



Older Americans' Month Mock Session

Legislature USVI

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- 0:00:00 - Recognize for your two minutes. - Good morning again to everyone and to the people of the Virgin Islands. Madam President, I am in agreement with Bill 36-0000, and I have a few concerns in terms of seniors. You know, when you're entering public buildings, it should have more ramps there for you, 'cause most of us seniors are suffering with issues. So we're asking that we have more accessible ramps. Also, like my colleague just said, customer service really needs some help here in our territory. Also, businesses, when you call them, you can't get anyone, you're getting a recorder, and then you have to put in whichever number, and it's very, very frustrating.
- 0:01:08 Sometimes it gets on my nerves. - One minute. - Also, in the bank, when you go to the bank, we like something to be done for our seniors. We stand up there for hours with one teller. By the time you're finished, you need your cane to get out of the bank. So I'm asking that you please look into it. Some of us look very stiffly as seniors, but we have a lot of pain. So we're asking for you to consider these things. - Thank you. - Thank you, Senator Vele. Senator Lewis, you're recognized for your two minutes. - Morning again.
- 0:01:53 I am fully in support of the bill, but I would like to add, which I'm sure will be an amendment, probably in the future. We are discussing access in and out of the building, but while we are in the building, my concern is in the event of an emergency or disaster, depending on the capacity of the building, will the entity be responsible for providing staff in the event of an emergency for exiting or care, or do we have to stand around and wait for 911? That's my concern. And I know Senator Lewis is a hardworking person, so I'm sure he will find a way to see how we can institute any measures as far as emergencies and disaster events. Thank you. - Thank you, Senator Lewis. Senator Gittins, you're recognized for your two minutes.
- 0:02:58 - Thank you, Madam President, and good day again to everyone. I stand in favor of this bill. As a senior citizen and a proud resident of the Virgin Islands, I speak not only from experience, but from the shared experience of many in our aging and disabled communities. This is more than a matter of convenience. It is a matter of dignity. Every resident,

regardless of age or ability, deserves to move through our public space freely and safely. Moreover, I have an amendment to include constructing sidewalks on all major roadways of the VI. Yes, all major roadways of the VI. And I am from St. Croix. So those of you in St. Croix, you know what I'm talking about.

0:03:48 I am speaking about being able to walk on any major roadway. I drive and I have assisted many persons walking along Queen Mary Highway who are in danger of being hit by cars. One thing I'd like to say, in addition to the safety, walking is a very healthy way to maintain life. In fact, if we could walk more often, we wouldn't be having to go to our various hospitals. You know, I'm serious, you need to think about that. Walking is encouraged by doctors, as you all well know. Americans with disability, there should be certain standards for the width of these sidewalks. Don't just throw anything up there. Thirty seconds. You need to have a sidewalk that's wide enough for a wheelchair and a pedestrian to walk past there.

0:04:42 You need to have a sidewalk that people don't have to stumble over broken concrete. At any rate, I do thank you for listening. And I hope and pray that you incorporate this amendment in this bill. Thank you. I urge my colleagues to support this measure. And I know who you are, who talked about sidewalks to them. Thank you, Senator Gittins. Colleagues, I rise in support of this bill.

0:05:21 But before I do, I wanted to say something to Senator Vele, because I know that there is a law where government offices are supposed to have live answering, not machines, and they have machines. And so I urge this body to look into that, because -- Because we are -- we do call government offices, and you get a machine, and you have to go to this number and to that number, and there is a law that says they're supposed to have a live person. So I do urge this body to look into that as it relates to government offices. I do rise in support of this bill to provide accommodations for the elderly, the disabled, and seniors to provide access to public buildings and sidewalks. I stand in support of this bill because, as a community, we must assist in providing our seniors and disabled members to provide the opportunity to continue to be self-sufficient. Only through the ability to access public buildings and sidewalks readily and easily can they accomplish this goal of self-sufficiency. It is the responsibility and duty of the leaders in this community to assist in every way possible, and to pass laws that will ensure that the most vulnerable members of our community are provided for. One minute. One minute. Although this bill may require a little tweaking in its language for clarity of intent, I wholeheartedly support this bill. Colleagues, we have exhausted our round of questioning. Do I hear a motion?

0:07:11 Point of information. Who said it? Point of information, Senator DeGraff. I promise I'll be very short. I would like to have specific lines for seniors in some of our grocery stores, our drug stores. There's a specific drug store, I won't call a name. I know you folks know who I'm talking about. Where I have been standing for like 30 minutes. And for you folks who know me or who don't know me, I'm walking with a K now. And I can't stand up for 30 minutes. I mean, come on. Let's have lines specifically for the seniors in these places. OK, you know what I mean. Do like the post office. Whenever I go into the post office, they always say, come on up, regardless of how long the line is. And this is how it should be. I am a senior citizen and you need to let me get in the front of the line. OK? All right. Thank you very much, President. Amendment. This thing you want. Amendment.

0:08:30 Point of information, I recognize Senator Frederick, and then I will recognize Senator Heiliger. Amendment. Express a concern which has to do with our beaches. God has provided the sea as a therapeutic measure for people, especially seniors. And if not all of us, we know that going in the sea is a healthy thing. So no one should have any right to hinder a citizen from accessing the sea. Just because someone has money and bought the land should not give that individual any right to prevent to prevent the citizens from accessing the waters of the land.

0:09:53 There's a lot for that. So I'm asking that we seriously consider if someone has land and they feel they do not want the citizens to pass through their land. So I understand provision needs to be made because the sea is therapeutic for all. Not only because you have money that you and your family can access, that it's a God-given right. But I just want to thank you, Madam President, for allowing me to express that concern. Thank you. Thank you, Senator Frederick. And I was just informed that there is already a law about public access to the beaches and the land. So if you are having a particular problem, I suggest you contact the Senator so that we can get on it because it's already in the code.

0:10:59 Senator Heiliger: I want to use myself as an example. I'm a senior, 77 years old, close to 78. I feel young, but at this age our bodily functions change. Senator Heiliger: When you enter a building, there is no furniture to sit down. Public buildings, you have to stand, no seating. But the one thing that really needs to be addressed, the bathrooms are turned left, then you go right, then you go down the hallway. Senator Heiliger: You have to get the key. You will mess yourself by the time all of this is finished. So I am saying that once you enter public buildings, the bathrooms need to be close enough, especially when you're walking. Or by the time you get to the building, you want to use the bathroom and you have to do too much to get your business done. Senator Heiliger: That's true. Senator Heiliger: That's true.

- 0:12:18 Senator Heiliger: That's true. Senator Heiliger: If somebody object, then we're going to have to hold up if they object, but if there are no objections, somebody say recognize for the amendment. Senator Heiliger: Amendment? Senator Heiliger: Okay. Senator Heiliger: Okay. Senator Heiliger: Senator Heiliger: Senator Blyden, you are recognized for your amendment. Senator Heiliger: Thank you, Madam President. Senator Heiliger: Okay.
- 0:12:44 Senator Heiliger: I move amendment T-36-1 to bill number 36000 to amend in the following instances. Senator Heiliger: A, in the whereas clauses on line six by inserting after the word spaces, the word preference, and priority. Senator Heiliger: B, in section one, by inserting a new subsection B to read as follows and redesignating the remaining subsections accordingly.
- 0:13:21 Senator Heiliger: In section three, insert afterwards non-skid surface, meeting the ADA standard of a minimum SCOF, whatever that means, of 0.8 for ramps and slopes. Senator Heiliger: I so move. Senator Heiliger: I second the motion. Senator Heiliger: So you're going to say that properly moved? Senator Heiliger: Okay. I don't know who seconded it. Senator Heiliger: Who seconded it? Senator Heiliger: Who seconded it? Senator Heiliger: Who seconded it? Senator Heiliger: Fonseca. Senator Heiliger: Fonseca and Boelkis, Andy Graff.
- 0:13:52 Senator Heiliger: Fonseca and Boelkis, Andy Graff. Senator Heiliger: Fonseca and Boelkis, Andy Graff. Senator Heiliger: I thought you wanted to repeat the motion, because she went so fast, I didn't hear what she said? Senator Heiliger: Okay. Senator Heiliger: Amendment was properly moved by Senator Blyden and seconded by Senators Fonseca, Boelkis, Andy Graff. Senator Heiliger: And seconded by Senators Fonseca, Boelkis, Andy Graff. Senator Heiliger: Hearing no objections. Senator Heiliger: Hearing no objections. Senator Heiliger: Hearing no objections. Senator Heiliger: Hearing no objections. Senator Heiliger: Hearing no objections. Senator Heiliger: Hearing no objections. Senator Heiliger: So ordered. Senator Heiliger: So ordered.
- 0:14:24 Senator Heiliger: That's it. Senator Heiliger: That's it. Senator Heiliger: That's it. Senator Heiliger: That's it. Senator Heiliger: That's it. Senator Heiliger: Do you have another amendment? Senator Heiliger: That's it. Senator Heiliger: Do I ask? Senator Heiliger: Do I ask? Senator Heiliger: Yeah. Senator Heiliger: Are there any other amendments? Senator Heiliger: Yes. Senator Heiliger: Amendment. Senator Heiliger: Motion. Senator Heiliger: Move, move, move, move, move. Senator Heiliger: Amendment before the motion. Senator Heiliger: Uh-huh. Senator Heiliger: It's recognized. Senator Heiliger: Okay. Senator Heiliger: Okay. Senator Heiliger: Okay. Senator Heiliger: Okay. Senator Heiliger: Senator Gittins. Senator Heiliger: Yes. Senator Heiliger: Yes. Senator Heiliger: Yes. Senator Heiliger: Yes. Senator Heiliger: Yes. Senator Heiliger: Yes. Senator Heiliger: Yes.
- 0:14:54 Senator Heiliger: Yes. Senator Heiliger: Yes. Senator Heiliger: Yes. Senator Heiliger: Thank you. Senator Heiliger: Do you have an amendment? Senator Heiliger: Yes. Senator Heiliger: I move to offer an amendment to Bill 36-0000, Section 329, Sidewalks. Senator Heiliger: The statement, Paragraph A, no, sorry, Paragraph 6, Section 329A is amended as follows: Sidewalks must be constructed on all major roadways within the Virgin Islands to allow physically disabled persons and senior citizens reasonable access thereto.
- 0:15:46 Senator Heiliger: Okay. Senator Heiliger: I so move. Senator Heiliger: Second. Senator Heiliger: Thank you. Senator Heiliger: Thank you. Senator Heiliger: Objection? Senator Heiliger: Second. Senator Heiliger: Okay. Senator Heiliger: What do I say? Senator Heiliger: Properly moved by... Senator Heiliger: Okay. Senator Heiliger: Seconded by... Senator Heiliger: Okay. Senator Heiliger: Amendment was properly moved by Senator Gittins and seconded... Senator Heiliger: You know how the major rules... Senator Heiliger: Point of order. Senator Heiliger: Point of order. Senator Heiliger: Point of order. Senator Heiliger: Point of order. Senator Heiliger: Senator Francis. Senator Francis: What rule has been broken? Senator Francis: What rule has been broken? Senator Francis: What rule has been broken?
- 0:16:20 Senator Francis: What rule has been broken? [1 such phrases repeated 28 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]
- 0:16:48 Senator Francis: What rule has been broken? [1 such phrases repeated 21 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]
- 0:17:19 Senator Francis: What rule has been broken? [1 such phrases repeated 23 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]
- 0:17:52 Senator Francis: What rule has been broken? [1 such phrases repeated 25 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]
- 0:18:27 Senator Francis: What rule has been broken? [1 such phrases repeated 25 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]

[illegible]

seconded by blyden bigrav and everybody else properly moved motion was properly moved by senator court bailey and seconded by senator blyden the graph bolkus and the rest of the senators madam clerk can we have a roll call oh do we repeat one minute please i'm sorry

0:29:27 madam clerk can you please read the bill as amended consideration of the bill and act amending bill number three six dash zero zero zero zero an act amending title 29 virgin allen's code chapter 5a to establish adequate access and resting areas in public buildings to senior citizens and physically disabled persons as amended okay roll call senator marvin a blyden yes senator blyden yes click it okay senator angel l bolquist jr senator bolquist yes senator okay senator dwayne m de graf yes senator de graf yes senator ray fonseca yes senator fonseca senator nobel e francis jr senator francis jr senator francis jay senator almer francis heiliger jr francis heiliger jr francis heiliger jr senator hubert l frederick senator fredericks jr Senator Kenneth L. Gettins. Senator Gettins, yay. Senator Maurice C. James. Senator James, yay. Senator Franklin D. Johnson. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph, yay. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Clifford A. Johnson Sr., Joseph Sr., yay. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Avery L. Lewis, yay. Senator Lewis, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter,

0:32:26 yes. Senator Potter, yay. Senator Court A. Verley, yay. Senator Verley, yay. Madam President, 15, yay. Colleagues, bill number 36-0000 and act amending Title 29, Virgin Islands Court, chapter 5A to establish adequate access and resting areas in public buildings to senior citizens and physically disabled persons as amended has been favorably voted upon by this body and will be forwarded to the governor for final consideration and action of information senator giddens you're recognized for your point of information thank you madam president if we can find monies to pay retroactive monies for the governor and the lieutenant governor we can find monies for the safety and well-being of our seniors and the disabled in addition to that those of you who have problems with the amendment are drivers you all own cars i'm talking about people who don't have cars and it's not just the seniors it's the disabled uh young old male female etc thank you thank you senator gittins point of personal privilege senator lewis thank you madam president no no no i know they're gonna join now

0:34:30 point of personal privilege privilege senator de graff okay again um thank you um madam president this is a part of the script because uh mr milligan is retiring friday and i'd like to make sure if you could come up and then everybody you're going to honor it thank you good we'll just give everybody one minute okay okay yeah okay okay one minute okay all right everybody will get one minute point of personal privilege every senator all right every senator will get one minute for their point of personal privilege starting with senator the graph she's not here thank you thank you thank you madam president again um it has been my honor to to be here have a fellow souvenir representing me and here in support of uh center johnson and center francis heiliger young lady my former teacher she was miss fraser then now she's miss pain but again thank you for that and um seniors are very special to me and to all of us but the things like i said wanted to mention specifically mr milligan for all he has done and all the the person the human services that have provided services for our seniors senior number one so i just wanted to make sure on the record where the camera is showing we could have mr milligan come up here so the virgin islands can see him for all prosperity going forward to see the services that he did for the people of the virgin islands and specifically for our seniors thank you for the time madam president

0:36:45 uh thank you madam president and good morning madam president good morning colleagues uh and of course the listening and viewing audience and of course i am honored to have uh true bond st johnian represent me as the senator at large here today miss guinevere heineman and i thank her for all that she's done in our society uh for the island of st john along with all of the other representatives here today along with everyone who's here in the chambers uh good morning and i wanted to also express uh thanks to the commissioner of the department of human services along with mr milligan for all of their efforts and work in this area and of course having this old americans month mark session is a important part of how we are able to come together in a forum such as this to hear your concerns directly and of course to do our part as legislators uh to support you in the endeavors that we think are important for our society so i want to thank each and every one of you for being here today god bless you and thank you for the time madam president thank you senator bulky senator pedric uh pleasant good morning hello a pleasant good morning i want to uh thank my colleagues for this opportunity the seniors for coming out and showing us how it's really done um for central staff for their awesome help and for the mock central staff for doing your job thank you so much this is a learning experience for me this is the first time i've experienced this uh we did one with the girl scouts and that was fun this one is even better because you're seeing some of the concerns that you the taxpayers you've paid into this system we've seen now what your concerns are and it's our job now to make sure you get your money's worth it's not fair for us to fill everybody else's concerns but the people who actually paid into the system their concerns are

0:38:46 not being met so this was an eye-opener for me thank you so much it's unfortunate we can't get every road have a sidewalk but that's okay you know at some point we're going to get better roads better sidewalks so keep advocating i i

really appreciate this keep advocating push us because we represent you and we need to be led in the right direction sometimes we get a little you know off center time so thank you so much for all you've done and i appreciate mr sylvester and miss smith berry for helping us out today thank you so much thank you senator frederick senator francis well thank you very much madam president for the time and opportunity i too want to join and commend in the work that has been done by department of human services um every year to come here i think this is my ninth time um participating in this and of course we had to cancel last year uh because of the weather and we're extremely disappointed in that we look forward to this every single year and i want to also extend congratulations and thanks to our executive director's office there's a lot of work that goes into putting on this type of event there's no easy feat and we commend them for doing that i also want to thank mr dylan for representing me today i think he did an excellent job and you could have my seat any day you want um in wrapping up i too want to really commend the work the hard work that's been put forward by mr alvin milligan it's truly sad to see him leave this position i try to encourage him to stay a little longer i try to offer him an incentive um to stay a little longer but we have to respect when time is up for you you have something else that he wants to do in life we could appreciate that so thank you alvin from the bottom of my heart again for all the work that you do yeah he's actually transitioning he's not retiring because we want to see him in church at funerals and play music and he had a lot more things to do so really thank you alvin for all that you have done god bless you and god bless each and every one of you thank you for the opportunity thank you

0:40:53 senator francis senator james thank you madam president first of all i want to thank pearl flax who happens to be the classmate of one of my colleagues and she did a wonderful job today thank you so much and i have a brandy who actually turned out to be just like me she came out of left field so i really want to thank you for being here with me today i also want to say to senator novel francis the senior that nelson mandela became president at the age of 78 so when he said you could sit in his seat i think he really meant it i also want to from the bottom of my heart thank mr alvin milligan for all that you have done for our seniors um from the bottom of my heart i could say so much more i really want to thank all the seniors who are here today because wisdom only comes from lived experience and maturity and i was not surprised to hear any of you speak today because you came from a wise place and so i appreciated your presence today i want to say that just like you i have more behind me than in front of me in terms of lived years but as we get older we learn to savor our lives more because the candies are more precious to us and i got that from a poet so i want to thank you all for being here and wish you the best in your lives thank you thank you senator james senator fronsca and pleasant good morning to everybody and i'd like to say a special thank you to commissioner avril george you know she was here with us all day

0:42:58 yesterday as a matter of fact she even tell me fonseca i need a seat i was right here from 9 to 4 35 yesterday you know as the chair of the health hospitals and human services committee we need all the senators to continue to help us to fix the elderly issues special thanks to marola phillips you know she's a stroke victim survivor we have a bill right now it's in the finance committee i believe we have funding where we're going to be providing the bracelets for all the stroke victim survivors i'd like to thank the whole 36 legislature recently you know we approved millions of dollars for both hospitals but the work is still to be done we have to address like miss marola phillips said the residents in the elderly years need more assisted units and more elderly living facilities so we have to continue to do the work of the elderly and i'm so fortunate and thanks to everybody for continuing to assist us blessings well thank you for senator fonseca senator blyden thank you madam president and good morning to my colleagues good morning to the beautiful seniors in the audience thank you for being here and good morning to the beautiful people of the virgin islands i must say first of all i want to give thanks to all that participated today i want to give thanks to mr milligan for the work you have done over the years for our seniors and i really appreciate that i respect you commissioner george continue the good work when it comes to our seniors um everyone knows seniors hold a special place in my heart and um this is the best session of the year i look forward to the session every year i want to give special thanks to my senator mary harley a 40-year educator 40 years and she was appointed again as usual i want to thank you for representing well and basically advocating on behalf of the seniors with amendment um she did have several other amendment in the first bill but they took them out so we were good but again time thank all of the seniors for representing their senators you all did a very good job today i must say and i appreciate all of you and again everybody stay blessed and i look forward to eating the food

0:45:27 thank you thank you senator blight and senator bailey thank you madam president i think it's only fitting that before i see any comments that we pay tribute to a great senior that we just lost this weekend edgy 10 sleepless nights elred christian could hear his voice ringing in my ear because one of my favorite event is listening to stanley on a regular basis so let's have a moment of silence for mr colleagues if you could please stand a moment of silence so mr elred edgy christian eldred thank you so now you can start my minute okay that was okay you got it there it's it's it's a good day and congratulations to all of the seniors it was good to have some educators as senators in the house okay we had my my good colleague that i battled with for years jenna smith charlotte molly and we have eudora ken hole in the house miss let

some you do reckon administration long time educator so it's good for you guys to be here for our superintendent i mean miss p we just have so many educators so thank you guys and look at how educators age so gracefully look at

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all of them so gracefully we have a long time human services employee 30 years and human services okay miss miss baston felicia long time human services employee i want to thank her she did a wonderful job today and i'm i'm rushing now and just listening to all of the seniors colleagues in their two-minute debate time they outlined so much issues that need to be solved so much issues or we might take a simplistic but it's so serious calling the phone and going to a recording despite legislation that speaks that you must have somebody to answer the phone time standing in a bank line for a long period of time with no place to sit so your concerns are heard i just sat here and i just kept on nodding my head saying they have it so right now we have to really try our best as to how we're going to be able to address these concerns alvin milligan you have been great to human services you have been great to the senior population i saw your interaction with my parents my mom my father at the senior center and the senior center can't be the same without you so i have begged him to make sure that on a regular basis he visit the senior center every week two or three times or the enrollment is going to decline so you got to go because you're cooking bullfoot soup and sauce and that kind of thing people coming for that you think we won't come there for mcdonald's and kentucky bullfoot soup sauce calado fried fish so you got to stay so i am appealing to you make sure okay congratulations to alvin let's give him a big round of applause thank you thank you senator velez senator lewis thank you madam president good good afternoon colleagues good afternoon our lovely seniors you know it's a pleasure today it was a surprise this weekend i was in away and when i came in this morning i saw

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my cousin in the hallway and i said ceila what are you doing here today she said you didn't know i'm you today i said me but i know that's my lovely cousins from seaside in south side so i ain't here alone but i like i have to recognize my st john crew because from time i made it to st john those lady embraced me and showed me plenty love man if you're from st john throw your hand in the air you see there small but mighty and full of love and the one that i have to say today besides share my gratitude to mr milligan even when i was saying thomas administrator him and miss george and even the previous commissioner we never miss a centurion birthday we always visited them and mr milligan kept kept madam president can i continue mr milligan kept that kept on on me and the administration to make sure that we deliver but the one thing i have to say before i stop is this bill that they brought today was so timely because tomorrow we have office of disaster recovery in front of us and these are the type of questions we need to make sure we ask and in their planning we need to make sure that they include these things in these new structures that is being built wrong town it's not just for the young or whatever but we have to include it for our seniors because we too well i bothering on the senior side soon gonna need these accommodations so i just like to say to everyone let's have a great day and in those in st thomas st john area the senators on this side soon will have a little treat for you because we didn't have an opportunity to really celebrate all americans month so we'll be letting you know what's coming forward but again thank you to my classmate mr yorgin commissioner george avril george mr milligan the whole human services and all

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who out there that are caring for a loved one or senior thank you for all you do have a great day thank you senator lewis senator gittins thank you madam president and this time i would like equal time please thank you you know let me let me start first with something that the secretary just spoke about having disaster recovery coming before us tomorrow and the questions we should be asking he is so on point because we're doing a lot of ribbon cutting these days but while we cutting we cutting a lot of things too you know i i say that i am very proud and i'm happy to see our facilities reopening again but my one disappointment the other day again at the vincent mason pool was that when you go there you have seen such a reduction in the facilities i mean so we're talking about restroom facilities when you go to that facility now you've gone from a whole locker room that used to had about six to eight shower styles down to one today with the amount of summer students and and and people in the community that's going to be utilizing that facility imagine from six to eight to one the plumbing no good and then again we reopened the time no not already gotta be impossible uh we reopened the fish market in st croix finally after how many years again plumbing issues with the small drain hole that they have there listen if we're going to do things let's do it right all right do it right from the onset but let me go to the positive side because i i want to really give a heartfelt thank you to all you seniors who are here you're not just our elders but you're our guideposts as well with your experience that you have brought it is our time now to work on not only your behalf but on behalf of our young people

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i hear a lot of my colleagues saying that this is their best session my best session is two this one and the one with the girl scouts the young people the only thing that i would like to see going forward is that we get some boy scouts in here too because ain't just the girls and ain't just the senior people but we need the boys and the girl scouts up inside here so that we could uh try to do things let me go over quickly to mr milligan i too want to publicly thank you for your uh all that you've done in government throughout and all that you're doing for our churches although you're moravian or a catholic because you do it to everyone everyone but this is our agonist throughout and not only throughout the island of st croix

but even in the territory you know this is a man of many hats but i want to be real as well while he is retiring i know like many of his colleagues are truly frustrated as well and as they're frustrated we as leaders need to have the talk with them to see how we could reduce some of their frustration in government i always tell people that government is a place where we work for the people not for ourselves and if we start to understand this i think we will do a little better because we're going to realize sooner or later we're going to be in y'all chair we're going to be right where you are and hoping that people walk in on our behalf and in our best interest miss tyler tyler correct people would think that i were telling all what to do i had a thing to do with the amendment time not a thing but i was happy to hear her talk about those sidewalks because again madam president if i may wrap up here i i have a elderly

0:55:50 aunt as well who i'm pretty sure looking at this and in front of her house on mars hill in frederickstead there's a big mahogany tree there that tore up the whole sidewalk the children that are walking from the one housing community going to the clado marco school now have one of two options either to walk in her property or walk in the street she's at the point where she ain't chasing nobody child from walking on her property because like she said she preferred that they walk on her property than to walk in the street and be hit by a car while that same mahogany tree is also not only tearing up the sidewalk but tearing up her system just about every eight months we got to go down in the system to repair it so we have some real issues in this community i thank you all very much for this uh thought provoking bill we need to look at this for real thank you all so much and thank you to the department of human services for all that you do with our seniors i know we could do a lot more and we just need to put our heads together thank you all so much thank you senator gittins senator potter good afternoon everybody i really thank you all for being here thank you for making this a priority i really believe that the ultimate test of a moral society is the manner in which we treat our seniors it really is i think as leaders in this body we have every incentive to do our very best to support causes for seniors because i think that the almighty will judge us accordingly so we have every incentive to do right to do that by our senior citizens i want to really thank my president for today we couldn't have selected a better

0:58:06 president miss lydia let's um she did an awesome an incredible job i think when you bring when you bring educators i think educators i know we have several educators here um you know in the group i think they really raise the level of discourse um you know to a top notch level i want to really thank again mr alvin milligan for his lifelong commitment to seniors thank you very much sir for the fine work that you've done of course ang and carla lucinda again i'm gonna call her cindy thank charis charis charis thank you very much for all that you do consistently on behalf of our seniors i want to thank the commissioner avril george avril george has a stack of things on her desk this high that she could be doing but she saw this as being so important and so significant that she spent the morning with us for our seniors i want to thank you commissioner for that in a big way i want to thank the the entire department of human services team you know because it really takes team effort to pull something like this off it seems seamless it seems easy but everybody doing their small part makes the difference so i want to thank you all any human services employees i see julie stand up human services employee thank you thank you thank you very much we love we appreciate you so much

0:59:56 look we have a lot of good sessions but without question to me this is the session that i most look forward to on an annual basis it really is kind of recharges me um so i appreciate you for coming we have a great meal downstairs great lunch downstairs uh for you before i do that though the beach jamboree that was scheduled for march 13th at kramer's park march 30th may 30th may 30th may 30th at kramer's park will now be at the frederickstead pool so the vincent mason pool the same thing that i uh pool that the vice president just mentioned so thank you very much ladies and gentlemen let's okay before we go we want to give mr alvin milligan i know this is impromptu we want to give you a couple minutes if miss lydia let someone the president will allow okay to come up and say a few words mr good day most of you know that i'm very shy that's not true though but nevertheless i just want to thank each and everyone for all the accolades that you share here today um retirement for me is twofold and i'll share with you on a personal note i made 32 years in this government and my grandmother who i was raised by miriam milligan she was supposed to retire april first of the year when she made her 32nd year and she passed away i made on march 26th that was not going to happen to alvin i'll be around i am a virgin islander night generation crucian to be exact but i always say sanita bowl case and all my saint john pasi saint john is my first love that would never change first time i travel i went to saint john at three years old when i was in the head start program and ever since that has been my first love no we were flew we flew until he's able then they used to go straight to saint john that's how

1:02:20 long ago it was and my job here at human services was not a novice to me because i knew my grandmother i knew my great-grandmother and i knew my great-great-grandmother i knew my grandmother's grandmother so i was privileged to have that so it wasn't awkward for me to be around the l le or well i am l le because i am well young okay but nevertheless i am too pleased with what happened here today i think this is the largest crowd we've had in a long time right so i am grateful and just to let you know i appreciate everything i have no place to go i said to somebody that day i and i think i showed you two i have my burial spot already in frederickstead cemetery i was born and raised in

frederickstead and one of the things i watched everybody said to me what you're going to do i said i know on monday morning i ain't going to nobody walk i am grateful but commissioner george i want to thank you you came on board at a pivotal time and i think we kind of got into and it's nothing personal and you know people like oh you're retiring blah blah blah it's at some time you have to say change the chapter all right but i would always be an advocate for my beloved seniors i see attorney gaddy in the house i like to personally thank you as well because all over the years you've always been a great advocate for our seniors and to sharice and i know you got cindy in your mind but it's sharice i would also want to publicly thank you as well because all that you do and i would say this the department of human services a big department but when it comes to the division of senior citizens of it not because i stand at the helm i'll put them against any division because it's a few of us but we work hard and it's passionate i tell them if you don't have a heart for seeing us don't come i have seen application commission you know that too come i said nothing targets to them they're awkward don't yourself consider them so i am hoping i know miss kishma vincent my assistant is here and she would lead him starting monday so i asked publicly that everybody gives her the same support that they gave to me thank you so much thank you thank you mr milligan and i just want to ask dr gaddy to to stand and be recognized too for all your efforts

1:04:47

and contributions thank you so uh very much yeah good point mr secretary made a good point media can you pan the room so that people in the audience will have an appreciation for the persons who came out uh this morning and this afternoon for the program if it's if it's possible for you to do so let's give them a round all right it's a heavy seat to sit in good afternoon everyone good afternoon my beloved seniors special permission to sit in the president's seat um as the department of human services commissioner i just want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the legislature the senators the staff at the legislature and everybody for this opportunity for the seniors i think this is one of the events that they were so looking forward to to be here in the legislature today october month is not for the week um every senate every may month is not for the week sorry may month is not i'm looking forward to october to celebrate again with my seniors may month is not for the week the seniors had a fun fill pack month of activities from the beginning to the end and they came out to all activities because this month was all about celebrating them and making sure that they feel appreciated our team for this year is flip the script flip the script on aging and we really did it this month we flipped the script um seniors are there to my heart because my mom is a senior as well and i know she's watching on tv hi mommy um but i just want to say we really appreciate you welcoming us into your house and having the seniors feel appreciated and having them do what they do best as you can see their mouth is not tired they can represent themselves well and that is one of the things we want to make sure that our seniors know that they have a voice and they when they have a 911 guess who they call me i'm the 911 so on behalf of all our seniors territory

1:07:29

wide thank you for your support this month on our activities i also want to take the opportunity to thank everyone that supported us from our sponsors brian roach administration the edge i can go down the line via we can go down the line the minute we start to call names we're gonna get in trouble so i'll stop there but everyone that participated and supported our seniors for senior month we just want to say thank you thank you thank you thank you thank you and not only celebrate them this month but celebrate them throughout the year not only one month celebrate your seniors throughout the year and i'll ask my team like we always say you look to the person next to your left and what do you say we appreciate you so take the time look to the person to your left and say we appreciate you you look to the person to the right and say we love you and then we say as we say my team know we always say dhs on the rise so on the count of three we'll say dhs on the rise i won't mention anything about mr milligan leaving because i'm gonna get emotional but on behalf of the team we give mr milligan another round of applause for his service and i'll say i'll say my goodbye separate you won't get me on camera crying i'll get an emotional but thank you thank you thank you on behalf of dhs the awesome staff at dhs not just the senior team but our entire team we say thank you thank you for all your support thank you point of honor point of privilege we want to also say a happy birthday to miss mall baker in advance i know your birthday is next week so happy birthday to you we want to say a happy belated

1:09:23

birthday birthday to our very own majority leader so card vla whose birthday was yesterday monday monday so he rapidly becoming a senior he is rapidly just a hair away so you've joined me uh thank you mr president mr president on behalf of yourself and the entire 36 legislature we have a little token of appreciation for all who participated here today we have a certificate of participation and i'll be calling it i'll ask my colleagues if you could come in the front please so we could as we call the names the individuals will come forward and receive their certificate colleagues it's hardly ready yeah yeah

1:11:11

go in the line seniors as i call your name please come forward before i hand the certificate the certificate reads as follow certificate of participation this certificate is presented to person for participation in the senior citizenship day mock session at the legislature of the virgin islands on wednesday may 28 2025 is signed by senator milton e potter senate president of the 36th legislature of the virgin islands and it has our seal old americans month flip the script on aging may 2025 with the legislature seal and the department of human services seal beautiful certificate uh our first is jeanette smith

barry you go give her and you can stand on this have her stand on the side so we can get a picture with all of them at the end you can stand on that side miss jeanette smalls she's coming take your time

1:13:26 are we just standing on the side we're going to take a picture with all of you at the end right there mr mr lloyd watts right there good you gotta go down and shake the hand shake everybody hand mr lloyd watts we have a mr lloyd watts we have a mr lloyd watts - Margeant of Arms.

1:14:16 - Ms. Gladys Jorgen. Wait a minute, we'll ask if we miss anybody. Ms. Edna Freeman. Ms. Earlene Letsam. Stenographer, Ms. Letsam.

1:15:08 Our photographer, Ms. Delta Malone. Can somebody take the camera and take a picture of her? Can you take a picture of her for us please? Ms. Lynette Fahey. Foy, Ms. Lynette Foy. our favorite person, Father Anthony Abraham, Miss Lillian Garfield, Miss Maxine Fleming, Miss Merlin Felician, Mr. Eloy Sylvester, Miss Pearl Flax, Miss Geneva Rodriguez, Miss Geneva Rodriguez,

[illegible]

1:18:51 Thank you, Miss Phillips. Thank you, Miss Phillips. Rosalia Payne. Miss Lydia Lexam. That's a President, President Lexam.

1:19:23 Miss Wilma Phillip. You're not here already. You're not here already. Did we miss anybody? Did everybody get there? So that's it? How are we going to do this? We all have them come in front? How are you going to do that?

[illegible]

1:20:35 Team, line up in front of the Senators. [1 such phrases repeated 30 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]

1:21:05 Team, line up in front of the Senators. [1 such phrases repeated 24 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]

1:21:32 Team, line up in front of the Senators. [1 such phrases repeated 22 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]

1:22:04 Team, line up in front of the Senators. [1 such phrases repeated 55 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]

1:23:06 Team, line up in front of the Senators. [1 such phrases repeated 24 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]

1:23:32 Team, line up in front of the Senators. [1 such phrases repeated 29 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]

1:24:01 Team, line up in front of the Senators. [1 such phrases repeated 33 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]

People named in this transcript

SUSPECTED, and a finding aid only. Names were matched by machine against the spellings used across all 426 of our transcripts, and the title is the one used in the room. Being named here is NOT evidence that a person attended or spoke · only that the name was said. Speech recognition mishears names, so a spelling may be wrong even where no alternative is offered.

100x	Senator Alma Francis-Heyliger the surname alone also matches: Alma Francis Heiliger heard in this transcript as: Heiliger
55x	Senator Novelle Francis heard in this transcript as: Francis
49x	Senator Dwayne DeGraff heard in this transcript as: DeGraff, Dwayne M. DeGraff
13x	Senator Kenneth L. Gittens heard in this transcript as: Gettins, Gittin's, Gittins, Kenneth L. Gettins
9x	Senator Avery Lewis heard in this transcript as: Avery L. Lewis, Lewis, Lois
7x	Senator Marvin Blyden heard in this transcript as: Blyden, Marvin A. Blyden
5x	Senator Carla Joseph the surname alone also matches: Clifford Joseph; Karla J. Joseph heard in this transcript as: Carla J. Joseph, Joseph
5x	Senator Franklin D. Johnson heard in this transcript as: Clifford A. Johnson Sr, Johnson
5x	Senator Marise C. James the surname alone also matches: Javan James; Giovanni James Sr heard in this transcript as: James, Maurice C. James, Maurice James
5x	Senator Milton E. Potter heard in this transcript as: Potter
4x	Senator Kurt A. Verley heard in this transcript as: Kurt E. Verley, Verley
3x	Senator Angel L. Bullquist Jr heard in this transcript as: Angel L. Bullquist, Bullquist
3x	Senator Hubert Frederick heard in this transcript as: Frederick
3x	Senator Kurt A. Vele heard in this transcript as: Vele
2x	Senator Clifford A. Joseph Senior
2x	Senator Karla J. Joseph the surname alone also matches: Carla Joseph; Clifford Joseph

Bills and acts referred to

Matched by number against our own acts corpus. The number is what the recognition heard, so it may be wrong; where it resolved, the title is the one the Legislature gave the act.

Referred to but not found in our acts corpus: Bill 36-0000