



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

BINGLEY G. RICHARDSON, SR. DAY

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Bingley G. Richardson, Sr. was born September 18, 1935 to the late Bingley E. Richardson of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands and Lilian M. Smith of Jost Van Dyke, British Virgin Islands. Senator Richardson was married for 53 years to the late Marilyn E. Donovan and is the father of seven children; Janice Richardson, Laura Ofoha, Bingley G. Richardson, Jr., Stephanie Richardson, Shirley Richardson-Edwards, Sekou Richardson and Taiwo Richardson and many grandchildren and great grandchildren;

WHEREAS, in his early childhood, he attended schools in Puerto Rico and St. Thomas and later attended high schools both on St. Thomas and in the Bronx, New York;

WHEREAS, he later developed an interest in aviation and mechanics, and in 1954, Senator Richardson joined and served in the United States Air Force serving in Newfoundland, Canada and Korea;

WHEREAS, Bingley left the military service with an honorable discharge after four years of service, and in 1958 returned to New York where he worked for the International Telephone and Telegraph Company;

WHEREAS, in 1968, Senator Richardson returned to the Virgin Islands and held positions with the Virgin Islands Government in the Department of Health and the Department of Housing;

WHEREAS, Senator Richardson became actively involved in the Territory's social issues, and one such issue was his involvement with the *free beach* movement, working to get legislation to keep hotel beaches open to Virgin Islands residents;

WHEREAS, one of Senator Richardson's greatest accomplishments as a member of the Legislature was orchestrating and organizing the Virgin Islands Government's purchase of the West Indian Co. Ltd.;

WHEREAS, after a number of years, Senator Richardson left government service and received his Coast Guard certification to operate 100-ton, then later, 300-ton vessels and began working for a ferry service;

WHEREAS, in 1978 Senator Richardson purchased a ferry and became an independent operator. The ferry had daily ferry services between downtown Charlotte Amalie and Tortola including special trips to Virgin Gorda, Jost Van Dyke with charters to St. Croix and Anegada;

WHEREAS, in 1986, Bingley Richardson successfully ran for a seat in the 17th Legislature of the Virgin Islands and would serve as its Vice President;

WHEREAS, Senator Richardson was re-elected to the 18th Legislature and authored legislation and chaired a commission to create the territorial seal that is used today. Later, in 1992, Senator Richardson was re-elected for a third term and served as President of the Legislature in the 20th Legislature of the Virgin Islands;

WHEREAS, after leaving the Legislature, Richardson again started piloting barges that were given to the Virgin Islands Government by the United States Army and ran weekly routes between St. Thomas and St. Croix carrying government supplies;

WHEREAS, Senator Richardson was later recruited by the British Virgin Islands government and became Marine Manager and security officer for the British Virgin Islands Port Authority, where he developed a comprehensive port security plan that ensured all ports and harbors for each of the British Virgin Islands met U.S. readiness standards;

WHEREAS, Senator Richardson was a certified scuba diver, an aquatic instructor, Director of the Sea Explorers program, and the Associate Director of the Aquatics Northeast Region Camping School for the Boy Scouts of America;

WHEREAS, Senator Richardson produced, directed and narrated several educational films on V.I. history and culture, and in 2007, travelled with a contingent of Pan Africanists and other Virgin Islanders to Ghana in recognition of its 50th year of independence;

WHEREAS, Senator Richardson's accomplishments and contributions are so vast and abundant that they continue to impact our culture;

WHEREAS, Senator Richardson will be greatly missed, but his memory will continue and passed on to his friends, family and to our Territory through his many contributions to the history and fabric of these Virgin Islands; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Osbert E. Potter, Acting Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, do hereby proclaim Saturday, June 10, 2017 as the *Bingley G. Richardson Sr. Day* within

the United States Virgin Islands. Please join me in honoring and remembering Senator Richardson for his Public Service to our community and Territory.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands this 6th day of June 2017.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Osbert E. Potter", written over a horizontal line.

Osbert E. Potter
Acting Governor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Myron D. Jackson", written over a horizontal line.

Myron D. Jackson
Acting Lieutenant Governor