11/20/2024-SPECIAL ODERED

BILL NO. 35-0416

Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

November 20, 2024

An Act honoring and commending the Honorable Senator Alicia "Chucky" Hansen posthumously for her unmatched and immeasurable service and dedication to the people of the Virgin Islands, the Caribbean, and the United States as the longest-serving senator from the District of St. Croix and the highest vote-getter in the territory's history by designating December 6th as "Alicia 'Chucky' Hansen Day"

PROPOSED BY: Senators Javan E. James, Sr. and Diane T. Capehart

WHEREAS, Honorable Senator Alicia "Chucky" Hansen, a distinguished political giant, has rendered unmatched and immeasurable service to the people of the Virgin Islands, the Caribbean region, and the United States, during her unprecedented 11 terms as a senator, making her the longest serving senator in the history of St. Croix;

WHEREAS, Senator Hansen holds the historic achievement of being the highest vote-getter in the senatorial elections in the Virgin Islands, earning the unwavering trust and support of the Virgin Islands people through her relentless advocacy;

WHEREAS, Senator Hansen was born on December 6, 1952, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and as a spirited 16-year-old, she relocated to St. Croix at the request of her godmother, the legendary Senator Ruby Rouss, where she would begin her path of political greatness;

WHEREAS, Senator Hansen was a beloved wife and mother, married to Esdel Hansen Sr. for 47 years, with whom she raised four children—Esdel Hansen Jr., Erskin Hansen, Elizabeth Hansen, and Ericksen Hansen—and her family served as a pillar of strength

throughout her political career, exemplifying her remarkable ability to balance public service with a deep commitment to her family;

WHEREAS, Senator Hansen's tireless work and advocacy over her 11 terms resulted in landmark legislation that continues to positively impact the Virgin Islands, including Act No. 5498 establishing the Hotel Occupancy Tax; Act No. 6395, creating the Timeshare Tax; Act No. 6396, providing Marine Industry Economic Development Commission Benefits; Act No. 5661, establishing the Anti-Litter & Beautification Program; and many other legislative measures that have shaped the social and economic landscape of the Virgin Islands;

WHEREAS, Senator Hansen is renowned for being a courageous defender of human rights, standing up for the rights of all individuals regardless of place of birth, ethnicity, or skin color, and earning the well-deserved title, "The People's Voice" for her dedication to justice and equality;

WHEREAS, in addition to her remarkable legislative accomplishments, Senator Hansen was a prominent figure in Virgin Islands entertainment, bringing world-class performances to the islands and supporting local talent, including her daughter Elizabeth Hansen, the renowned "VI Soca Diva";

WHEREAS, Senator Hansen's contributions extended beyond politics and entertainment, as she was appointed as the Advisor on Governmental, Economic, and Legislative Affairs to the Governor of the Virgin Islands in the Bryan/Roach Administration;

WHEREAS, Senator Hansen's influence transcended the boundaries of the Virgin Islands, earning her national and international recognition, including speaking at major events such as the "Million Women's March" in Washington, DC, where she represented and advocated for the rights of women and marginalized communities;

WHEREAS, Senator Hansen, a proud Latina, was a passionate advocate for the rights and needs of the Spanish-speaking community in the U.S. Virgin Islands, dedicating herself to

promoting cultural inclusivity and empowerment, thereby enriching the social fabric of the territory;

WHEREAS, Senator Hansen was deeply committed to supporting the territory's veterans through her active involvement in the American Legion, serving as Auxiliary Unit President of both Auxiliary Unit 85 and Auxiliary Unit 102;

WHEREAS, Senator Hansen championed legislation that provided critical resources for veterans, assisted them in achieving home ownership, and secured the right for spouses of veterans to be buried with their partners in the veterans' cemetery, reflecting her unwavering dedication to the well-being of our servicemen and women;

WHEREAS, Senator Hansen sponsored legislation that enabled the development of housing in areas such as Estate Castle Burke, Estate Adventure, and affordable housing in the Louis E. Brown and Annas Hope Apartments which addressed critical housing needs of the territory;

WHEREAS, Senator Hansen advocated for legislation mandating the presence of a Spanish-speaking translator at all government agencies to better serve the Virgin Islands community, ensuring that government agencies provide prompt, person-to-person responses to public inquiries, thereby improving accessibility and responsiveness in government services;

WHEREAS, through her dynamic weekly talk show, "Keeping in Touch" on WSTX 970 AM, Senator Hansen solidified her legacy as a political powerhouse, community leader, and advocate for the people by fostering civic engagement, addressing key issues, ensuring her constituents' voices were heard and represented, and empowering them with information;and

WHEREAS, December 6th, the birthdate of Senator Alicia "Chucky" Hansen, serves as a fitting day of recognition to honor her lifelong dedication to public service and her enduring legacy of improving the lives of Virgin Islanders; 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 the Honorable Senator Alicia “Chucky” Hansen posthumously for her unmatched and immeasurable service, dedication, and contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands, the wider Caribbean region, and the United States, as the longest-serving senator from the District of St. Croix and the highest vote-getter in the history of the Virgin Islands.

SECTION 2. In recognition of her extraordinary achievements and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of Virgin Islanders, the Legislature of the Virgin Islands further honors and commends Senator Alicia “Chucky” Hansen posthumously by dedicating December 6th, her birthday, as “Alicia ‘Chucky’ Hansen Day” to be observed annually in her honor.

SECTION 3. The President of the Legislature, or the President’s designee, shall conduct a ceremony to present a permanent plaque copy of this Act to the family of Senator Alicia “Chucky” Hansen commemorating her exemplary service, legislative accomplishments, and lifelong dedication to the people of the Virgin Islands.

BILL SUMMARY

This Act honors and commends the Honorable Senator Alicia "Chucky" Hansen posthumously for her exceptional achievements in public service, her groundbreaking leadership as the longest-serving Senator from St. Croix, and her unwavering advocacy for the rights of the people of the Virgin Islands, as well as her enduring impact on the territory through her numerous legislative accomplishments, by designating December 6th as “Alicia 'Chucky' Hansen Day.”

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