

THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GOVERNMENT HOUSE Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802 340-774-0001

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated each year in the United States from September 15 to October 15. The observance was introduced in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Johnson and was expanded by President Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period; and

WHEREAS, the day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the history, traditions, and culture of the Hispanic and Latino/a/x residents throughout the Nation and within the Territory. The Virgin Islands recognizes the invaluable ways that these residents contribute to our community by bringing rich diversity, economic growth, and cultural enrichment; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme, "Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation," encourages residents to connect with the heritage of our Hispanic community and welcome diverse voices and perspectives in the decision-making processes, thereby helping to build a stronger community and a stronger Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands, as amended, do hereby proclaim Thursday, September 15, 2022-Saturday October 15, 2022, as "National Hispanic Heritage Month" in the Virgin Islands. I call on all Virgin Islanders to continue to commemorate this month by recognizing the contributions of our Hispanic population, and dedicating

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ourselves to working together to address the challenges that still face our Hispanic and Latino/a/x neighbors.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, 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 2014 day of September, A.D. 2022.

Albert Bryan, Jr. Governor

Attest:

Tregenza A. Roach, Esq. Lieutenant Governor