

ACT NO. 7656

BILL NO. 30-0404

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2014

An Act renaming the Red Point Wastewater Treatment Plant on St. Thomas in honor of Pedrito Augustus Francois

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WHEREAS, Pedrito Augustus François was born on Chinaman Hill (Moravian Hill), St. Thomas, Virgin Islands to Conrad and Eva François on April 21, 1921; and

WHEREAS, Pedrito Augustus François graduated as valedictorian from Charlotte Amalie High School in 1939, graduated cum laude from Howard University with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering in 1943, and earned a master's degree in public health from the University of Minnesota in 1946; and

WHEREAS, Mr. François married Gloria Kaufman on September 17, 1945, and to them were born five children, Leslie, Emmett, Conrad, Gary, and Darryl; and

WHEREAS, Pedrito Augustus François served as an electrical engineer with the Navy Department in Washington, D.C. from 1941 and 1945; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Francois returned to the Virgin islands in October of 1946 and served as the Territory's Public Health Engineer with the Department of Health, engineer with the Department of Health Sanitation Service from November 1946 to January 1947, as secretary-treasurer of the St. Thomas Power Authority, the predecessor to the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority, from September 1947 and May 1949, as electrical engineer for the St. Thomas Power Authority, and as an electrical engineer in the private sector; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at the St. Thomas Power Authority, Pedrito Augustus François planned and supervised the electrical conversion from the Direct Current System to the Alternating Current System; and

WHEREAS, as a public health engineer, Mr. François organized and directed the Territory's first comprehensive environmental sanitation program, which led to the adoption of

legislation on May 12, 1949, by the Fourteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands to establish a Uniform Sanitary Code for the Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, Pedrito Augustus François relocated to the Washington D.C. to work as an electrical engineer with the Brisker Electrical Construction Co. from June to December in 1950, and from December 1950 to June 1955, to work with U.S. Naval Weapons Plant; and

WHEREAS, returning home to the Virgin Islands, Mr. François served as Director of the Division of Environmental Health of the Department of Health from January 1955 to December 1974; and

WHEREAS, Mr. François served as Director of the Division of Natural Resources for the Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs, now the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, from January 1975, to April 1980; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at the Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs, he developed the Sanitary Code and the Water Pollution Control Act and Rules and Regulations, developed a master sewage system plan for the Virgin Islands, finished construction of the system in both St. Croix and St. Thomas in 1975, and in 1981 developed a similar plan for St. John where a temporary sewage treatment plant was installed; and

WHEREAS, as Director of the Division of Natural Resources, Pedrito Augustus François was also responsible for environmental control programs in air and water pollution, water supply, noise pollution, pesticides, solid wastes, and radiation control; and

WHEREAS, Pedrito Augustus François in April 1980 accepted the position of Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Public Works where he continued to be responsible for the design and construction of the Waste Water Treatment Plant Program in addition to his other duties until his retirement in February 1984; and

WHEREAS, Pedrito Augustus François, in his 30 years of service to the Government of the Virgin islands and the people of the Virgin Islands, had an impact on the environment of the Virgin Islands and the quality of life in the Territory through the implementation and provision of adequate sewage disposal systems, safe water supplies and an efficient electrical supply system, which contributed to the decline in death rates and diseases previously endemic to the Virgin Islands, such as gastroenteritis, amoebic dysentery, *ascariasis*, *trichuriasis*, hookworm, dengue fever, malaria, typhus fever, typhoid fever, *filariasis*, and *schistosomiasis*; 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, recognizes and honors Pedrito Augustus François for his outstanding contributions to the Virgin Islands Community, to the environmental and public health and the social, environmental and economic development of the Virgin Islands.

SECTION 2. (a) Pursuant to 31 V.I.C. §4, the Red Point Wastewater Treatment Plant on St. Thomas is renamed "The Pedrito Augustus François Waste Water Treatment Plant".

(b) The Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority shall erect an appropriate sign bearing the inscription, "The Pedrito Augustus François Waste Water Treatment Plant" at the entrance of the Plant.

SECTION 3. Title 1 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 15, section 253, subsection (b) is amended at the end of paragraph (5) after "Finance Authority" by adding "Board of Directors of the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority".

SECTION 4. Title 31 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, section 4 is amended after "Housing Authority" by inserting "Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority".

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

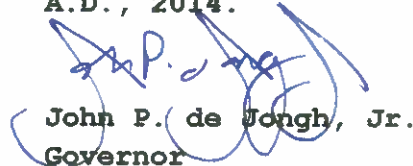


Janette Millin Young
Legislative Secretary



Bill No. 30-0404 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