

# ACT NO. 8702

BILL NO. 35-0006

## THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2023

An Act honoring and commending former Senator George E. Goodwin for his many years of expansive contributions to the Virgin Islands community as a whole, through his roles in various areas of service to the Territory as well as advocacy for social justice for underserved people in the Virgin Islands; to rename the cricket grounds located on Parcel H of Tract 1, Estate Nazareth, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands in his honor; and to award former Senator George E. Goodwin the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor; and for other related purposes

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**WHEREAS**, George E. Goodwin was born on September 15, 1941, in the village of Liberta in Antigua, West Indies, to James E. Goodwin and Hilda G. Matthew;

**WHEREAS**, he graduated from Antigua Boys Grammar School and continued his education at the then College of the Virgin Islands where in 1968, he received his Associate of Arts degree in Hotel Management;

**WHEREAS**, he also studied at Monmouth University and at George Washington University;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Goodwin has an extensive background in management, accounting, and insurance;

**WHEREAS**, from 1968 to 1979, George E. Goodwin served as an accountant at the Departments of Finance and Labor and subsequently became the Department of Labor's Director of Comprehensive Employment and Training Administration and Business Administration (CETA);

**WHEREAS**, George E. Goodwin left CETA in 1982, to become Special Assistant to Congressman Ron deLugo, and in 1984, Mr. Goodwin left the Congressman's Office and became the Director of the Virgin Islands Processing Center (BlueCross/Blue Shield), and from there, he became the Director of Marketing/Caribbean Region;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Goodwin was owner and operator of Goodwin's Bookkeeping Service, established in 1971, and an active member of social organizations such as the Caribbean Development Correlation, the American Caribbean Alliance Democratic Club, Virgin Islands Cricket Association, Virgin Islands Port Authority Board, Governor's Citizen Advisory Council, Legal Services Board of Directors and the Association of Caribbean Organizations, among others;

**WHEREAS**, in 1991, Governor Alexander Farrelly appointed George E. Goodwin as Administrator of the Government Employees Retirement System;

**WHEREAS**, the game of cricket was a unifying sport that brought nonresidents and residents together;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Goodwin played a critical role in organizing local cricket teams and bringing in teams from the Caribbean region to play in the Virgin Islands, thereby enriching the overall game of cricket;

**WHEREAS**, in 1993, George E. Goodwin was sworn in as a Senator of the Twentieth Legislature of the Virgin Islands and served a second term in the Twenty-Third Legislature;

**WHEREAS**, from January 1997 to July 1998, Mr. Goodwin served as Special Assistant with then Delegate to Congress, The Honorable Donna Christensen;

**WHEREAS**, George E. Goodwin's name is identified with numerous pieces of legislation and the Alien Interest Movement, which worked to bring about social justice in the areas of education and employment for non-immigrants, also referred to as aliens;

**WHEREAS**, the Alien Interest Movement was the catalyst for the June 26, 1970, landmark declarative judgment rendered by District Court Judge, Almeric Leander Christian, in the case of *Hosier vs. Evans*, 314 F. Supp. 316 (D.V.I. 1970), Judge Christian ruled that non-immigrant children were entitled to attend public schools in the Virgin Islands;

**WHEREAS**, through the Alien Interest Movement, Mr. Goodwin was instrumental in making these aliens aware of their rights as legal residents of the Territory and assisted many in pursuing adjustments to their residency status;

**WHEREAS**, former Senator Goodwin was married to the late Bernice Pickering, and is the father of six children: Gregory, Maureen, Bernard Neil, Juliet, and Alex; and

**WHEREAS**, because of this case and Mr. Goodwin's advocacy, thousands of non-immigrant children were admitted into the public schools of the Virgin Islands and would later become productive residents as well as citizens, thereby enriching the fabric of Virgin Islands' society; Now, Therefore,

***Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

**SECTION 1.** (a) The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands, honors and commends former Senator George E. Goodwin for his many years of expansive contributions to the Virgin Islands community as a whole, through his roles in various areas of service to the Territory as well as advocacy for social justice for underserved people, and renames the Cricket Grounds located on Parcel H of Tract 1, Estate Nazareth, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, O.L.G. Map No. D9-8847-T014, consisting of 2.296 U.S. acres more or less, "George E. Goodwin Cricket Grounds" in his honor.

(b) The Virgin Islands Department of Public Works shall cause to be prepared a distinctive sign bearing the inscription "George E. Goodwin Cricket Grounds", in a conspicuous place at the Cricket Grounds.

**SECTION 2.** (a) The sum of \$10,000 is appropriated is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, from the General Fund of the Virgin Islands to the Department of Public Works to erect the appropriate signage.

(b) The funds appropriated in subsection (a) remain available until expended.

**SECTION 3.** Pursuant to title 1 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 7, section 103, George E. Goodwin is awarded the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor, cast in gold, for his outstanding public service.

**SECTION 4.** The President of the Legislature or the President's designee shall prepare and present a perma plaque copy of this Act and the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor for Public Service to George E. Goodwin or his designee at an appropriate ceremony.

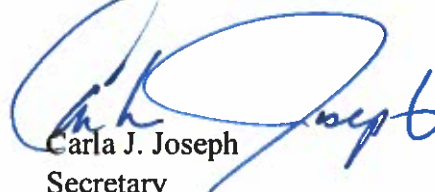
Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on April 14, 2023.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of April, A.D., 2023.



  
Novelle E. Francis, Jr.

President

  
Carla J. Joseph  
Secretary



**Bill No. 35-0006 is hereby approved.**

**Witness my hand and the Seal of the Government of  
the United States Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie,  
St. Thomas, This 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023 A.D.**

  
**Albert Bryan Jr.**  
**Governor**