

ACT NO. 7665

BILL NO. 30-0449

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2014

An Act honoring and commending Mr. George Lewis, Jr. for his contributions to the community and naming the tennis courts in Cruz Bay, St. John in his honor

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WHEREAS, Mr. George Lewis, Jr. was born on the island of St. John Virgin Islands on September 30, 1965, to June V. Powell and George Lewis, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis attended Julius E. Sprauve School on St. John and graduated from Eudora Kean High School on St. Thomas in 1987; and

WHEREAS, George Lewis, Jr. first became interested in the sport of tennis when he was six years old; and

WHEREAS, Mr. George Lewis, Jr. was ranked number one on the Peter Bur Wash Caribbean Grand Prix Tour in singles from 1987 to 1989; ranked nationally at the ATA, and was the Virgin Islands top player in singles and doubles for many years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. George Lewis, Jr. has traveled almost around the world playing tennis and representing the Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis has won many tennis championships, including British Virgin Islands Tennis championship many times, singles and both men and mixed doubles; and

WHEREAS, Mr. George Lewis, Jr. served as captain/coach at many Davis Cup tournaments abroad, including twice in Haiti, in Honduras three times, twice in El Salvador , twice in Trinidad, in Trinidad as captain at the World University Games, and in many other countries; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis was the first tennis player from St. John:

- (1) to play on the Junior Hawaiian Circuit for 3 years;

(2) to play and run celebrity events in the United States , including the United Negro College Fund for six years; and

(3) to play in the Davis Cup on the Virgin Islands' first ever Davis Cup Team; and

(4) as tennis professional to be consistently sponsored by a major tennis company throughout his tennis career to this day. Such sponsors include: Reebok, Fila, Wilson, Head, Gamma rackets, *Le coq Sportif*, K-Swiss, *Sai Socks*, and presently *Yonex*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. George Lewis, Jr. was the first and the youngest tennis player to:

(1) bring world class tennis players here to the Virgin Islands to conduct tennis clinics for kids on the three islands, and is still doing so. These world class tennis players include: Zinia Garrison; Lorie McNeil; Katrina Adams; Anka Huber; Andre Medavev; Chanda Rubin; and others;

(2) work as tennis director at major hotel chain for 11 and a half years, including the Virgin Grand Hotel in St. John, then Hyatt Regency , now the Westin Resort; and

(3) participate in tennis matches to raise revenue for the Cancer Fund for Kids at Martha's Vineyard, Los Angeles, Disney World, Dallas Four Season, Palms Springs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. George Lewis, Jr. was the first Virgin Islands tennis pro to teach and coach in the Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic at the Jaragua Hotel and the Olympic Center; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis coached at many Pan American Games around the world, including Argentina, Canada, and Puerto Rico, and at many Central American Games , and has traveled to most of the Spanish-speaking countries; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis coached many top junior tennis players at the Hitic Games, which is an International Tennis Federation event; and

WHEREAS, Mr. George Lewis, Jr. has made many contributions to the sport of tennis in the Virgin Islands and to the people of the Virgin Islands, especially to the St. John community, including:

(1) getting the St. John tennis courts repaved twice and the St. John basket ball courts, once;

(2) providing 22 laptops and 15 desktops for the Julius Sprauve School, 14 laptops, a fax machine, tables, stations for the computers for the George Simons Housing office for the GED program, and 3 laptops, a tape recorder, and a \$3,000 gift certificate from Office Max to purchase needed materials for Mrs. Robles' class at Gomez School ;

(3) conducting fund raisers, including bringing in such celebrity guests as actress and talk-show host, Monique Ryme, to raise money for the Beacon School and KiKi Shepperd to host the Big and Beauty show to raise money for scholarships; and

(4) bringing in Suzzane Douglas to hold seminars for the students in schools on St. Thomas; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his tennis activities and community service, Mr. George Lewis, Jr. has modeled for Mr. Oddissey in New York, and has participated in the Virgin Islands Carnival Parades on St. Thomas and St. John for 22 years ,wearing big costumes; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis was the Vice President of the St. John Racket Club from 1999 to 2002; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis is currently a Certified Tennis Professional with the United States Professional Tennis Registry, one of the largest tennis organizations in the world; and

WHEREAS, Mr. George Lewis , Jr. is presently the tennis director at the St. Thomas Yacht Club and has held this position for 17 years; 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 Mr. George Lewis, Jr. for his achievements in and contributions to the sport of tennis and for his community service and many contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands.

SECTION 2. In recognition and appreciation of his contributions to tennis, to the St. John community and to the people of the Virgin Islands, the tennis courts located adjacent to Enighed Pond in Cruz Bay, St. John are named "The George Lewis, Jr. Tennis Courts".

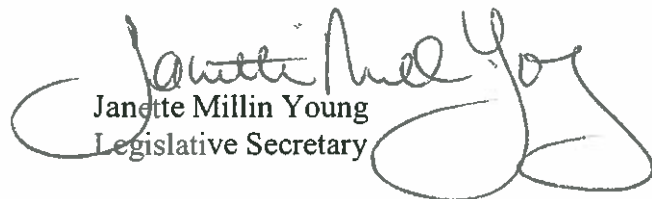
SECTION 3. The Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation shall erect an appropriate sign in a conspicuous location at the George Lewis, Jr. Tennis Courts bearing the inscription "The George Lewis, Jr. Tennis Courts".

SECTION 4. The President of the Legislature or the President's designee shall prepared a perma plaque copy of this Act and present it to Mr. George Lewis, Jr. at an appropriate ceremony.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on September 25, 2014.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 30th Day of September, A.D., 2014.


Shawn-Michael Malone
President


Janette Millin Young
Legislative Secretary



Bill No. 30-0449 is hereby approved.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the
Government of the United States
Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie,
St. Thomas, this 13th day of October
A.D., 2014.


John P. de Jongh, Jr.
Governor