

“United in Pride and Hope”



35TH LEGISLATURE
OF THE
UNITED STATES
VIRGIN ISLANDS

Oath of Office

C E R E M O N Y

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023
EMANCIPATION GARDEN, ST. THOMAS
10:00 A.M.

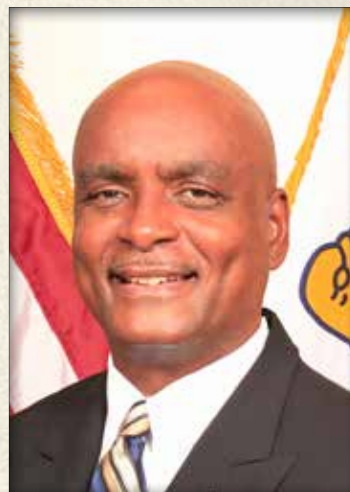


SENATORS

OF THE
35TH LEGISLATURE
OF THE
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS



Samuel Carrión



Dwayne M. DeGraff



Ray Fonseca



Kenneth L. Gittens



Javan E. James, Sr.



Marise C. James



Marvin A. Blyden



Angel Bolques Jr.



Diane T. Capehart



Alma Francis Heyliger



Novelle E. Francis, Jr.



Donna A. Frett-Gregory



Franklin D. Johnson



Carla J. Joseph



Milton E. Potter



35TH LEGISLATURE OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023

3:00 P.M.

PRE-OATH OF OFFICE ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, St. John

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY

MEET AND GREET

Legislature Annex, St. John



MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023

8:00 A.M.

PRE-OATH OF OFFICE ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Nisky Moravian Church, St. Thomas

10:00 A.M.

OATH OF OFFICE CEREMONY

Emancipation Garden, St. Thomas

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY

ORGANIZATION OF THE 35TH LEGISLATURE

Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall, St. Thomas



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023

10:00 A.M.

POST-OATH OF OFFICE ECUMENICAL SERVICE

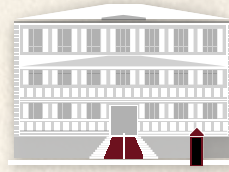
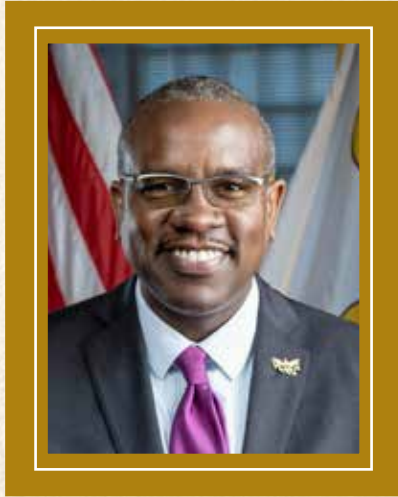
City of Refuge Worship Center, St. Croix

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY

MEET AND GREET

Anne E. Abramson Pier, Frederiksted, St. Croix





THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Albert A. Bryan Jr.

9th Elected Governor of the United States Virgin Islands

January 9, 2023

Message from The Governor

*I*t is truly an honor to congratulate the members of the Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands of the United States on taking their oaths of office.

As duly elected officials, we are servants of the people and are charged with the responsibility of ensuring the public good. I trust as a deliberative body with which all the legislative powers of the territory are vested, you each will work together to improve the quality of life for all Virgin Islanders while also considering the nuances of need within each island district.

As this Legislature and the Bryan-Roach Administration begin our work, we have an opportunity, as we serve two co-equal branches of our government, to work together in building stronger families, more robust infrastructure, and a stronger U.S. Virgin Islands. While the challenges that lie ahead are significant, I am confident in this body's ability and that of our administration to make a positive impact while confronting these challenges.

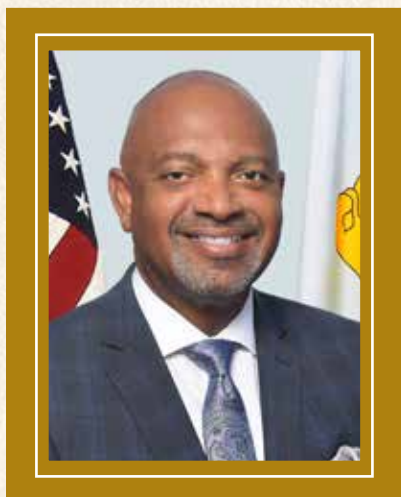
I look forward to working with each of you toward improving the delivery of services to the people of our community and to effectuating meaningful reforms aimed at improving the quality of life for all Virgin Islanders.

I wish you all well in your endeavors these next two years. Together we will make our beloved Virgin Islands a place that every Virgin Islander is proud to call home.

May God bless you, your families, and the people of the Virgin Islands of the United States.

Sincerely,

Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor



Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.

*12th Elected Lieutenant Governor
of the United States Virgin Islands*

January 9, 2023

Message from The Lieutenant Governor

I am honored to offer congratulatory greetings on the occasion of the Swearing-In and Organization of the Thirty Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands. Today represents a memorable and meaningful part of our democratic process, one that we hold in the highest regard for all that it signifies and for the legacy that it embodies.

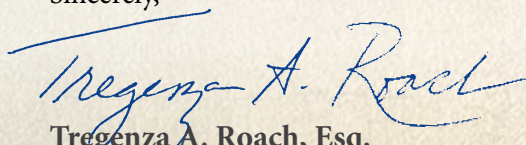
I extend best wishes to all members of the Legislative Branch of Government. As you take the oath of office, you join the ranks of public servants chosen by the people of the Virgin Islands to serve. Collectively you make up a distinguished body of leaders charged with responsibilities that will require collaboration and steadfast commitment.

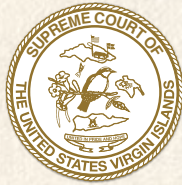
There is much that lies ahead of you as you pledge to take on this role. As Senators you will be faced with ongoing challenges, but you must never lose hope or the tenacity required of this office. As elected officials it is incumbent on us all to always push the Territory forward. In doing so we must also put aside those things that divide, rather than unite us, as we continue to work for the people of the Virgin Islands.

I look forward to ongoing efforts that will enable the executive and legislative branches of government to work together and to create sustainable change and improvements for the place that we call home.

May you celebrate this distinct honor and enjoy this auspicious occasion. Continue to be blessed in all aspects of your daily lives.

Sincerely,


Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.
Lieutenant Governor



Rhys S. Hodge
Chief Justice



January 9, 2023

Message From The Chief Justice

Dear Senate President Francis and Members of the 35th Legislature:

On behalf of the judicial officers and employees of the Judicial Branch of the Virgin Islands, I congratulate you on your election to the 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands. The Legislature is known as the First Branch of the Government not simply because it is the first branch identified in the Revised Organic Act, or the first branch to achieve full local autonomy after the transfer of the Virgin Islands to the United States. Rather, the Legislature serves as the heart of our democracy, with lawmakers elected directly by the people enacting the laws that are then implemented by the Executive Branch and interpreted by the Judicial Branch. In other words, the Legislature, through its deliberations, serves as the voice for our entire community.

Over the next two years, the 35th Legislature, like the other two branches of the Virgin Islands Government, will be called upon to make decisions that impact the citizens of our Territory, not all of which will be easy. Our community has placed its trust in each of you to discharge an awesome responsibility, and to work collectively with the other leaders of our Government as we turn the page to a new chapter in the history of the Virgin Islands and its people.

Thank you for your willingness to serve. The Judiciary looks forward to working with the 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands to continue to improve access to justice for our citizens and the overall administration of justice in the Territory. Once again, congratulations.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Rhys S. Hodge.

Rhys S. Hodge
Chief Justice




Stacey E. Plaskett

Virgin Islands Delegate to Congress



*A Message From Congresswoman
Stacey E. Plaskett*

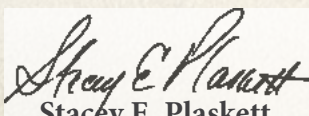
n behalf of the Members of the 118th Congress, my family, and my staff, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations and well wishes to each of you, the Senators of the 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands.

I commend you for your willingness and commitment to serve our home, the Virgin Islands of the United States. The tremendous opportunity for us to forge a path to economic and social equality for our islands can be achieved through collaboration, ingenuity, and determination. It requires our shared commitment and I pledge to work with each of you toward that goal. It is our duty to advocate for Virgin Islanders with unwavering courage and perseverance while also honoring those who have gone before us and made the necessary sacrifices for us to be able to hold the offices we do today. I and my staff look forward to working with you, prioritizing the needs of our people.

I also extend hearty congratulations and a sincere thank you to the family and friends of each member of the new legislature. The support of our loved ones to accomplish the great work that lies ahead of us cannot be underestimated.

May God's richest blessings rest on each of you for an effective and successful term.

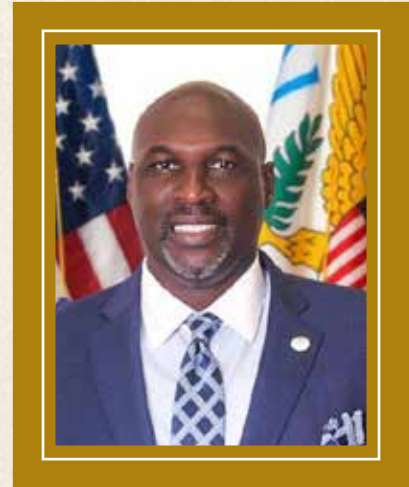
Sincerely,


Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



Novelle E. Francis, Jr.

President, 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands



January 9, 2023

Message from the Incoming President

*M*y fellow Virgin Islanders and colleagues, I count it a distinct pleasure to serve not only as a five-term senator, but as the President of the 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands. My pride in this institution, our employees, and all that we will accomplish working together as colleagues will know no bounds.

As the 35th Legislature embarks on the task of re-establishing the territory as a jurisdiction grounded on vision, stability, and hope, the members of this esteemed institution are blessed with a generational opportunity that will chart a direction for our community for years to come.

The membership of this institution is graced with a solid balance of veteran senators who have served in the first branch of government and have withstood the ravages of Hurricanes Irma and Maria and Covid-19, sophomore members who have had the experience of serving in the 34th Legislature when controversial measures were the rule rather than the exception and freshmen senators ready and willing to make the tough decisions that true leadership requires. The voters spoke with a clear and concise voice during the 2022 election cycle and this body as a whole is mandated on representing said message with definitive objectives, in kind.

As your Senate President, I am confident that all fifteen members understand business as usual from the first branch of government will get us nowhere. Having served on both sides of the aisle, I have a thorough understanding of how meaningful debate from multiple perspectives allows for comprehensive and well-intended legislation. It is my intention and hope that as President, the legislative process during 2023 and 2024 will meet the expectation levels that have been set for us as a deliberative body.

As we journey forward into the 35th Legislature, we must keep the momentum going and continue to put the people of the Virgin Islands first. We must keep a keen and sharp eye on the Covid-19 pandemic as we are not "out of the woods" as yet as well on the ongoing hurricane recovery projects. As Senate President, I will ensure that we move legislation forward that will have a meaningful impact on our community. It is critical that we "Focus Forward" on our efforts to address the VI Water and Power Authority, education reform, economic development, healthcare and crime.

I look forward to our collaboration in the 35th Legislature in service to the people of these beautiful Virgin Islands. God bless the Virgin Islands.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Novelle E. Francis, Jr.".

Novelle E. Francis, Jr.

Senate President, 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands



Donna Frett-Gregory

President, 34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands



January 9, 2023



Message from the Outgoing President

I am humbled by the continued vote of confidence from the electorate of the St. Thomas/St. John District and pledge to continue to work diligently on their behalf.

I join the Virgin Islands community in offering congratulations to those of us elected to serve in the 35th Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Our election to office is an honor that should be treated as a privilege; valued and respected. As we embark on the peaceful transition from one legislature to the next, I am mindful that this is not often the situation in many parts of the world and is the hallmark of our democracy. We are a young government, seeped in the hope and notion that our democracy allows for every tomorrow to be better than today.

It has and remains a distinct honor for me to serve as your Senate President in the Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands. As I reflect on the 34th Legislature, I am reminded that the work done within the walls of the Capitol Building is sacred, meaningful and most times unheralded. However, it should not be lost on us that the work we do has immediate and lasting effects and must be undertaken with fidelity to the oath we take.

Over the past few years, we have experienced many uncertainties, from the hurricanes of 2017 to the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these challenges I have remained laser focused on ensuring the success of the 34th Legislature by collaboratively addressing key issues important to the livelihood of Virgin Islanders. Consequently, the 34th Legislature successfully enacted landmark legislation to include ***GERS (Government Employees' Retirement System) stabilization, FIRE/EMS merger, restoration of the 8% and \$40M retroactive payments to government employees, Comprehensive Behavioral Health, enactment of the 6th Constitutional Convention and most recently Legalization of Adult Use Cannabis.*** While there has been much success these past two years, in our ever-changing society there remains more work to do; and we will be successful only with collaborative and deliberate actions.

As we take our Oath of Office and convene the 35th Legislature on January 9, 2023; let us all commit to maintain the confidence and trust of our people and work on being deliberate about the matters that are most important by keeping them at the top of our agendas.

It has been one of my greatest privilege and honor to serve as the third female president of the Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands. It is said alone we can do little but together we can do much; with much gratitude to my staff that made it possible. It is my fervent hope that my legacy will serve as a pathway for other women in our community. May God Bless the People of the Virgin Islands.

With Sincerity,

Donna Frett-Gregory, Senate President
34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

**35TH LEGISLATURE PRE-OATH OF OFFICE
ST. JOHN ECUMENICAL SERVICE**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, St. John

WELCOME Loren Abramson Williams

PROCESSIONAL
Lift Me Up Members of the 35th Legislature
Members of the Clergy, Musical Selection by Seala Matthias

WELCOMING OF THE 35TH LEGISLATURE Father Anthony Abraham
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

OPENING PRAYER Reverend Jeanty Maurose
St. John Methodist Church

REMARKS Honorable Donna Frett-Gregory
President, 34th Legislature

1ST SCRIPTURE READING
Jeremiah 1:4-9 Senator-Elect Ray Fonseca

POEM Liandra Dagou

2ND SCRIPTURE READING
1Corinthians 12:31 Senator-Elect Diane Capehart

GOSPEL READING
John 10:11-1 Reverend Dennis Estridge
St. John Pentecostal Church

MESSAGE Pastor Vankys Isaac
Nisky Moravian Church

MUSICAL SELECTION
Lift Every Voice and Sing Congregation

UNITY PRAYERS Pastor Elva Richards Goodwin
Emmaus and Bethany Moravian Church Prayer for all local and national leaders
Pastor David Obando
Iglesia de Dios, EDLM
Prayer For Our Children And Community

MUSICAL SELECTION ON PAN Ronald Lee

BENEDICTION Pastor Reginald Joseph
Cruz Bay Baptist Church

RECESSIONAL
We Are The Chosen Generation Congregation

MEET & GREET
Legislature Annex, St. John

INTRODUCTION OF SENATORS Loren Abramson Williams

WELCOME Honorable Donna Frett-Gregory
Outgoing President, 34th Legislature

REMARKS Members of the 35th Legislature

MEET & GREET WITH THE PUBLIC Music by From Broheem with Love

**35TH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
ECUMENICAL SERVICE**

Nisky Moravian Church, St. Thomas

PROCESSIONAL SONG

This Is The Day That The Lord Has Made Members of the 35th Legislature
Congregational Song

WELCOME

..... Pastor Vankys Isaac

CALL TO WORSHIP

..... Psalms 118:24, 28-29

HYMN OF PRAISE

God Of Our Fathers Congregation

INVOCATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

..... Apostle Samuel Weeks

1ST SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:31-35 Honorable Carla J. Joseph

2ND SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 1:4-9 Honorable Javan E. James, Sr.

SERMON

..... The Reverend Dr. Errol Connor

HYMN

Here I Am, Lord Congregation

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

ECUMENICAL BLESSING OF THE 35TH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

BENEDICTION

..... The Reverend Dr. Cortroy Jarvis

RECESSIONAL

We Are The Chosen Generation Congregation

OFFICIATING CLERGY:

The Reverend Dr. Errol Connor, Pastor Vankys Isaac,
Apostle Samuel Weeks, and The Reverend Dr. Cortroy Jarvis

35TH LEGISLATURE OATH OF OFFICE CEREMONY PROGRAM

David Monsanto Bandstand, Emancipation Garden, St. Thomas

PRELUDE

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

CONCH SHELL CALL

..... Jason Meade

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

..... Bishop Carswell A. Leonard
Oasis Church of God of Prophecy

NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

VIRGIN ISLANDS MARCH

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

BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM

..... Malvern Gumbs & Lorna Freeman

WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

..... Shayla Solomon

READING OF CERTIFICATION AND PRESENTATION OF SENATORS

..... Caroline Fawkes

MUSICAL SELECTION

..... Liz H. Combie

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE

..... Honorable Rhys S. Hodge
Chief Justice, Supreme Court

MUSICAL SELECTION

Valiant Virgin Isles. Gylchris Sprauve

RETIRING OF COLORS

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

BENEDICTION

..... Bishop Carswell A. Leonard
Oasis Church of God of Prophecy

RECESSIONAL MARCH

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

ORGANIZATION OF THE 35TH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Earle B. Ottley Legislative Chamber, Capitol Building

TEMPORARY PRESIDING OFFICER

..... Honorable Donna Frett-Gregory

POSTING OF COLORS

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

INVOCATION

..... Reverend Charles L. Brown Jr.
Pastor, Family of Faith AME Church

NATIONAL ANTHEM › VIRGIN ISLANDS ANTHEM › ROLL CALL › ORGANIZATION OF THE 35TH LEGISLATURE

POST OATH OF OFFICE
ECUMENICAL CHURCH SERVICE
City of Refuge Worship Center, St. Croix

PROCESSIONAL

Miracle Working God Members of the 35th Legislature
Congregational Song

INVOCATION

. Apostle Mona L. Barnes
City of Refuge Worship Center

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 24:1-5 Honorable Donna Frett-Gregory

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

. Ten Thousand Reasons

WELCOME

. Apostle Mona L. Barnes
City of Refuge Worship Center

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

. *Will Your Anchor Hold*

PRAYER

. Pastor Gisela Bermudez
Casa Profética De Adoración-Prophetic House Of Worship

FELLOWSHIP INTERLUDE

REFLECTIONS

. Honorable Novelle E. Francis, Jr.

1ST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 91 Honorable Senator Samuel Carrión

2ND SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 8:1-10. Honorable Kenneth L. Gittens

MUSICAL SELECTION

God Is Good Calvin Claxton

SERMON

. Apostle Mona L. Barnes
City of Refuge Worship Center

BLESSING OF THE 35TH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

. Pastor Reginald Perry
Victorious Believers Ministry

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

. Honorable Marise James

BENEDICTION

. Pastor Seaton Wilson
First Assembly of God

RECESSIONAL

We Are The Chosen Generation Congregation

35TH LEGISLATURE
OF THE
UNITED STATES
VIRGIN ISLANDS

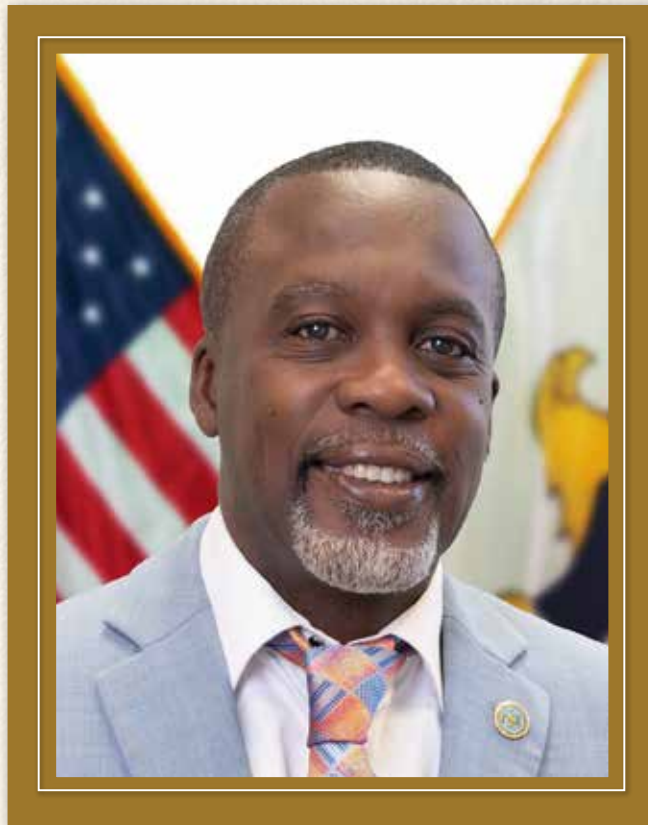
S E N A T O R S

Biographies



S E N A T O R

Marvin A. Blyden



The 11th of 13 children born to Mayrose and James Blyden, Sr., Senator Marvin A. Blyden grew up in the Nadir community and is a proud product of the Virgin Islands public school system. Blyden also is a graduate of the Dickinson Business School in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In 2017 Senator Blyden attended the Robert J. Thompson Leadership Academy in Connecticut where he received a Certificate of Completion. He is also a graduate of the Eastern Leadership Academy of the Council of State Governments, in which he also serves 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 32 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 served in diverse capacities including little league football coach, Zero Tolerance basketball coach, Contractor, Consultant, and Motivator. He is known to put others before himself, and he believes that we have a sacred responsibility to positively impact people, their families, and the community.

Since in office, Senator Blyden has annually raised funds for college-bound graduating high school students through his annual "V.I. Women United to Empower Scholarship Prayer Breakfast" fundraising program. To date, the Marvin A. Blyden Scholarship has received and distributed over \$60,000 in grants to graduate students.

Annually, Senator Blyden holds a Senior's Brunch, a Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway and a Toys for Tots Christmas giveaway for the St. Thomas 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.

Now serving his fifth term, Senator Blyden is the Chairman of the Housing, Transportation, Infrastructure, and Telecommunications in the 35th 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 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 protect Virgin Islands veterans, and to provide protections and benefits for Virgin Islands workers and residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. He has also successfully advocated for the extension of potable water lines in residential neighborhoods on St. Thomas and St. John. He believes there is a solution to every situation—thus his political slogan "Your Choice for Solutions."

As he enters a new term, Senator Blyden's legislative priorities include a workforce housing development bill, a measure to provide free post-secondary technical education, a major revision of the Virgin Islands Housing Code, and a reorganization of the Virgin Islands Government and its agencies.



S E N A T O R

Angel L. Bolques Jr.



Angel L. Bolques Jr. Senator-at-Large, was born on the island of St. Croix in the United States Virgin Islands to parents Angel L. Bolques Sr. of St. Croix and Patricia Powell-Mitchell of St. John. He is the proud father of four children and is married to Mrs. Melisa Bolques. As a young child Angel or Junjun as he was affectionately called, grew up in the Peters Rest neighborhood of St. Croix where he enjoyed playing with his siblings and neighborhood friends from dusk till dawn, or as the elders would say, “When streetlight come on, geh in deh house.”

His educational journey began in kindergarten at the Lew Muckle Elementary School on St. Croix until the age of seven, he continued his educational trajectory on the island of St. John where he lived with his mother and siblings while attending the Guy Benjamin Elementary School in Coral Bay and then the Julius E. Sprauve School in Cruz Bay. He would later attend and graduate from the Ivanna Eudora Kean High School on St. Thomas. Mr. Bolques Jr. has studied Business Administration (A.I.U.), and Graphic Arts (Design & Applied Arts), and holds several certifications including The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (C.A.S.E.) Fundamentals of Economics Course through an employee enhancement program at Giff Hill School where he taught Computer Technology and Spanish.

Senator Bolques Jr. has served in various capacities throughout his professional career including but not limited to; Legislative Researcher, Member of the U.S.V.I. Board of Education, National Committeeman of the Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Elections and was named “2016 Government Employee of the Year”, Revenue Manager, Purchasing/Inventory Control Assistant Manager, Administrator and Computer Technology Teacher at the Gift Hill School on St. John, as a Graphic Arts Designer, and current Board member of several 501c3 organizations such as Community Action NOW, RAS Events Inc., and several Democratic Clubs throughout the Virgin Islands.

As Senator-at-Large, Angel’s focus moving forward is on Economic Development, Small Business Expansion, Food Autonomy-Security for the territory, Technological Advancements, and more Affordable Housing Opportunities for Low-Income and Middle-Income Virgin Islanders. Senator-At-Large Angel L. Bolques, Jr. currently serves as Chair of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security, Justice, and Public Safety, and he is also a member of the Senate Committees on Rules & Judiciary, Youth, Sports, Parks and Recreation and Housing, Transportation and Telecommunications.



S E N A T O R

Diane T. Capehart



A former Senator in the 30th Legislature of the Virgin Islands and proactive change leader with more than 30 years of expertise in driving projects, operations, government programs, and policy, Senator Diane T. Capehart serves the 35th Legislature as a proud, experienced Legislator. In the 30th, Senator Capehart was the sole Sponsor of 58 bills; eight were enacted. She was also the Co-sponsor of 35 enacted legislation as she worked assiduously to ensure the local government remained responsive to the needs of the residents of St. Croix.

Senator Capehart's enthusiasm to serve the People of St. Croix began after returning home from college during the recovery efforts of Hurricane Hugo in 1988. She was compelled to offer her services and dedicated her time as a volunteer in various capacities. Senator Capehart has committed her life's work to public service with more than 10 years in the Medicaid industry as she worked her way up the chain from Quality Control Reviewer to Supervisor, then finally, the Administrator of Medicaid Programs. She also served 13 years in environmental policy and programming in capacities that ranged from Small Business Assistant, Program Administrator, and finally, the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources. Senator Capehart continued to serve in strategic functions that promoted team building, accountability, compliance, and governmental relationships by facilitating the advancement of partnerships with other government officials and external organizations in both the private and public sectors. As the former Administrator of Support Services for the Virgin Islands Police Department and Associate Director of Advocacy and Community Outreach for AARP, Capehart conveyed a purposeful mission to the Virgin Islands Community—to maintain the goal of servant leadership, effect change for better processes that serves the public, healthy working conditions and environment for employees, and accountability and integrity to our residents and associates, alike.

Senator Diane T. Capehart was born on the islands of St. Croix, Virgin Islands to the proud parents of Charles and Shermaine "Sunny" Capehart. She is an active member of the Classes of the '80s, New Horizon Women's Democratic Club, a former member of the Virgin Islands Resource Conservation Development Inc., and a graduate of the 2009 Congressional Boot Camp. The Senator is also the second of three siblings, but most importantly, she is the proud mother of three daughters and three grandchildren.

Her motto is *Live Clean and Let Your Works Be Seen!*



S E N A T O R

Samuel “Sam” Carrión



In 2020 Senator Samuel “Sam” Carrión made the commitment to run for the 34th Legislature to fight for a better Virgin Islands. Born and raised on the island of St. Croix, Senator Carrión sought to make a positive impact in his community. After being elected to serve in the 34th Legislature, Senator Carrión has been noted as one of the most successful Freshman Senators in the Virgin Islands Legislature.

During Senator Carrión’s term in the Senate, he passed numerous pieces of legislation to propel the Virgin Islands in the areas of economic development, agriculture, gun safety, and education. Act #8609 creates a new Division of Territorial Parks and Protected Areas making DPNR eligible for millions in conservation grants to maintain public lands and to create new parks for our people. Act #8555 improves our bilingual education programs and did so, which sets the foundation for hiring and training qualified instructors and better supporting English learners. Act #8528 streamlines the payment of taxes on short-term rentals. Act #8504 preserves the Territory’s unique crops and plant species against climate change and natural disasters through a forward-thinking seed bank program.

In addition to his degree in Business and Theology, working in both the Executive and Judicial branches of government, non-profit, and private sector granted Senator Carrión the opportunity to understand the concerns of all Virgin Islanders. As a father to his four children and caregiver of his father, Senator Carrión is aware of the importance of rectifying the infrastructure to benefit the livelihood of the youths and elders of the Territory.

Senator Carrión served as the chair of the Committee on Youth, Sports, Parks, and Recreation, Vice-Chair of the Subcommittee on Energy and Infrastructure, member of the Committee on Disaster Recovery and Infrastructure, the Committee on Health, Hospitals, and Human Services, the Committee on Housing, Transportation, and Telecommunications, and the Committee on Finance in the 34th Legislature.

Senator Carrión capitalized on his momentum as the Chair of Youth, Sports, Parks and Recreation and revitalized the Legislative Youth Advisory Council to give Virgin Islands students an opportunity to bring forth issues facing the youths while passing legislation to address the matters that were brought forward. As a result, students gain insight into how the Legislative branch is run and are now a part of the change that they would like to see in the Territory.

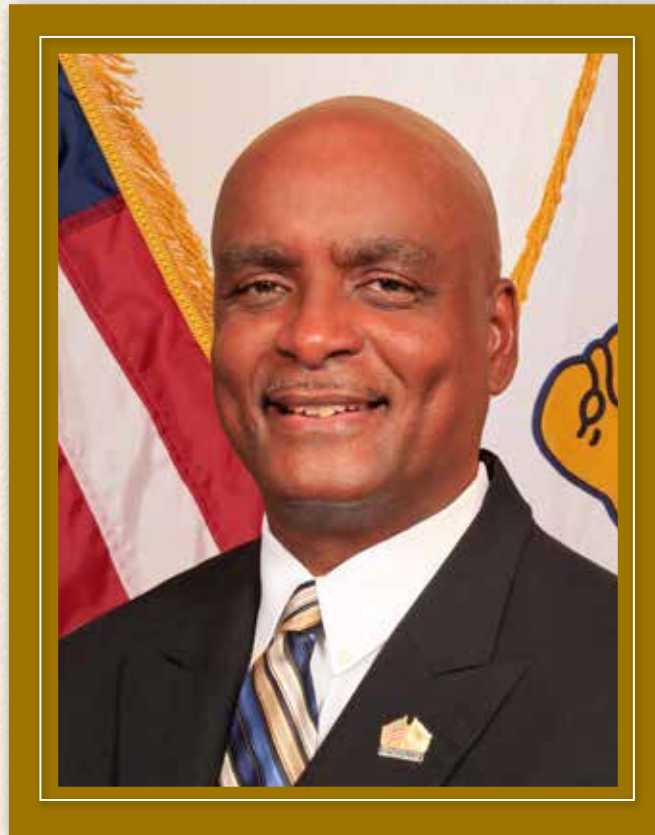
Staying true to his roots of community involvement and service, Senator Carrion has served as a member of various community organizations such as the American Red Cross, VI Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Council, VIPR, Dominican Action Committee, Crucian Educational Non- Profit Group, VI Clergy Peace Coalition, and Helping Hands of Prophetic House of Worship Ministries.

In the 35th Legislature, Senator Carrión will continue to honor the pledge he made to the people of the Virgin Islands. He remains steadfast and hopeful of bringing positive, measurable change to his community.



S E N A T O R

Dwayne M. DeGraff



*D*wayne 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 and 34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands. On November 8, 2022, DeGraff was re-elected in the General Election to continue serving as senator of the St. Thomas-St. John District in the 35th 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 United States Virgin Islander born March 10, 1959, in Savan, and raised in Bovoni, St. Thomas. He is the son of Linelle Todman-Williams-Fonseca and David Fonseca. He is also the great-nephew of Glanville Fonseca, who from 1949 was one of the longest-serving legislators in the BVI, winning six general elections and retiring undefeated.

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. Ray Fonseca is a proud product of the U.S. Virgin Islands public school system. He graduated from the Ivanna Eudora Kean High School in 1976. He was a recipient of the Alton A. Adams Scholarship.

He completed his undergraduate studies at Florida State University in 1980 and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Hotel Management and Accounting. While attending the university, Fonseca became a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated. He later obtained his Master's Degree in Business Administration at the University of the Virgin Islands in 1987.

Ray Fonseca came from very humble beginnings. He sold newspapers as a young man. In his early twenties, he worked as a restaurant server in the Hotel and Restaurant industry. Fonseca began his career in Government in 1985 at the Virgin Islands Housing Authority. He began as Assistant Accounting Supervisor and was promoted up the ladder to eventually become the Chief Executive Officer of the Virgin Islands Housing Authority. He served at the USVI Housing Authority for approximately nineteen years.

Fonseca was later employed at the Virgin Islands Department of Health as Chief of Staff to the Commissioner of Health. During his term at the Department of Health, he also served as Director of Mental Health, Alcoholism, and Substance Abuse.

Upon retirement from the Virgin Islands Government System, Fonseca obtained employment as Project Manager and Contractor for several major construction projects in the USVI to include all Kmart's, The University of the Virgin Islands Marine Center, and Star Fish Development in St. John.

Ray Fonseca is a man of faith who has a deep-rooted passion for serving others. He has dedicated the majority of his adult life as a public servant. He has a strong love for family and is the proud father of four (4) sons.

Senator Ray Fonseca in the 35th Legislature is positioned to serve as Chairman of the Committee on Health, Hospitals & Human Services and as a member of the Finance Committee, as well as the Committee on Government Operations and the Committee on Housing.



S E N A T O R

Alma Francis Heyliger



*B*orn on the beautiful island of St. Thomas, in the Virgin Islands of the United States on October 12, 1973, Senator Alma Francis Heyliger developed a healthy sense of self-expression and confidence as a result of her upbringing and immediate environment.

Graduating from Charlotte Amalie High

School in 1991 at the age of 17, as a proud Chicken Hawk, Senator Francis Heyliger embarked on her journey to the University of the Virgin Islands in the fall of that same year. Sadly, tragedy would bring Senator Francis Heyliger's life to a screeching halt as her mother, Leeann Rabsatt Francis of Tortola was involved in a terrible accident. Coupled with the onset of Cancer, Leeann passed away on January 3, 1993. The following year, Senator Francis Heyliger's

life would once again be rocked with tragedy as her father, well-known barber and musician, Denzil” Frank” Francis Defreitas of St. Kitts also died of Cancer.

Grieving the loss of both parents within a year of each other, Senator Francis Heyliger made a conscious decision to change the cards that life had dealt her! Remembering her upbringing and that her parents had carefully selected her birth name because of its meaning, “brave and diligent young lady”, as well as naming her after a tropical storm, Senator Francis Heyliger has dedicated the rest of her life to accomplishing every goal she set for herself.

Senator Francis Heyliger firmly stands by her own motto, “We spend so much time rationalizing mediocrity...we have forgotten what Greatness looks like!” Senator Francis Heyliger truly believes in the greatness of the people of the Virgin Islands and for over two decades, Senator Francis Heyliger has laid the foundation for this greatness by being a fearless community activist and involving herself with various non-profit organizations and boards. She has given her ‘best’ as an employee of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands for the past 24 years, in the MIS Division, as well as lending her expertise alongside former Senators Lorraine L. Berry and Donald ‘Ducks’ Cole and now as a Senator.

Unfortunately, on December 22, 2010, tragedy struck Senator Francis Heyliger and her family once again as they were forced to grapple with the still unsolved murder of her brother Preston Antonia Francis. Senator Francis Heyliger’s brother’s murder lit a fire under her to keep pushing forward and not giving up on wanting to make the Virgin Islands better and safer for all those who grace these shores.

For about 20 years Senator Francis Heyliger has lent her voice to various Radio Show programs to include the most recent community-oriented show, Alma in the Mornings. Senator Francis Heyliger enjoys using this medium to share information with the public on various community issues in hopes to create dialogue that will continue to open up avenues for collaborative change and empowerment as she is a firm believer that “Through Discussions, Solutions can be found.”

As fate might have it, after one of the many entertainment shows Senator Francis Heyliger produced over the years, to include “Bunny Wailer Live in Concert” in 2002, Senator Francis Heyliger was introduced to her husband of over 18 years Gilbert “Pugito” Heyliger.

Together along with family, have helped to raise the two children left behind by the senseless murder of her brother.

Senator Francis Heyliger is also a founding member of Intrigue Carnival Troupe; Past-President of the Independent Citizens Movement Party; Past-President of the CAHS Class of 1991, member of the St. Thomas Ad Club; supporter of Crime Stoppers USVI; member East End Lions Club, member of the Rotary of St. Thomas II, just to name a few.

Senator Francis Heyliger is the author of “Fallen Petals of the Orion”, published in 2004. This fiction novel chronicles the lives of six young people who through a telescope of poverty, look towards the future to escape and survive this poker game of life with the cards they were dealt.

In December 2020, one of Senator Francis Heyliger’s long-term goals was accomplished when she closed on the purchase of the now 60-year-old radio station in the territory, Radio One – AM 1000. As the new owner, Senator Francis joins the ranks as 1 of approximately 18 African American women who own the majority or 100 percent ownership of a radio Station out of approximately 11,000 radio stations across the nation.

Over the past four years, Senator Francis Heyliger has strived to bring her dream to life of Radio One being a place where people can be Educated, Enriched and Enlightened. These accomplishments have allowed Alma to build the necessary relationships and networks needed to assist her in educating, enriching, and empowering the people of the Virgin Islands.

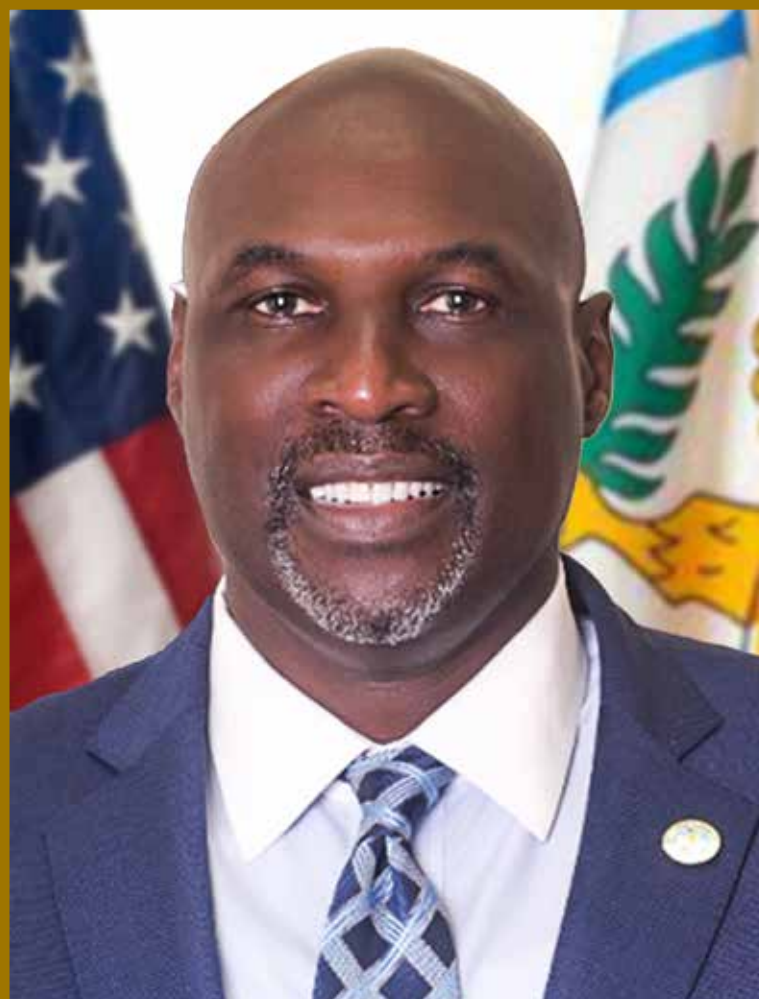
On November 3, 2020, Alma was elected to serve as a member of the 34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands. On January 11, 2021, she was sworn in as a first-time senator and hit the ground running. In her first term, she was successful in getting over 14 pieces of legislation passed.


On November 8, 2022, Senator Francis Heyliger was re-elected to the 35th Legislature. Senator Francis Heyliger has vowed to be an agent of change with the strength and support of the people of this territory as she continues in search of our greatness and remains fearless in her pursuits of prosperity for all Virgin Islanders.



SENATE PRESIDENT

Novelle E. Francis, Jr.



enator Novelle E. Francis, Jr. has served the people of the Virgin Islands with distinction for over thirty years. He was honored to serve as the Vice-President of the 34th Legislature and adds that title to the many that he has accumulated during his career as a public servant. Senator Francis looks forward to continued service to the Virgin Islands as the President of the 35th Legislature.

During his legislative tenure, Senator Francis has built a strong record on the three E's and a Q-energy, education, economic development and quality of life issues. Senator Francis' legislative initiatives are informed by his background in law enforcement, his experiences as a public school graduate and parent, his studies at John Jay College, and his many years as a small business owner. His roots on St. Croix and Antigua have also contributed to his Caribbean and global perspective and ardent belief that the Virgin Islands is second to none. His service to the people of this territory is also built on the strongest foundation of family. Novelle is married to Avril Johnson Francis and is a proud father, brother, uncle and nephew to those in his extensive family circle.

As a senator, Novelle has amassed a wealth of legislative victories-all that reflect sincere care and concern for the territory and people. In the 31st and 32nd Legislatures, Senator Francis championed legislation that gives local workers hiring preference on publicly funded projects (Act 7861) and expands the public school curriculum to require civic courses for all public high school students (Act 7934). In the 33rd Legislature, after four years of meetings with stakeholders, setbacks and multiple drafts, Novelle was successful in passing Act 8376, which establishes a South Shore Enterprise Zone on the island of St. Croix. The accomplishment of this legislation symbolizes his work ethic and tenacity and is a legacy of his commitment to the future development on the "big island."

During his term in the 34th Legislature, Senator Francis moved legislation that addresses school truancy in the Virgin Islands (Act 8530) and supports law enforcement through the implementation of the automated license plate reader system and the development of a pilot red light camera program (Act 8552). Additionally, Senator Francis moved legislation that further supports economic development in St. Croix by establishing the Tech Village at the University of the Virgin Islands' Research and Technology Park. His work to support economic diversity and resiliency is further evident in the passage of Act 8464, which established the Catalyst Loan Revolving Fund and appropriated \$5 million for the Fund and \$1 million to market the South Shore Enterprise Zone. A long-standing advocate for accessible healthcare for all sectors of our community, Senator Francis is proudest of his collaboration with the Executive Branch and stakeholders to move the first comprehensive Virgin Islands Behavioral Healthcare Act forward.

In the term ahead, Novelle looks forward to continuing his work on juvenile justice reform, narrowing the school-to-prison pipeline, addressing the blighted and abandoned properties across the territory, and advancing the territory's healthcare and education infrastructure.



S E N A T O R

Donna Frett-Gregory

*"I slept and dreamt that life was joy.
I awoke and saw that life was service.
I acted and behold, service was joy."*

—(Tagore)

Donna Frett-Gregory was first elected to serve as Senator in the 33rd Legislature where she held the position of Vice President and Chairwoman of the Committee on Finance for a short time. During her first term, she chaired the Committee on Education & Workforce Development, which proved to be a rewarding experience. In the 34th Legislature, her second term, she served with distinction as President, and only the third female to serve in this capacity. During her tenure as President, Frett-Gregory was deliberate about improving employee morale and was instrumental in developing administrative policies and procedures for the smooth and efficient operation of the institution. She also recognized the importance of collaborating on addressing long-standing issues which resulted in the creation of subcommittees to address said issues and the passage of legislation that stabilized GERS, the repayment of the 8% salary restoration to government employees, the merger of Fire Services and EMS, and the reform of our public utility system. Her leadership has led to her being elected to serve on the Executive Board of the National Conference of State Legislatures ("NCSL") and the Women Leadership Network of NCSL, the first Virgin Islander to do so. In addition,



Donna will serve as the Conference Chair of the National Organization of Black Elected Legislators' ("N.O.B.E.L.") Annual Legislative Conference that will be held in the St. Thomas of June 2023.

A graduate of the Charlotte Amalie High School Class of 1983, Donna holds a Master of Business Administration from Western Governors University, Master of Arts in Public Administration from the University of the Virgin Islands, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Morgan State University. She also received a Harvard

University John F. Kennedy School of Government certificate in senior executive leadership and holds an advanced government finance certification from the Government Finance Officers Association.

She has served the Virgin Islands community well during her two terms in office. In her freshman term, she sponsored over 30+ pieces of legislation that were signed into law—unprecedented for a freshman senator in the minority caucus—and cosponsored 120+ bills. Her track record boasts impactful measures to include strengthening of career and technical education in schools and education reform; reenactment of the Tax Study Commission; appropriation of millions of dollars to support GERS; petitioning Congress to terminate the cap on Medicaid funding; and agriculture reform.

Prior to serving as Senator, Frett-Gregory served as Chief Financial Officer for the Virgin Islands Port Authority, Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Department of Education, and Director of Operations at the Virgin Islands Department of Justice. Her early career started in the 18th Legislature where she served as an accounting clerk in the Business Division and was later promoted to a budget analyst in the Post Audit Division. Donna has served on two Governor transition teams: Governor Charles's Turnbull-Financial transition team and Governor Kenneth Mapp-Property and Procurement transition team. Frett-Gregory has 30-plus years of public financial and executive experience coupled with in-depth knowledge and understanding of territorial and federal fiscal principles governing the executive and legislative branches in the Virgin Islands.

Frett-Gregory's direct approach to producing results is impressive. Her background demonstrates abilities in the administration of large staffs and managing substantial budgets through the implementation of cost-saving measures and accountability. A serious advocate for fiscal accountability and transparency, she was elected to the 13th Virgin Islands Board of Education where she had oversight responsibility of the Virgin Islands Public Schools' proper establishment, maintenance, management, and operation. She believes the issues the territory faces with public education can be remedied with strong leadership and teams of stakeholders committed to making a difference.

She is a member of the Sigma Theta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She has served on the Sorority's International Connections Committee and has served in various leadership positions including President of her local chapter. Frett-Gregory established the DFG Community Impact Foundation in 2019, a non-profit organization that provides scholarships and mentorship programs to students, support services to the elderly and women in the Virgin Islands community. She is proud of her signature events for women and girls to include, the "Yes She Can" Girls Empowerment Conference, the International Women's Day Fireside Chat, and the Women in Leadership Conference. Her passion for assisting the elderly remains evident with her annual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner for senior residents at the Ebenezer Garden and the Celestino White Senior Homes.

She is the recipient of several awards. She has been recognized by the US Virgin Islands Montserrat Association for her commitment to education, received the SPARKS Youth Group Flames of Inspiration award, and was named the international region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Soror of the Year in 2017. She formerly served on boards of the University of the Virgin Islands, WTJX Channel 12, VI Cultural Endowment, and Kidscope, Inc. She boasts that her biggest accomplishment is being the proud mother of four adult children: Kaylen, Alani, Anwar and Agyei Gregory, and two grandchildren, Aycen and Ayla Gregory.


Frett-Gregory is a fierce advocate for matters close to her heart and deeply believes in an inclusive Virgin Islands.



S E N A T O R

Kenneth L. Gittens



enneth 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 an Associate of Science in Police Science and Administration, Bachelor of Science, and Master of Science degrees.

Kenny has an immense interest and admiration for public service. In his more than two decades in the fields of law enforcement, criminal justice, and emergency management, he diligently served in various capacities within the VIPD. He also served 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.

Kenny has served in the 30th, 31st, 33rd, and 34th Legislatures of the Virgin Islands. His positions held include Senate President; and Chairman of the Committees on Homeland Security, Justice, and Public Safety; Rules & Judiciary; and Economic Development & Agriculture. He has served three 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.

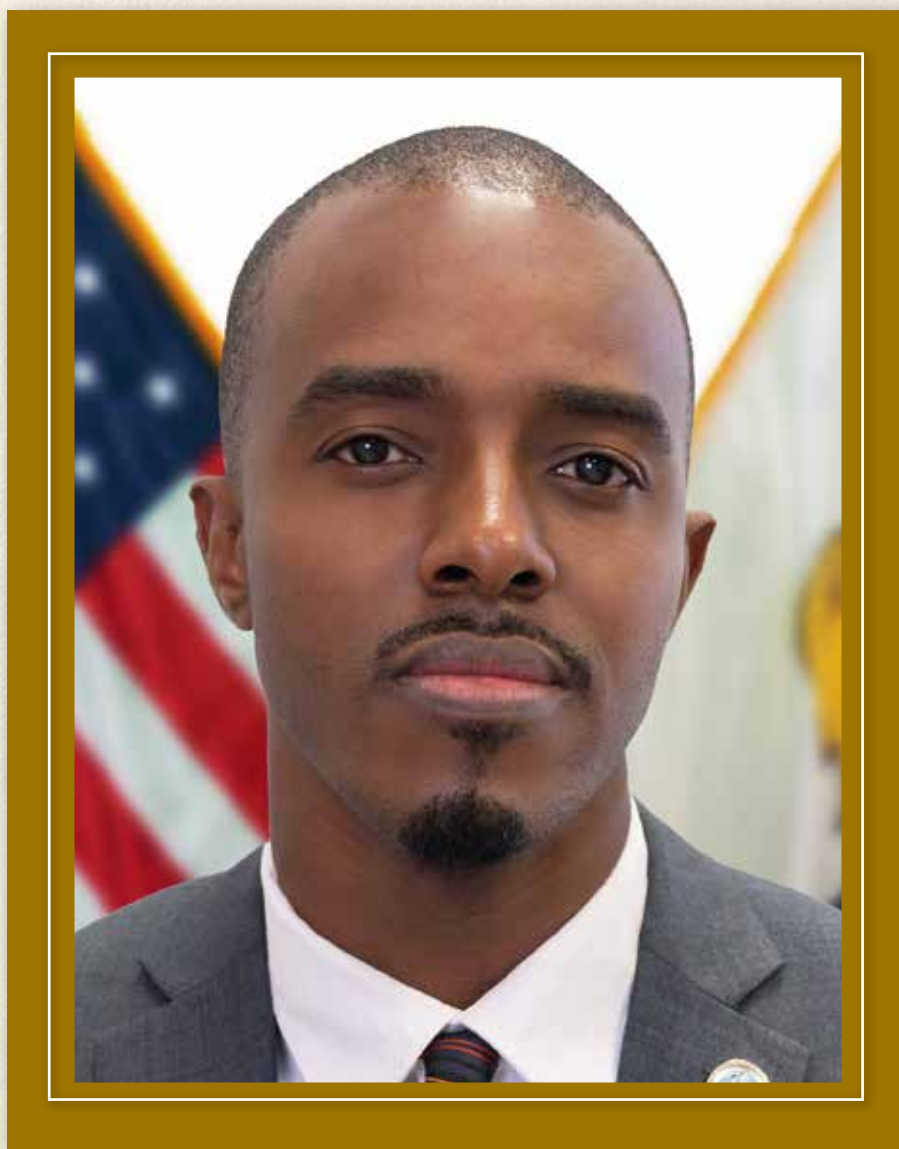
As a member of the 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands, Senator Gittens will remain ever-vigilant in his oversight and legislative efforts on behalf of the people.


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



S E N A T O R

Javan E. James, Sr.



 Javan E. James, Sr. was born and raised on the island of St. Croix to Marilyn and Jonathan E. James on July 7, 1987. Of his two siblings, he is the second child. He attended the Pearl B. Larsen Elementary School, Elena L. Christian Junior High School, and St. Croix Educational Complex High School. He received his high school diploma on June 6, 2005. He worked as a certified process operator at the Hovenssa LLC refinery, firefighter at the United States Airforce, front desk at the Loft Condominium in Florida, Buccaneer Hotel, and as an administrative assistant for Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr. during the 31st and 32nd Legislature of the Virgin Islands. James is married to Shemira M. James. The couple has three amazing children by the names of Ameira, Janess, and Javan II. Mr. James is a devoted family man who is known for setting an example for our young men and women in the community.

James announced his bid for a seat in the 33rd Legislature of the Virgin Islands a few weeks after Hurricanes Irma and Maria devastated the U.S. Virgin Islands. On Tuesday, November 6, 2018, Javan E. James was elected as the youngest Senator to serve in the 33rd Legislature of the Virgin Islands at the age of thirty-one. In his first term in the Senate, James served as the Chairman of the Committee on Youth, Sports, Parks, and Recreation. Senator James has since then been re-elected as the youngest in the 34th and 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands. His goal is to advocate for more economic development for the island of St. Croix while serving in the 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands. Since taking office in 2019, he has offered legislation pertaining to sports, infrastructure, youth, education, culture, and economic development.

To name a few, he has brought forward legislation to construct a cricket field in Estate Bethlehem, St. Croix at a total of \$2,175,000 (Act 8473), renovate the Police Athletic League Headquarters in Estate Whim, St. Croix at a total of \$200,000 (Act No. 8446), redirect all revenues derived from fees for initial and renewal firearms and ammunition licenses into the VI Education Initiative Fund to assist the Career and Technical Education schools in both districts (Act 8434), end child marriage by prohibiting the issuance of marriage licenses to persons under the age of eighteen (Act No. 8255), fund the completion of the Randall “Doc” James Racetrack on the island of St. Croix at a total of \$5,000,000 (Act 8651), and erect a monument in honor of the estate laborers and queens of the 1878 Fireburn on St. Croix at a total of \$250,000 (Act 8543).



S E N A T O R

Marise C. James

Marise C. James was born to a single mother, Constance Espinosa, an executive secretary and seamstress, and into humble beginnings in the D. Hamilton Jackson Terrace housing project in Christiansted, St. Croix. They lived with her maternal grandparents – Pedro Espinosa and Margrethe Pedersen Espinosa. Her grandfather, a Sea Captain, migrated with his parents from the island of Culebra. Her grandmother, a seamstress, was the daughter of a Dane, Peder Pedersen and a Crucian, Miriam Krieger. They were among the first families who moved to the newly built Ralph De Chabert housing project where Marise lived with her maternal grandmother until her senior year of high school when they relocated to the Sion Farm Housing Development. Marise's father Randall "Doc" James, was a medical doctor to thousands of Crucians, a Virgin Islands senator, radio and television talk show host, organist, songwriter, horseman, and computer programmer.

A Roman Catholic, Marise attended St. Mary's Catholic School in Christiansted and St. Joseph High School in Frederiksted. After graduating from St. Joseph High School, Marise attended George Washington University in Washington, D.C. where she received a Bachelor of Arts in zoology. She was a beneficiary of Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 receiving an athletic scholarship to play Division I basketball. As a power forward, Marise set a record for rebounds that was broken by a player from the Bahamas not until 37 years later! After college, Marise returned to St. Croix and worked first as a physical science teacher at the Elena Christian Junior High School and the following year at the St. Croix Central High School.

Marise represented the U.S. Virgin Islands in the Miss Universe pageant held in New York City



in 1981. Her oratorical skills and the substance of her answers during the Miss Virgin Islands pageant captured the attention of Leona Bryan, Director for the Division of Tourism, Department of Commerce who hired Marise as the first Tourism Careers Coordinator. In that position, she educated V.I. students on the importance of tourism to our economy and the careers in the tourism industry. She also worked part-time teaching in the Adult Education Program at the St. Croix Central High School preparing adults to take the General Equivalency Diploma (GED) examination. At the prompting of her mother, Marise attended law school and graduated from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey Law School in Baltimore,

MD and throughout her 36 years of practicing law she has followed the philosophy as expressed in the following quote by Edmund Burke: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

Attorney James has practiced law in the private, public (civilian and military), and non-profit sectors. Marise joined the firm of Winston A. Hodge, which later became Hodge & Sheen, P.C. and served as an associate until January 1989 when she left to work as the Associate Director for Political Status Public Education Program for the University of the Virgin Islands. The Program was cut short when Hurricane Hugo ravaged St. Croix in September 1989. Marise worked as the Disaster Branch Manager/Supervisory Attorney for the Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Program. The program provided loans to homeowners and business owners to repair and recover from damages suffered in the hurricane. Marise also practiced law with the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, the Office of Senator Gerard Luz A. James II before returning to work with the Law Offices of Winston A. Hodge. In 1995 she opened her own legal practice with her work primarily in the areas of real estate transactions and development, corporate, and probate matters. She also opened The Paralegal Institute in 1996 whose graduates now work locally and nationally. Marise worked as the St.

Croix legal counsel in the Office of Governor Roy L. Schneider. From 1999 until 2004, she returned to the practice of law as a sole practitioner. Marise closed her practice and the school when she decided to join the Virgin Islands National Guard. Marise worked on Full-time National Guard Duty in the Active Guard Reserve Program as the Staff Judge Advocate for the Virgin Islands National Guard from 2004 until 2018, and during that time served a one-year tour of federal active-duty as part of the Joint Task Force, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In addition to her civilian education, Marise graduated from the Basic and Advanced Courses conducted at the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School which educates military, civilian, and international personnel in legal and leadership skills. She graduated from the United States Army Command and General Staff College, a graduate school for United States Army and sister service officers,

interagency representatives, and international military officers. The curriculum of the graduate-level program includes instruction on leadership philosophy, military history, and the military planning and decision-making processes.

After finishing military service, Marise accepted a position as Policy Advisor for Justice and Public Safety with the Office of Governor Albert Bryan in 2019. In 2020, she returned to private practice and represents clients in real estate and business transactions. She is also a mediator, teacher, and public speaker.

From an early age, Marise has been active in the St. Croix community. As a Girl Scout, she learned about making a difference and taking a lead to make a better community. As a member of the Youth Commission, she learned that she had a voice for speaking out about community issues that affected the lives of the people. In 1981, Marise joined a small group of women meeting regularly at the Christiansted public library to discuss issues facing women in the Virgin Islands. These meetings led to the formation of the Women's Coalition of St. Croix. She trained and served as a Victim Advocate. In addition to participating as a board member of community organizations that address social, cultural, and educational needs of the community, such as the St. Joseph Alumni Association, Boy Scouts of America, St. Croix Landmark Society, Women's Coalition, St. Croix Foundation for Community Development, on her own initiative she volunteered at Juanita Gardine Elementary School teaching reading to first-graders and with her colleague and friend Attorney Lisa Moorehead taught Street Law and coached the Moot Court Team at St. Croix Central High School.

Marise co-hosted on Abdul Ali's Saturday radio talk show on WSTX 970 a.m. In 1996, she won the position of Democratic National Committee Woman for the V.I. On WTJX Channel 12, Marise hosted "TOPICS" television show and served as a parade commentator for the St. Croix Festival Parade for several years.


Marise is married to Anthony Paul from the dual-island nation of Trinidad and Tobago. Together they have three adult children Camille, Sydney, and Jordan. Her husband has two older sons. In raising her children who she homeschooled for several years, Marise was guided by Jackie Kennedy's words: "If you bungle raising your children, I don't think whatever else you do matters very much."



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 Developer and Supervisor of the Inmate Work Detail and Work Release Program, 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 1990s 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



enator Carla J. Joseph is a second consecutive term Senator representing the St. Thomas/St. John District after being re-elected in the 2022 general election. As a freshman Senator in the 34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands, Senator Joseph Chaired the Committee on Government Operations and Consumer Protection and built a reputation for being a strong advocate for government accountability and transparency.

In her bid for re-election, Senator Joseph declared her top priorities for the Territory to include Crime Prevention, Youth Empowerment, Health Care, Housing, and Environmental Preservation. She says they collectively impact the outcome of our Territory's future.

Senator Joseph's passion for youth empowerment led her to secure funding for the Boys and Girls Club, Marine Vocational Program, and Little League Clubs. Additionally, propelled by her mission for environmental justice, Senator Joseph championed legislation restricting the operation of bars and restaurants in densely populated residential areas.

Before being elected, Senator Joseph worked in the Legislature for ten (10) consecutive years in various positions culminating as Chief of Staff; and also, for over ten years at the Virgin Islands Housing Authority, where she successfully managed two (2) federally funded programs geared toward leadership and workforce development. Her track record in managing federal grants is zero federal report findings and zero funding returned to the federal government.

In 2014, Senator Joseph was recognized as the Law Enforcement Planning Commission Person of the Year for her work with disadvantaged young people and for 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, representing the VI as a Delegate to the 2020 Democratic National Convention, where she proudly cast her vote for President Joseph Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris.

During her tenure as a member and a past President of the Environmental Association of St. Thomas/St. John, Senator Joseph advocated for a balance between environmental conservation and development. One of Senator Joseph's most significant achievements as President of EAST was the lobbying efforts she led, 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. She continues to be a passionately driven public servant, grassroots organizer, and advocate for social and environmental justice.

Senator Joseph is the youngest of four (4) children born to the late Frances Camilla "Girleta" Joseph of Jennings Village in Antigua and Barbuda. She is the only child born in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, to Sylvester and Frances Joseph.


Senator Joseph is an active member of the Memorial Moravian Church and the parent of three girls and has one grandchild. She is a product of public housing, having resided in the Bovoni and Oswald Harris Court Communities, a 1988 Ivanna Eudora Kean High School graduate, and a UVI graduate. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities and Public Manager certification. Her life motto remains "People help people, and God helps us all."



S E N A T O R

Milton E. Potter



ilton E. Potter, a second-term Senator in the 34th Legislature, was born on the island of Tortola, and is a proud product of the U.S. Virgin Islands Public School System from kindergarten through grade 12. He is a graduate of Florida A&M University where he obtained a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a master's degree in School Psychology.

Milton and his seven siblings grew up on the island of St. Thomas where they were raised with three fundamental tenets: "education is the great equalizer;" "family is the bedrock of the community;" and "a good name is a prized possession that must be nurtured and cherished." In the early years, despite struggling to make ends meet, his parents, Margaret, a salesclerk and Cecil, a Port Authority firefighter, further expanded their already large family by adopting a daughter who was in need of love and support. The tireless work ethic of his parents and their unwavering commitment to serving others contributed to Milton's decision to pursue a lifelong career in public service, culminating in his decision to run for a seat in the Virgin Islands Legislature.

Early in his career, Milton served as a School Psychologist and Counselor at Florida State University in Tallahassee Florida. Upon returning home, he worked as Project Counselor for the Upward Bound Program at the University of the Virgin Islands, serving as an advisor, counselor, and mentor to high school youth. In the late 1990s, he made a career shift to the field of human resources, and rose to the pinnacle of the HR field, to include HR Director at the Virgin Islands Port Authority (VIPA) and Director of Personnel for the Government of the Virgin Islands. Milton is a Senior Certified Professional with the Society for Human Resources Management. He is also a trained mediator. His diligence, calm demeanor, and commitment to fairness, support his swift ascension in these people-oriented fields.

During his five-year stint as HR Director at VIPA, Milton was responsible for agency-wide recruitment and retention and managed the Authority's human capital. He was charged with interpreting and implementing local and federal employment laws, managing employee grievances and all contract negotiations with unionized workers.

As Director of Personnel for the Government of the Virgin Islands, Milton managed a \$43,000,000 budget, a staff of 42 direct-reports and 80 agency personnel officers disbursed throughout government. He oversaw the modernization of the recruitment process through the implementation of the NEOGOV applicant tracking system, which has been a game changer in the manner in which government employees are recruited, reducing hiring time tremendously.

As an elected member of the 34th legislature and a first-term Senator, Milton effectively chaired the complex Committee on Rules & Judiciary and was also appointed to lead the Legislature's Committee on Ethical Conduct. He is the author of significant legislative measures and is committed to further improving the quality of life for all Virgin Islanders in the 35th Legislature.

Dedicated to civic engagement, Milton volunteers as a member of the St. Thomas Federal Credit Union Governing Board of Directors, where he has served as President and Treasurer for this \$85,000,000, nationally recognized, homegrown financial institution. He is a former part-time professor at the University of the Virgin Islands, and worked at the Family Resource Center where he taught conflict resolution skills to men who were charged with domestic violence. Milton is a proud member of Wadada I Ya Cultural Fraternity. His family currently worships at the Assembly of Yahweh on St. Thomas.

Achievements and accolades notwithstanding, his most significant accomplishment to date is persuading his beautiful wife of 22 years, the former Paulette Venzen, to marry him. The couple has two sons, Dakarai, a recent graduate of Duquesne University, and Jayvyn, a sophomore at Gannon University in Erie Pennsylvania. Faith, family, and community mean everything to him. In his spare time, Milton enjoys traveling with his family and finding new things to explore in the most beautiful place on earth, the USVI.



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

Marvin A. Blyden
Angel Bolques Jr.
Diane T. Capehart
Samuel Carrión
Dwayne M. DeGraff
Ray Fonseca
Alma Francis Heyliger
Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
Donna A. Frett-Gregory
Kenneth L. Gittens
Javan E. James, Sr.
Marise C. James
Franklin D. Johnson
Carla J. Joseph
Milton E. Potter

HISTORY OF THE GREAT SEAL

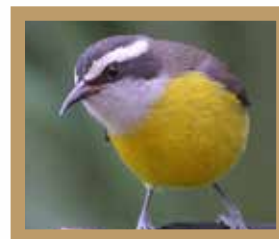


The Great Seal of the United States Virgin Islands became effective on January 1, 1991. It was designed by Mitch Davis and former Senator Donald Cole and was selected from among 33 other submissions from around the world. The symbols depicted thereon are representative of the three major islands comprising 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,

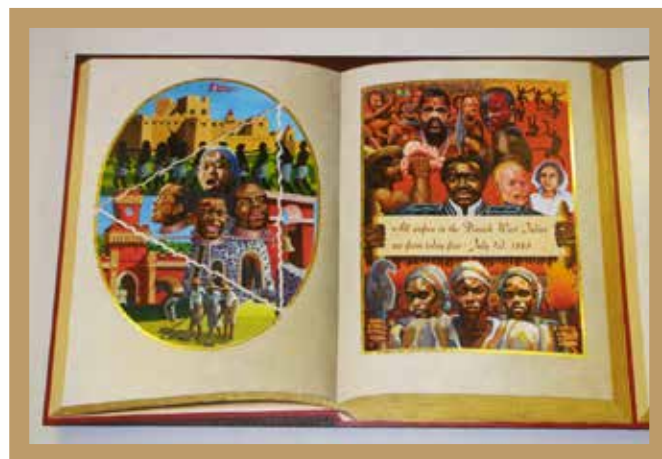
was the representative of unified government. It did not meet with the frequency that would have been desirable and was only empowered to act on bills proposed by the governor or by both the separate Councils. In other words, the Legislative Assembly was not capable of independent action. It can be said, 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 Rodriguez – 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
Lillian 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
Lillian 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
Lillian 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
Lillian 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
Lilliana 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
Lilliana 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
Lilliana 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
Lilliana 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. Violet

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. Violet

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. Violet

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. Violet



FUNCTIONS AND STRUCTURE OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

The Legislature is one of three co-equal branches of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States, with its own powers delegated by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, passed by the U.S. Congress, which established our local government. The other two branches are the Executive Branch, which is headed by the Governor and is responsible for administering the laws passed by the Legislature; and the Courts, usually called the Judiciary, which interprets the laws passed.

The Senators are elected representatives of the people and pass the laws for the people of the Virgin Islands, subject to the veto power of the Governor. These laws must not be in conflict with any federal rule or law, or in violation of the Constitution of the United States.

The Legislature organizes Committees to plan ways in which the various departments of the Government can operate more effectively. When a new law or resolution is proposed, it is first written up as a "Bill," introduced into the Legislature, and given a number and assigned to a Committee. After the Bill is discussed by the various committees concerned with its content, it is sent to the floor of the Legislature, voted upon by the fifteen Senators, and if passed by a majority of Senators present and voting, it is sent to the Governor for his signature. When the Governor signs the Bill, it then becomes an "Act" or law of the Virgin Islands Government and will be put into effect. If the Governor vetoes the bill, the Senators can override the veto by a two-thirds vote of the fifteen-member body.

The Legislature may convene in Special Sessions called by the President of the Legislature, by petition to the office of the President of the Legislature signed by a majority of the Senators, or by the Governor of the Virgin Islands.

The legislative power and authority of the Virgin Islands, created by Section 5-A of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands approved July 22, 1954, as amended, is vested in a legislature consisting of one house, designed as the "Legislature of the Virgin Islands."

Annually, on the second Monday in January, the Legislature convenes in Regular Session. In addition to its lawmaking functions, the Legislature performs functions which include fact-finding and similar investigations, receiving and considering requests or petitions from groups and individuals confirming certain officers appointed by the Governor, and exercising quasi-judicial authority to punish in cases of certain offenses against the Legislature or its members.

The Legislature is composed of fifteen Senators, who serve for two-year terms. It adopts its own rules of procedure, establishes standing committees, maintains its own records, and elects its own officers. The presiding officer of the Legislature is the President of the Senate.

To be eligible to serve as a member of the Legislature, a person must have attained the age of twenty-one years, be a U.S. citizen, be resident of the Territory for not less than three years, and be a qualified voter of the district from which election is sought.

LEADERSHIP

The leadership of the Legislature consists of the following officers:

President, Vice- President, Legislative Secretary, Majority Floor Leader, White House Liaison and Minority Leader. These officers, with the exception of the Minority Leader, are selected by majority vote at the convening of a new legislature.

President of the Legislature: The presiding officer of the Legislature whose functions include chairing the sessions of the Legislature, maintaining order in the chamber, appointing members of all committees and designating the chairpersons, appointing legislative employees, and other duties required by law or by the rules of the Legislature.

Vice President: Performs the duties of the President in his absence.

Legislative Secretary: Duties include calling the roll of members, recording the presence or absence of a quorum and transmitting bills passed by the Legislature to the Governor.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Legislative standing committees are named for the program areas over which they have responsibility. Committees review programs and propose legislation. The findings and recommendations of the committees are reported to the Legislature for consideration. Other types of legislative committees include Special Committees, which are temporarily appointed to consider and report on special matters referred to them; and Committees of the Whole, which include the entire Legislative body.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director is central to the administration and functioning of everyday legislative business. The Director is responsible for the daily administration of the legislative offices on all three islands, and is assisted on St. Croix by a full time Assistant Executive Director. All bills, legislation initiated by the Governor, zoning change petitions, commendatory resolutions, and formal correspondence pass through the Office of the Executive Director before reaching the floor of the Senate. Acting as clerk on the floor, the Executive Director reads all bills, resolutions, and correspondence, and conducts all votes put to a roll call. Additionally, the Executive Director is responsible for the printing and distribution of bills, acts, journals and other official documents; the preservation of legislative records; and the supervision of all employees who may be assigned to this office by the President of the Senate.

POST AUDIT DIVISION

The Division of Post Audit is attached to the Legislative Standing Committee on Finance. The Post Auditor monitors the financial affairs and transactions of every department or agency of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. Post audits are made to discover any evidence of unauthorized, illegal, irregular, or unsafe handling or expenditure of funds.

OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

This office is responsible for bill drafting and research for the members of the Legislature. The Legal Counsel insures that the language of bills that are introduced is legally correct and consistent with the Virgin Islands Code. In addition, the Legal Counsel advises the Senate on points of parliamentary procedure and acts as the legal arm of the Legislature on matters of litigation.

OFFICE OF BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Office of Business and Financial Management is responsible for computing payroll, per diem, and expense reimbursements for each Senator and employee. The office acts as a purchasing clearinghouse for all items approved by the Executive Director or the Senate President, and performs all legislative bookkeeping and accounting functions as well as compiling and maintaining all fiscal records.

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Division of Public Affairs was established to disseminate accurate and timely reports on legislative activities. The public is served by the daily press releases and reports on the legislative activities for that day, live audio and television broadcasts of legislative sessions, meetings and public hearings, and the weekly updates and periodic analysis on controversial or complex bills. The Division also provides an update on the disposition of bills in the various committees.

LEGISLATIVE ARCHIVES

Legislative Archives, headed by a records analyst, is responsible for the effective organizing of documents, and for storing records, and all other legislative reference materials. In addition, Archives works in concert with the Legislative Library, which is under the jurisdiction of the Legal Counsel's Office, giving that office maximum research capability.

JOURNAL SECTION

The Journal Section is responsible for typing, printing and distributing all legislative bills and journals. The Journal Section maintains a bill register, which records each bill, along with its sponsors, committee assignments, and dates of introduction, report to the floor, and adoption, veto, and subsequent action. At the end of each year, the Journal Section prepares a complete resume on each piece of legislation introduced, which is then submitted, to the Lieutenant Governor's Office for printing into the Session Laws and subsequent codification.

LEGISLATIVE REPORTERS

The Chief Recording Secretary shall be the Chief Recording officer of the Legislature.

Section 404.

The duties of the Chief Recording Secretary are as follows:

- (a) to record and transcribe verbatim each meeting of the Legislature, and to provide a copy of the verbatim transcript to each member of the Legislature, the Executive Director, and the Chief Legal Counsel upon request.
- (b) to record and transcribe verbatim any meeting of a Committee of the Legislature when directed to do so by the President of his or her designee;
- (c) to cooperate with the Executive Director in providing members of the Legislature and their staffs with documents which may be transcribed by the Recording Secretary or his assigns.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Section 405.

The duties of the Sergeant-at-Arms are as follows:

- (a) to attend the Legislature during all of its sittings and to execute the commands of the Legislature, together with all such processes issued by authority thereof as shall be directed to him by the President;
- (b) to enforce strictly these Rules as they relate to order and decorum in the Legislative Chambers;
- (c) if directed, to establish a quorum at each meeting of the Legislature as provided in Section 205 (c) of these Rules; and
- (d) to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the President and to supervise such employees as may be assigned by the President to assist with these duties.

The Sergeant-at-Arms is authorized to arrest for contempt all persons in the Gallery found in loud conversation or otherwise disturbing the proceedings of the Legislature.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Section 409.

The duties of the Director of Facilities Management are as follows:

- (a) to supervise a maintenance and construction staff of persons qualified and trained in building repairs, maintenance and construction;
- (b) to prepare estimates of materials and labor costs for repairs and construction work to be done on offices and buildings of the Legislature;
- (c) to inspect work performed in the various offices of the Legislature by private contractors in plumbing, painting, repairs, electrical and other work; and
- (d) to prepare reports to the President on the condition of the various offices of the legislature in St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John.



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.

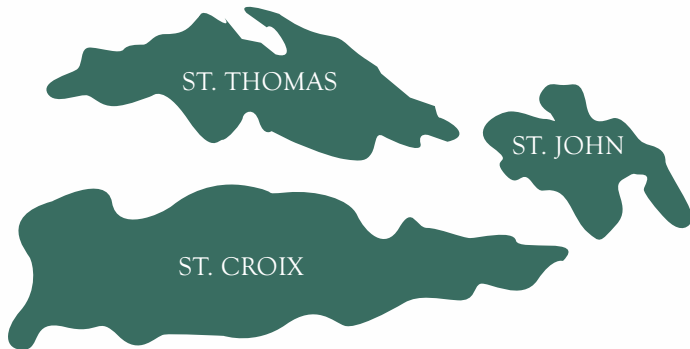
(B) Immediately following a legislative session, all official action taken during the session, together with all messages and written communications from the Governor, are organized into a Legislative Journal.

(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 LAWAETZ	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	2011-2012
30th	SHAWN-MICHAEL MALONE	2013-2014
31st	NEVILLE A. JAMES	2015-2016
32nd	MYRON D. JACKSON	2017-2018
33rd	KENNETH L. GITTENS	Jan-May, 2019
33rd	NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR.	May, 2019-2020
34th	DONNA A. FRETT-GREGORY	2021-2022

THANK YOU

Office of the President of the 34th Legislature,

Donna Frett-Gregory

Office of the Vice President of the 34th Legislature

Novelle E. Francis, Jr (Incoming President)

Oath of Office Committee

Senate Vice President: Senator Novelle E. Francis

Senator Carla Joseph

Senator-Elect Marise James

Executive Director Kurell A. Sheridan

Acting Director of Business and Financial Management

Michael Benjamin

Acting Director of Public Affairs Eustace Browne

Operations Manager Kaysten Messer

Director of Journal Shenika Dowe

Chief of Archives Colette White Amaro

Assistant Director of Facilities Keith Benjamin

Chief of Transportation St. Thomas: Sherwin Peets

Acting Chief of Security Shani Smith

St. John Director Loren Williams Abramson

Protocol Officer Myrna Pickard

Assistant Archivist Sterilina Warner

Office of the Senate President Jamila Russell

Office of the Senate President Kim Harrigan

Office of the Senate Vice President Cherri Carty

Executive Office

Kurell A. Sheridan, *Executive Director*

Ms. Marisel Castor, *Assistant Executive Director, STT*

Mrs. Amrika Williams Leonard, *Executive Assistant*

Ms. Nylah Blyden, *Administrative Coordinator*

Hostesses

Colette White Amaro, *Head Hostess*

Shenika Dowe-Serrano

Sterilina Warner

Donna Freeman

Nataya Melchoir

Loren Williams Abramson

Kaysten Messer

Myrna Pickard

Joycelyn Jeffers

Christina Colbourne

Nikia Fleming

Shirley Fahie

Janice Hodge

Kayla Rivers

Monique Christian

Special Acknowledgements

Division of Public Affairs

Division of Facilities

Division of Transportation

Division of Security

Division of Business and Financial Management

Virgin Islands National Guard 73rd Army Band

Brass Music Performance Team

Department of Public Works

Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation

Department of Property and Procurement

Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Services

Virgin Islands Police Department

Ivanna Eudora Kean High School

WTJX- PBS Channel 12

Ms. Shayla Solomon

Mrs. Lorna D. Freeman

Mr. Gylchris Sprauve

Mr. Malvern Gumbs

Mr. Jason Meade

Ms. Liz H. Combie

Flowers and Decorations

Felipe Ayala

Beatrice Ramos

Vera Powell

Beyond Borders

All Officiating Clergy

All Volunteers and Contributors



VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

