

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
VETERAN AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

BILL NO. 35-0217

Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

December 11, 2023

A Resolution honoring and commending the St. Croix Majorettes for its outstanding fifty years of commitment to nurturing youth, enriching community service, advancing the art and sport of baton twirling, and for its invaluable contributions to the cultural and social fabric of St. Croix

PROPOSED BY: Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.

1 **WHEREAS**, the St. Croix Majorettes was founded in May 1974 by Mrs. Celia T.
2 Maldonado and Ms. Mirta Martinez, along with Co-Directors Miguel Duchesne and Mrs. Maria
3 Cotto, as a means to provide an enriching outlet for the youth of St. Croix, Virgin Islands; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the formation of the St. Croix Majorettes was inspired by Mrs. Maldonado's
5 daughter, Celia Lisette Maldonado, and her aspiration to become a majorette, leading to the
6 creation of a group initially comprising around sixty girls aged four to sixteen; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the St. Croix Majorettes quickly expanded to include a marching band in
8 November 1974, formed with the assistance of Danny Canton, Paul Smith, and seventeen
9 members; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in October 2010, the St. Croix Majorettes hosted its first twirling clinic,
11 offering invaluable training opportunities by off-island trainers not only to its members but also
12 to local twirling groups and groups from St. Thomas and Puerto Rico; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in January 2023, the St. Croix Majorettes received the honor of being the
2 Grand Marshal for the Crucian Christmas Festival Children’s Parade and participated in its first
3 commercial with Liberty Communications, Virgin Islands; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the St. Croix Majorettes has been a vibrant part of numerous local parades,
5 community activities, and civic events, presenting unique majorettes’ performances and
6 representing the Virgin Islands in various national and international competitions and events,
7 including America’s Youth On Parade, Twirl Mania, and the virtual Parade Across America for
8 President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris’ Inauguration in 2021; and

9 **WHEREAS**, today, the St. Croix Majorettes stands as a non-profit organization, resilient
10 through challenges such as hurricanes and the COVID-19 pandemic, and operated by a
11 dedicated Board and volunteer staff, continuing to offer opportunities for youth development
12 and expression in the sport of baton twirling; Now, Therefore,

13 ***Be it resolved by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

14 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin
15 Islands, profoundly recognizes and honors the St. Croix Majorettes for its outstanding fifty years
16 of commitment to nurturing youth, enriching community service, advancing the art and sport of
17 baton twirling, and for its invaluable contributions to the cultural and social fabric of St. Croix.

18 **SECTION 2.** The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin
19 Islands, extends its deepest gratitude to the founders, directors, members, and the supportive
20 community of the St. Croix Majorettes, celebrating the organization’s indelible impact in
21 fostering talent, confidence, and camaraderie among its members. The Legislature applauds the
22 St. Croix Majorettes’ resilience in the face of adversity, including natural disasters and global
23 challenges, and commends their unwavering spirit and dedication. As the St. Croix Majorettes
24 approaches its 50th anniversary in 2024, the Legislature wishes the organization a splendid and

1 memorable celebration, reflecting on past achievements while looking forward to a future filled
2 with further accomplishments and community contributions.

3 **SECTION 3.** In acknowledgment of this golden milestone, the President of the
4 Legislature, or the President’s designee, shall have a perma plaque copy of this Resolution
5 prepared and presented to the St. Croix Majorettes at an appropriate ceremony.

6 **BILL SUMMARY**

7 This resolution honors and commends the St. Croix Majorettes for its outstanding fifty
8 years of commitment to nurturing youth, enriching community service, advancing the art and
9 sport of baton twirling, and for its invaluable contributions to the cultural and social fabric of
10 St. Croix.

11 **BR23-0901/December 8, 2023/GC**