

ACT NO. 8706

BILL NO. 35-0011

THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2023

An Act honoring and commending former Senator Horace A. Callwood, Sr. posthumously for his dedication, service, and commitment to the people of the Virgin Islands and naming the north-south street immediately east of Windward Passage in his memory

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WHEREAS, former Senator Horace A. Callwood, Sr., a born Savanero, was born on St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands, on February 17, 1934, to Annie Martinez Hodge Callwood and Richard Alexander Callwood, Sr. of St. Thomas;

WHEREAS, Horace attended public elementary and secondary schools on St. Thomas;

WHEREAS, He was one of the top students at the Charlotte Amalie High School and graduated with the well-known Class of 1952;

WHEREAS, after completing high school, Horace attended Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) in the state of Virginia. As a full-time student at Hampton, Horace worked as a part-time waiter at the Hotel Chamberlain during each semester and full-time during Christmas and summer vacations;

WHEREAS, in 1956, Horace graduated with honors and obtained a bachelor's degree in accounting from Hampton Institute as well as a Military Commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army from Hampton's ROTC program;

WHEREAS, after completing his military service at Fort Eustis in Virginia, Horace returned to St. Thomas where he worked as a Supervisor of Accounts for the Department of Social Welfare for many years under the Governor John David Merwin administration (a civilian appointed governor). Horace's government service also included serving as Special Assistant to Government Secretary Roy Bornn, handling insurance, banking, and alcohol board matters;

WHEREAS, after leaving government service, Horace joined the various Manassah businesses, becoming a leading businessman until the date of his passing. His mentor was the

late Manassah Francis, who instilled in him a love for helping and uplifting the people and who also encouraged him to run for the Senate;

WHEREAS, Horace engaged in public service by joining the Unity Party, which represented the people in obtaining economic, educational, housing, medical and political advancement;

WHEREAS, thereafter, Horace was elected as a senator of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands from the district of St. Thomas and served in the 7th and 8th Legislatures. Horace never stopped being of service to his people;

WHEREAS, Horace worked with Senator Earl B. Ottley, Valdemar Hill, Sr., and many others on the Victory '66 efforts to build up the populist, grassroots Unity Democratic Party and win seats in the 7th Legislature. Senator Callwood and his colleagues changed the law and substantially put in place what is now title 18 Virgin Islands Code, that made all political parties open to whoever chooses to join;

WHEREAS, after passing the election law, the Unity Democrats registered *en masse* in the Donkey Democratic Party, which was affiliated with the National Democratic Party, and elected new party leadership, thereby creating the single Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands, as we know it today;

WHEREAS, Horace worked for proper representation and fair treatment for all people in the Virgin Islands;

WHEREAS, Horace was also present at the revolutionary 1968 U.S. Democratic Convention in Chicago when competing delegations from a number of Southern states sought recognition, as some state-level party organizations had excluded Black voters from participating in their primary processes. The Democratic party had to face the issue which ended up before the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled, in the landmark cases *United States v. Classic* and *Smith v. Allwright*, in favor of the principle of "one man, one vote." As a result, districts in the United States had to be reapportioned, even in the USVI. Horace advised that districts with numbered seats would foster party candidates supporting each other rather than competing against each other, thereby allowing elected senators to advance causes and work as a team, and worked for electoral reform for the rest of his life;

WHEREAS, Horace met every week with the Horace A. Callwood Democratic Breakfast Club, (formerly the Democratic Breakfast Club) named in his honor in recognition of his tireless work to build a strong, active Democratic Party, at the Windward Hotel and, the East End Democratic Club at the Bolongo Hotel, where he shared his concerns for the community and his passion for service. He was held in high esteem and his main concern was that his work and endeavors produced positive results;

WHEREAS, he has been honored for his dedication to uplifting people by various groups;

WHEREAS, Horace is known as a long-term member of the internationally known Rotary civic organization, which renders voluntary services to their communities. For Horace, Rotary was truly a fellowship. He was elected president and visited Australia during his term to attend the International Rotary Convention. He was also named Person of the Year in 2016 by his Rotary II St. Thomas Club. Horace is also a founding member of the club's *Paul Harris Society*;

WHEREAS, he was well known for his entrepreneurship, most notably at School Busing, Inc., which was but one of his many successful business ventures. He was also instrumental in expanding marine transportation from downtown Charlotte Amalie to the British Virgin Islands on the Bomba Charger by leading the charge to purchase the larger Bomba Challenger and the triple decker Bomba Cruiser that also connected St. Thomas to St. Croix and Puerto Rico, thereby providing reliable modern passenger ferry service;

WHEREAS, he was a partner in School Busing, Inc., and offered assistance and advice to many. Horace shared wisdom with people who were interested in self-improvement regardless of their station in life, and he taught many how to save money and cooperate to accomplish goals. He stressed the importance of always holding a job, no matter the business, and of preserving cash flow;

WHEREAS, Horace taught you that a person's honor was what mattered most, not money. He would always proclaim: *"Not how he died, but how did he live? Not what did he gain but what did he give? These are the units to measure the worth of a man as a man regardless of birth. Not what was his creed, but had he befriended those in need? Was he ever ready with a word of good cheer, to bring back a smile, to banish a tear?"*;

WHEREAS, Horace was well known for avoiding honors and awards. He kept his feet solidly on the ground, always being a "man of the people." He preferred private life to "pomp and circumstance." Indeed, he was always much admired and respected for his frankness and intelligence, and especially in his ability to get along with others, even those with opposite views, as he tirelessly devoted himself to the advancement of his community; and

WHEREAS, Horace lived life his way. He believed that in life, one must do good and enjoy life. He strived to live a worthy life. Horace never stopped being of service to his people. His last weeks were peaceful, and he felt loved. On September 11, 2020, Horace went on his last journey. He was a leading businessman until the date of his passing. Now, Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands, honors and commends the late former Senator Horace A. Callwood posthumously for his dedication, service, and commitment to the Virgin Islands community.

SECTION 2. In commemoration of his contributions and service to the Virgin Islands, the portion of Tvaer Gade south of Krondprindsens Gade, is renamed "Horace Callwood Drive" in his honor.

SECTION 3. The Department of Public Works shall cause to be prepared and installed suitable signs bearing the inscription “Horace Callwood Drive”, which must be conspicuously affixed in permanent and appropriate locations.

SECTION 4. The sum of \$5,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, from the St. Thomas Capital Improvement Fund under title 33, subtitle 3, chapter 111, section 3057a, to the Department of Public Works to erect the appropriate signage. The funds remain available until expended.

SECTION 5. A perma plaque copy of this act shall be prepared and presented to the family of Horace A. Callwood by the President of the Legislature or designee, at an appropriate ceremony held for that purpose.

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 18th Day of April, A.D., 2023.



Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
President

Carla J. Joseph
Carla J. Joseph
Secretary

Bill No. 35-0011 is hereby approved.

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



Albert Bryan Jr.
Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor