

ACT NO. 8942
BILL NO. 35-0316

THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2024

An Act honoring and commending Mrs. Juel Turnbull Rhymer-Molloy for her years of dedicated service and numerous contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands by naming the complex housing the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services the "Juel T.R. Molloy Complex" and bestowing upon her the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor

---0---

WHEREAS, Mrs. Juel Turnbull Rhymer-Molloy is the daughter of the late James and Idalia Turnbull; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rhymer-Molloy, the proud mother of one son, was born on St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, and graduated from the Charlotte Amalie High School in 1963, with several honors, among which were scholarship, leadership, and citizenship awards such as "Student of the Year Award", the "Chamber of Commerce Business Award", and the "Leon Mawson Business Award" for being the outstanding business student of the graduating class; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from high school, Mrs. Rhymer-Molloy attended Hampton Institute now Hampton University in Virginia where she studied business education and received a Bachelor of Science degree, cum laude with departmental honors, in 1967 for being an outstanding business student; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rhymer-Molloy returned home to the Virgin Islands and worked with the Legislature of the Virgin Islands in the positions of Legislative Staff Assistant and Assistant Executive Secretary; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Juel Rhymer-Molloy continued her studies at the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where graduate studies were undertaken in Business Administration, with specialization in the area of Industrial Relations, and she later received a Master of Arts degree in Psychology from Columbia University, New York City, New York, in 1970; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rhymer-Molloy was employed with the Virgin Islands Community Action Agency for seventeen years, fourteen of which she served as its Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rhymer-Molloy has held memberships in such organizations as the

League of Women Voters, the Humanities Council, and the Eta Phi Beta Sorority, serving as past president of all three organizations; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rhymer-Molloy also served in other community organizations and on boards such as the St. Thomas/St. John Crime Committee, the Business and Professional Women's Club, the National Community Action Executive Directors Association, the National Head Start Board, the Drug Policy Board, the Governor's Committee on Crime Prevention Board, the Economic Policy Board, and the Virgin Islands Housing Authority Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rhymer-Molloy has been the recipient of numerous honors including her induction into the Virgin Islands 1st Bi-Annual Women's Hall of Fame, special recognition at the White House for outstanding contributions to the Head Start Program, the "Virgin Islands Community Action Agency Award for Outstanding Service", the "Federal Emergency Management Award", the "Youth in Government Community Service Award", the "Ralph M. Paiewonsky Human Rights Award", the Rotary Club's "Person of the Year", two Christchurch Methodist Church Awards, the "Wilbur 'Bill' La Motta Community Service Award", and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's "HOPE Award" for the leadership that she provided as Board Chairman in bringing the Virgin Islands agency out of troubled status; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rhymer-Molloy, while serving as the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services, consolidated several social service agencies and provided one-stop services to many clients, thereby allowing her, along with an excellent staff, to achieve a lifelong dream of helping many underprivileged people in the Virgin Islands to reach a higher level of self-sufficiency, cut government waste, and bring federal awards to the Department for its efficiency and effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, on November 7, 1994, Mrs. Rhymer-Molloy received a letter from then First Lady Joan Harrigan Farrelly, wishing her well on her retirement from the Government of the Virgin Islands and thanking her for the difference that she made in Mrs. Farrelly's life and the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, after a brief retirement, Mrs. Rhymer-Molloy worked as an Assistant to Governor Roy Lester Schneider; worked on contract for the late Honorable former Senator Lorraine L. Berry, returned to the executive branch and worked for former Governor Charles Wesley Turnbull as his Chief of Staff; retired again for a few years, then worked as a consultant to former Governor Kenneth Ezra Mapp, and now is fully retired; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Juel Rhymer-Molloy has earned the respect and admiration of the people of the Virgin Islands for her unselfish dedication to her goal to make a better future for the residents of the Territory; and

WHEREAS, in Resolution No. 1394, the Legislature of the Virgin Islands honored and commended Mrs. Juel Rhymer-Molloy for her extensive government service, commitment, and dedication to her community; 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, again honors and commends Mrs. Juel T. Rhymer-Molloy for her lifetime of service, contributions, and dedication to the people of the Virgin Islands by naming the complex housing the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services the “Juel T.R. Molloy Complex” and bestowing upon her the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor.

SECTION 2. In recognition and appreciation of Mrs. Juel T.R. Rhymer-Molloy’s contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands, the President of the Legislature, or the President’s designee, shall have a perma plaque copy of the Act prepared and presented to Mrs. Juel T.R. Molloy, at an appropriate ceremony in her honor for the renaming of the complex housing the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services, the “Juel T.R. Molloy Complex”.

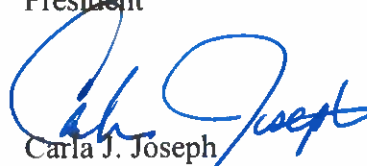
SECTION 3. The sum of \$15,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands to the Department of Public Works for signage to be erected at the main entrance to the complex.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on November 20, 2024.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 21st day of November, A.D., 2024.




 Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
 President


 Carla J. Joseph
 Secretary

Bill No. 35-0316 is hereby approved.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, this 25th day of November 2024 A.D.




 Albert Bryan Jr.
 Governor