretary of the Legislature to the Governor. The cover letter indicates the intent of the bill (i.e.) to become a law, executive consideration is requested, or if it is intended as a resolution, the letter merely advises or informs the governor of the resolution.

Step 4

The Governor may take any one of several courses of action:

- (a) If approved the bill must be signed within ten days (excluding Sundays and holidays), thereby making it a law of the Virgin Islands.
- (b) If not approved it,
 - (1) may be vetoed, whereupon it may become a law only by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Legislature. (The process: It is returned to the Legislature, with written objections, within ten days, and they decide whether or not they wish to reconsider it.)
 - (2) If it contains monetary appropriations, the governor may object to one or more items and sign approval of the balance of the bill, in which case it becomes a law without those items.
 - (3) The bill may be held beyond the ten-day period, in which case it automatically becomes a law without the governor's signature, unless the legislature adjourns within that period. Thirty days are allowed for a decision.
 - (4) During the transition period from one Executive Administration to the next, it may be "pocket vetoed" if the new governor does not sign it within a thirty-day period.

CHECKS AND BALANCES

Another of the "checks and balances" designed to keep any one branch of the government from becoming more powerful than the others is the requirement that important gubernatorial appointments are to be made "with the advice and consent of the Legislature." These include the commissioners of the executive departments, the heads of the various executive boards, commissions, etc., and the judges of the territorial courts. Because it does not necessarily involve proposed or possible legislation, the power of a Senate committee to make investigations on matters it deems important to the welfare of the people is being listed here separately from its power to conduct hearings. Such investigations may take on some of the aspects of court proceedings.

(1) The investigation committee may summon and subpoena witnesses, require the presentation of any records or documents considered being of significance, and administering oaths.

(2) Any person who fails to comply with such summons or demands may, if a quorum is present, be held "in contempt of the Legislature."

The full Senate is notified and may:

- (a) Request the Court of jurisdiction to intervene;
- (b) Call for the outright arrest of the offending party by a police officer.

(3) However, any person so sworn and examined before the Legislature or a committee thereof may not be subject to any penalty for disclosures made, and his revelations may not be used as competent evidence in a subsequent criminal investigation or proceedings.

ON THE RECORD

(A) During a session of the Legislature, the Legislative Reporter records all discussions and actions on the spot. This verbatim report supplies the basic information for the succeeding publications.

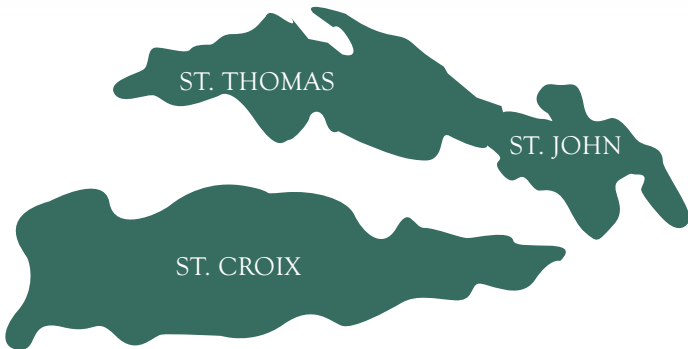
(B) Immediately following a legislative session, all official action taken during the session, together with all messages and written communications from the Governor, are organized into a Legislative Journal.

(C) Each new law is then printed separately in "slip" form (without a cover), and becomes available to the public from the legislative offices.

(D) At the end of each regular session, all legislation passed during that session is published in book form (in more than one volume if necessary), under the title of Session Laws of the Virgin Islands. Laws are in chronological order of their passing, with the first legislation under the Revised Organic Act of 1954 as the starting point for numbering them, hence, the number of the most recent law will indicate the total number added, changed or repealed since that time.

(E) The final and most important publication of the territorial statutes is their incorporation into the Virgin Islands Code, the comprehensive collection of the basic laws by which we are governed.

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS



The United States Virgin Islands consists of the three principal islands of St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix with about 50 adjacent islets and rocks. They lie about forty miles east and south of Puerto Rico and 1400 miles from New York.

The islands were long owned by Denmark, but as far back as the Civil War, the U. S. was aware of their value as a possible U. S. Naval depot, commanding as they do the most important sea approaches from the Atlantic to the Caribbean. Lincoln and William Seaward actually started negotiations for their purchase in 1863. Denmark was then in need of cash because of her defeat in the war with Prussia and Austria and was willing to sell the Virgins cheap. A plebiscite was held in the islands which showed the inhabitants to be overwhelmingly in favor of change. Everything was in order. That is almost everything. The U. S. Senate abruptly refused to ratify the proposal and negotiations were subsequently broken off.

It wasn't until 1914 that the matter was seriously considered again by the U. S. with the outbreak of World War I, Secretary of State Lansing pointed out: to President Wilson that if Germany won the war she was sure to insist on a foothold in the Caribbean. To secure St. Thomas Harbor, a base capable of holding the entire World War I U.S. Fleet, a treaty was concluded with the Danes for all their Caribbean holdings. Again a favorable plebiscite was held. This was duly ratified by the Senate and the Danish Rigsdag, and formal transfer took place March 31, 1917. The tab which Uncle Sam picked up was for \$25,000,000, five times the figure the sagacious Lincoln has arranged.



TERRITORIAL BIRD

The Yellow Breast (*Coreba flaveola*) was designated as the official bird of the Virgin Islands by the Virgin Islands Legislature in 1970. Also known as the "Sugar Bird" or "Banana Quit," the Yellow Breast is distinguished by its brilliant yellow plumage. The Yellow Breast is an indigenous bird to the Virgin Islands. Friendly and ubiquitous, it is well known for its liking for sugar.



TERRITORIAL FLOWER

The Yellow Elder or Yellow Cedar (*Tacoma stans*) was adopted as the official flower of the U. S. Virgin Islands in 1938. The Yellow Cedar blooms year round and is indigenous to the Territory.



TERRITORIAL FLAG

The Flag of the United States Virgin Islands was adopted by Executive Order on May 17, 1921. Upon a white field between the letters V. I., an American Eagle is displayed with a shield of the United States on its breast. A sprig of laurel is in its dexter talon. The letters V. I. and the three arrows are in azure blue and the blue of the shield is the blue of the arms and flag of the United States.

PRESIDENTS

OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

■

1st	WALTER I.M. HODGE	1955-56
2nd	AUBREY ANDUZE	1957-58
3rd	WALTER I.M. HODGE	1959-60
4th	WALTER I.M. HODGE	1961-62
5th	EARLE B. OTTLEY	1963-64
6th	EARLE B. OTTLEY	1965-66
7th	EARLE B. OTTLEY	1967-68
8th	JOHN L. MADURO	1969-70
9th	JOHN L. MADURO	1971-72
10th	CLAUDE A. MOLLOY	1973-74
11th	ELMO D. ROEBUCK	1975-76
12th	ELMO D. ROEBUCK	1977-78
13th	ELMO D. ROEBUCK	1979-80
14th	RUBY M. ROUSS	1981-82
15th	ELMO D. ROEBUCK	Jan-July, 1983
15th	HUGO DENNIS	July, 1983-84
16th	DEREK M. HODGE	1985-86
17th	RUBY M. ROUSS	Jan-Mar, 1987
17th	IVER A. STRIDIRON	Mar, 1987-88
18th	BENT LAWAEZT	1989-90
19th	VIRDIN C. BROWN	1991-92
20th	BINGLEY G. RICHARDSON	1993-94
21st	ALMANDO LIBURD	1995-96
22nd	LORRAINE L. BERRY	1997-98
23rd	VARGRAVE RICHARDS	1999-2000
24th	ALMANDO LIBURD	2001-02
25th	DAVID S. JONES	2003-04
26th	LORRAINE L. BERRY	2005-06
27th	USIE R. RICHARDS	2007-08
28th	ADLAH DONASTORG, JR	Jan-Apr, 2009
28th	LOUIS PATRICK HILL	Apr, 2009-10
29th	RONALD E. RUSSELL	2011-12
30th	SHAWN-MICHAEL MALONE	2013-14
31st	NEVILLE A. JAMES	2015-16
32nd	MYRON D. JACKSON	2017-18
33rd	KENNETH L. GITTENS	Jan-May, 2019
33rd	NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR.	May, 2019-2020
34th	DONNA A. FRETT-GREGORY	2021-22
35th	NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR.	2023-24



THANK YOU

Office of the President of the 35th Legislature
Novelle E. Francis, Jr.

Office of the President Elect of the 36th Legislature
Milton E. Potter

36th Oath of Office Committee

Kurell A. Sheridan, JD, *Executive Director*
Michael Benjamin, *Acting Director, Business and Financial Management*
Wycliffe Williams, *Director, Facilities Management*
Sherwin Peets, *Chief, Transportation*
The Honorable Milton E. Potter, *Senator (Incoming President)*
The Honorable Kenneth L. Gittens, *Senator (Incoming Vice President)*
Cosme Christian, *Office of Senator Milton E. Potter*
Cherri Carty, *Office of Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.*
Jervon Ottley, *Protocol Officer*
Myrna De-Altier Pickard, *Protocol Officer*
Kaysten Hendricks-Messer, *Operations Manager*

Executive Office

Mrs. Kurell A. Sheridan, *Executive Director*
Mr. James McNamara, *Assistant Executive Director*
Ms. Jervon Ottley, *Protocol Officer*
Ms. Myrna De-Altier Pickard, *Protocol Officer*
Mrs. Kaysten Hendricks-Messer, *Operations*
Mrs. Amrika Williams Leonard, *Executive Assistant*
Ms. Nylah Blyden, *Administrative Coordinator*
Mrs. Constanica Ebanks-Hodge, *Administrative Coordinator*
Mr. Isaac Winston, *Intern*

Hostesses/Ushers

Estelle Andrew
Cindy-Lou Barthlett
Nylah Blyden
Charles Brown
Christina Colbourne
Myrna De-Altier-Pickard
Shenika Dowe Serrano
Constancia Ebanks-Hodge
Nikia Fleming
Kaysten Hendricks-Messer
Janice Hodge
Amrika Williams Leonard
Jervon Ottley

Migdalia Porfil
Shelaine Rawlins
Germaine Rodgers
Sterilina M. Warner
Isaac Winston
Nataya Melchior-Munoz

Special Acknowledgements

Division of Public Affairs
Division of Facilities
Division of Transportation
Journal Division
Capitol Police Division
Division of Business and Financial Management
Virgin Islands National Guard 73rd Army Band
Brass Music Performance Team
Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation
Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Services
Virgin Islands Police Department
Department of Human Services
University of the Virgin Islands Music Program
Partners for Strings Virgin Islands Youth Orchestra
Ivanna Eudora Kean High School
Charlotte Amalie High School
St. Croix Central High School
SDA
WTJX- PBS Channel 12
Ms. Shayla Solomon
Ms. Lydia Potter

Flowers, Decorations & Booklet

Felipe Ayala
N'Chanted Designs
Antoinette Johnson
Vera Powell
Infiniti Luxury Flowers
Department of Property & Procurement

All Officiating Clergy

And to All Whose Names Are Not
Mentioned

