



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

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

**MELVIN H. EVANS DAY**

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**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES**

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**A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, August 7, 2017 marks the 100th Anniversary of the birth of the late Governor Melvin H. Evans and coincides with a year-long commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the transfer of the Danish West Indies to the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Melvin H. Evans' legacy will be celebrated in conjunction with the commemorations, observations, and celebrations of the Transfer Centennial Anniversary; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Melvin H. Evans was born on August 7, 1917 to Charles Herbert and Maude Rogiers Evans on Christiansted, St. Croix; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Melvin H. Evans was married to Miss Phyllis Anderson and had four sons, William C. Evans, Melvin H. Evans Jr., Robert Evans and Cornelius D. Evans; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Melvin H. Evans attended various local schools in St. Croix. He later attended and graduated from Charlotte Amalie High School in St. Thomas as Valedictorian of his class in 1935. Governor Evans went on to attend and graduate from Howard University in 1940 and Howard University of Medicine in 1944, and he later earned a Master's degree in Public Health from the University of California at Berkeley in 1967; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Melvin H. Evans served the people of the Virgin Islands as the appointed chief physician-in-charge of the Frederiksted Hospital, he also served as Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Health for the Virgin Islands, and maintained a private medical practice; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Melvin H. Evans was Chairman of the Governor's Commission on Human Resources, and a member of Selective Service Board of Appeals for the Virgin Islands. He also served as a Senior Assistant Surgeon of the United States Public Health Service while he was a teaching fellow in medicine at Howard University and also interned at Harlem Hospital in New York City; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Evans made history by being the last appointed Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States (1969 to 1971) by President Richard M. Nixon and the first popularly elected Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States by the people of the Virgin Islands, serving 1971 to 1975; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Evans was elected as a Member of the United States Congress in the House of Representatives from 1979 to 1981; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Evans' terms in Congress epitomized the passage into political maturity of the Virgin Islanders and the hope for a strengthened Virgin Islands identity; and

**WHEREAS**, Melvin H. Evans was nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by the United States Senate as Ambassador to the island nation of Trinidad and Tobago in 1981; and


**WHEREAS**, Governor Evans' contributions extended beyond elected office – and whether as a physician, administrator, Governor, Delegate to Congress, Ambassador or proud citizen, he worked hard every day to make the Virgin Islands a better and stronger place for all; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important for all Virgin Islanders to reflect on this special recognition in the history of the Virgin Islands where Governor Evans, as Governor, shepherd in as many new capital projects such as schools, roadways, highways, new energy producing plants, improvements to our healthcare system and much more, creating opportunities and making the Virgin Islands a better place for all;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Kenneth E. Mapp, the 8<sup>th</sup> elected Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States, do hereby proclaim August 7, 2017 as *Melvin H. Evans Day* and I hereby further proclaim the week of August 7, 2017 as *Melvin H. Evans Week* in the Territory of the Virgin Islands. Melvin H. Evans will forever be remembered as a devoted public servant, a beloved Governor, family man, family physician and a loyal friend and citizen of the Virgin Islands of the United States.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2017.



  
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Kenneth E. Mapp  
Governor

Attest:  
  
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Myron D. Jackson  
Acting Lieutenant Governor