

ACT NO. 7652
BILL NO. 30-0325

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2014

An Act to Honor and Commend Elroy George, posthumously for his military service and work on behalf of veterans and to erect a bust in his honor at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Veterans Memorial Park

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WHEREAS, Elroy Antonio George was born in Savan, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands on December 15, 1930, the son of Alexander and Donicia George; and

WHEREAS, Elroy A. George attended the local elementary public school system and graduated from the Charlotte Amalie School with honors in June 1949; and

WHEREAS, Elroy A. George left the island of St. Thomas on July 7, 1954, for a military career in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Elroy A. George spent twelve years in military service, advancing through the ranks from Private to Specialist E-6 and graduated as Culinary Manager; and

WHEREAS, Elroy A. George received several awards and medals while in military service and was honorably discharged on December 6, 1966; and

WHEREAS, upon being discharged from the military, Elroy A. George returned to St. Thomas and supervised the Office of Veterans Affairs of the Department of Labor, assisting all veterans and their dependents in their quest for higher education, medical benefits and other veteran-related programs; and

WHEREAS, one of Elroy A. George's greatest accomplishments was to see his proposal become a reality with the introduction of Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps in the Virgin Islands school system; and

WHEREAS, Elroy A. George persuaded the Legislature to approve free tuition at the University of the Virgin Islands, then College of the Virgin Islands, for veterans, free tuition for widows of veterans, an increased home-loan ceiling, the real property tax exemption, an act for widows of local veterans and a general "Omnibus Act" for Virgin Islands veterans to provide various other benefits; and

WHEREAS, Elroy A. George, as chairman of the Veterans Day Memorial Committee for over twelve years, expanded the program to pay tribute to those veterans who served in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, on behalf of relatives and friends of all who served in the military, Elroy A. George initiated and brought to fruition the plan wherein a memorial monument was designed and erected at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park with the inscription of the names of all deceased veterans; and

WHEREAS, Elroy A. George had a talent for organizing military parades of impressive scope, which have included military and civilian units from the mainland as well as from our Caribbean neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Elroy A. George planned the parade and inaugural ceremony for our first elected Governor, Melvin H. Evans, and received commendations for such a well-planned event; and

WHEREAS, Elroy A. George was in the forefront of the participation of veterans in sports and served as President of the St. Thomas-St. John Baseball Association, and through his leadership the status of the group was greatly enhanced with the inter-island competition; and

WHEREAS, Elroy A. George's influence was felt, as housing project trustee, in the non-partisan League of Virgin Islands Lobbyists before the Virgin Islands Legislature, as a sportsman, and as the representative of the local veterans; and

WHEREAS, after almost thirty years of dedicated public service Elroy A. George became incapacitated and retired from government service; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands that Elroy A. George earned the sincere and lasting respect and affection of the people of the Virgin Islands for his tenacious pursuit for benefits for veterans, their spouses and children; 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 Elroy A. George, posthumously for his tenacious pursuit of benefits for veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States, and spouses and children of veterans.

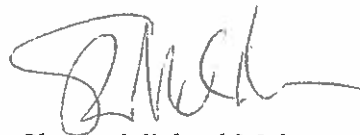
SECTION 2. In recognition of Elroy A. George's work and contributions on behalf of veterans, the Department of Public Works shall cause to be erected a Bust in his likeness at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Veterans, Memorial Park located in Charlotte Amalie on the island of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

SECTION 3. The sum of \$15,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, from the General Fund to the Department of Public Works for the erection of the Elroy Antonio George bust at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Veterans, Memorial Park.

SECTION 4. In honor of the memory of Elroy Antonio George and in recognition and appreciation of his contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands, the President or the President's designee shall have a perma plaque copy of this Resolution prepared and shall present it to the family of the late Elroy Antonio George 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 25th Day of September, A.D., 2014.



Shawn-Michael Malone
President

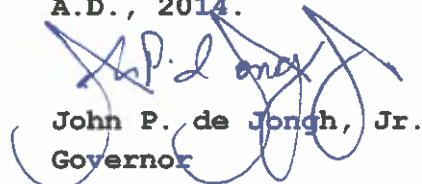



Janette Millin Young
Legislative Secretary



Bill No. 30-0325 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