

# ACT NO. 8980

BILL NO. 35-0430

## THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

### Regular Session

2024

A Resolution honoring and commending the St. Croix Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated for its numerous contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands and in recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its charter

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**WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated was founded on January 13, 1913, by twenty-two collegiate women at Howard University to promote academic excellence and provide assistance to those in need;

**WHEREAS**, the Founders of Delta Sigma Theta envisioned an organization committed to sisterhood, scholarship, service, and addressing the social issues of the time;

**WHEREAS**, since its founding, Delta Sigma Theta has become one of the preeminent service-based sororities, with more than 300,000 initiated members and over 1,000 chartered chapters worldwide located in the United States, Canada, Japan, Germany, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Jamaica, West Africa, Southern Africa, the United Arab Emirates and the Republic of Korea;

**WHEREAS**, as a sisterhood comprised primarily of Black, college-educated women, the Sorority seriously considers the issues impacting the Black community and boldly confronts the challenges of African Americans and all Americans;

**WHEREAS**, over the years, a wide range of programs addressing education, health, international development, and the strengthening of African American families have been established;

**WHEREAS**, the major programs of the sorority are based upon the Five-Point Programmatic Thrust: Economic Development, Educational Development, International Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health, Political Awareness and Involvement;

**WHEREAS**, the St. Croix Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was chartered on January 25, 1975 by sixteen visionary women: Ada Anderson, Jacqueline Brice-Finch, Martha Edwards, Corine D. King, Peggy Powell, Mellonee Simon, Mary Scott, Jane Varner, Natalie Williams and the late Anna Barnes, Hugh Etta Boulware, Almedia Doward, Thelma Moorhead, Rita de Chabert Schuster, Rita Webber, and Mae Louise C. Williams;

**WHEREAS**, the St. Croix Alumnae Chapter has made numerous contributions to the St. Croix community including the Sickle Cell Parent Support Group, the American Red Cross, the American Cancer Society, St. George's Village Botanical Gardens, the Deaf Coalition of St. Croix, the Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center Pediatric Unit, Virgin Islands Community AIDS Resource and Education, Inc. (VICARE), the Virgin Islands Police Department, the Joseph James Senior Center, ARCH Institute, Law Enforcement Planning Commission, and the Women's Coalition of St. Croix;

**WHEREAS**, the St. Croix Alumnae Chapter works collaboratively with other organizations in the St. Croix community in support of the programs and initiatives;

**WHEREAS**, the St. Croix Alumnae Chapter also supports the brothers and sisters of the National Pan Hellenic Council organizations who share similar goals and objectives of service to the local community;

**WHEREAS**, since 1976, St. Croix Alumnae Chapter has awarded the Rita Weber Scholarship to a graduating young woman, and in 2018, the chapter awarded its first Thelma Moorhead EMBODI scholarship to a graduating young man, in honor of esteemed charter members Rita Weber and Thelma Moorhead respectively;

**WHEREAS**, to date, the St. Croix Alumnae Chapter has awarded more than \$100,000 in scholarships to approximately 150 students with support of its scholarship fund coming from chapter members, friends, businesses, community members, and local fundraising activities;

**WHEREAS**, the St. Croix Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated was selected as the International Chapter recipient of the Action Award for Excellence in Social Action at the organization's 56th National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 21, 2023, in recognition of the Chapter's Anti-Gun Violence Initiative, implemented to raise awareness on gun violence prevention and to reduce the incidences of gun violence in the St. Croix community;

**WHEREAS**, the St. Croix Chapter's efforts are part of sorority's national initiative to get gun violence to be seen and addressed as a public health issue;

**WHEREAS**, the St. Croix Alumnae Chapter will celebrate its 50th charter anniversary on January 25, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Croix Alumnae Chapter has served the St. Croix community with devotion and immeasurable commitment and will continue to fulfill its mission of sisterhood, scholarship, service and social action; Now, Therefore,

***Be it resolved 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 the St. Croix Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated on its 50th charter anniversary, for its service, contributions, and dedication to the people of the Virgin Islands.

**SECTION 2.** In recognition and appreciation of the St. Croix Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and its contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands, and its 50<sup>th</sup> charter anniversary, the President of the Legislature, or the President's designee, shall have a perma plaque copy of this Resolution prepared and presented to a representative of the St. Croix Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority at an appropriate ceremony.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on December 18, 2024.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, A.D., 2024.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Novelle E. Francis, Jr.".

Novelle E. Francis, Jr.  
President

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Carla J. Joseph".

Carla J. Joseph  
Secretary



Bill No. 35- 0430 is hereby approved.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, this 31<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2024 A.D.

  
Albert Bryan Jr.  
Governor