

RESOLUTION NO. 1883

BILL NO. 34-0063

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2021

A Resolution honoring and commending St. Clair Alphonso “Whadablee” DeSilvia for his invaluable contribution to continued development of Calypso music in the Virgin Islands

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WHEREAS, St. Clair Alphonso “Whadablee” DeSilvia was born on the island of Antigua in the city of St. Johns on July 3, 1958;

WHEREAS, in April of 1967, St. Clair Alphonso “Whadablee” DeSilvia immigrated to St. Thomas at the tender age of eight and proudly made St. Thomas his permanent home;

WHEREAS, St. Clair Alphonso “Whadablee” DeSilvia’s educational journey in St. Thomas started at Seventh Day Adventist, Washington, Nisky and Kirwin Terrace Elementary Schools; he subsequently was promoted to Wayne Aspinall Junior School and graduated from the Charlotte Amalie High School in 1978;

WHEREAS, after graduating from High School, St. Clair Alphonso “Whadablee” DeSilvia acquired a diverse range of employment, having worked as a pianist for tourists on the Kon Tiki Tour Boat, Gate Agent for airlines and Communications Contractor for Vitelco;

WHEREAS, in addition, St. Clair Alphonso “Whadablee” DeSilvia can claim the special honor of having worked for the three branches of government and recently retired from the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, Transportation Division;

WHEREAS, St. Clair Alphonso “Whadablee” DeSilvia’s musical talent includes a percussionist, lead singer, backup vocalist and a pianist;

WHEREAS, St. Clair Alphonso “Whadablee” DeSilvia’s first major introduction to the Virgin Islands was with Dread Ones Band in the late 1970s; the Mandingo Brass in 1978

until 1984, which was the first local band to win the Carnival Road March in 1978; and The Starlites in 1997 until 2001;

WHEREAS, St. Clair Alphonso “Whadablee” DeSilvia in 1985, launched a successful solo career which earned him several awards and four *Carnival Road Marches* for “Off Man Jam” in 1982, “Traffic Tight” in 1983, “One for Milo” in 1998 and “Steelband Coming” in 2006;

WHEREAS, St. Clair Alphonso “Whadablee” DeSilvia also won the MSI Calypso of the Year Award three times: in 1991 for “Fair Market Square”, in 1998 for “Behave Yourself” and in 1993 for “We Want We Retro”;

WHEREAS, St. Clair Alphonso “Whadablee” DeSilvia won the Carnival Calypso Monarch for five consecutive years from 1999-2003 for songs such as “Political Death and Win or Lose”, “Bull to Cow and Tribute to Kitch”, “Hypocrites and More Money”, “50 years of Mas and The Race”, and “Keep on Trying and Not Because”, respectively;

WHEREAS, in 2002, St. Clair Alphonso “Whadablee” DeSilvia earned one of his most prestigious musical awards when he was crowned Caribbean Calypso King; and

WHEREAS, although, St. Clair Alphonso “Whadablee” DeSilvia has retired from Calypso competitions, his passion for music remains; thus, he regularly volunteers his musical talent and services to many organizations, public schools programs and for worthy causes, such as the islands’ annual festival celebrations;

WHEREAS, St. Clair Alphonso “Whadablee” DeSilvia is also a proud father or Poopa (as referred to in Antigua) of five children: Khaleed, Khamal, Khamry, Khadeem, and his youngest son, Khamoi;

WHEREAS, Khamoi seems to have inherited his father’s passion for calypso music, as he is known as “Singer Boy Khamoi” in the Calypso community and sings regularly during carnival events; and

WHEREAS, St. Clair Alphonso “Whadablee” DeSilvia continues to serve this community in a significant way by presenting the youth of the Virgin Islands with positive opportunities for self expression through music as pan instructor for several youth steel orchestras; Now, Therefore,

Be it resolved 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 St. Clair Alphonso “Whadablee” DeSilvia known in this community as “Whadablee” for his outstanding and dedicated contribution in the field of music and his many other contributions to the Virgin Islands.


SECTION 2. The President of the Legislature or the President's designee shall present a perma plaque copy of this Resolution to St. Clair Alphonso "Whadablee" DeSilvia at an appropriate ceremony.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on November 18, 2021.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 23rd Day of November, A.D., 2021.




Donna A. Frett-Gregory
President


Genevieve R. Whitaker
Secretary