

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

01/25/2024-AMENDED AND REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR

12/18/2023-AMENDED AND REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

BILL NO. 35-0116

Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

August 22, 2023

A Resolution honoring and commending Honorary Brigadier General Leayle Gerard Galiber for his leadership in the Virgin Islands National Guard and his dedication to his country and to the people of the Virgin Islands

PROPOSED BY: Senators Novelle E. Francis, Jr., and Dwayne M. DeGraff

WHEREAS, Honorary Brigadier General Leayle Gerard Galiber was born on September 16, 1932, on the island of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, the youngest of eight children born to Henry Alphonse Galiber—a master cricket player, First Class Petty Officer with the United States Navy, and a Supervisor of Sanitation for the Virgin Islands Public Works Department—and Adele Louise Lanclos Galiber—beloved pianist, music teacher, and Supervisor of Music for Virgin Islands public schools; and

WHEREAS, Honorary Brigadier General Leayle Galiber attended Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School from the first through the twelfth grades and graduated in June 1951. In high school, he was a member of the Boy Scouts of America which laid the foundation for his interest in serving in the military. He grew up in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands with his five older siblings: Flavius, Rudolph, Doris, Norma, and Andre and many childhood friends including his cousins Victor Lanclos, and Gilbert Henry and friends, Richard Callwood, and Larry Richardo; and

1 **WHEREAS**, as a child, Honorary Brigadier General Leayle Galiber loved animals and
2 spent a lot of time taking care of and playing with his dog, *Zurich* and cat, *Swasty*. He spent
3 his free time building model airplanes and toy sail boats and during elementary school, he
4 worked a newspaper route with the Virgin Islands Daily News. While on his paper route, he
5 spent time collecting the seeds of flamboyant trees, that were later aerial flown by a private
6 citizen to populate the island more densely with beautiful trees; and

7 **WHEREAS**, to support the efforts of World War II, Honorary Brigadier General Leayle
8 Galiber collected lead linings from cigarette boxes and was a telegrapher at the local cable
9 office for this last two years of high school; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Honorary Brigadier General Leayle Galiber attended St. John's University,
11 Teachers College, in Brooklyn New York, and then Howard University School of Engineering
12 and Architecture, in Washington D.C. where he joined the Reserve Officer Training Corps
13 (ROTC) as a sophomore and then received a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering
14 in July 1958; and

15 **WHEREAS**, in July 1958, Honorary Brigadier General Leayle Galiber was
16 commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army with a specialty in air defense artillery.
17 In February 1959, he entered active-duty service and served as the Integrated Fire Control
18 System (IFCS) Platoon Leader of two Nike (surface-to-air missile) sites in the Chicago, Illinois
19 and Gary, Indiana areas, and one at Thule Air Force Base in Greenland; and

20 **WHEREAS**, during his service as Platoon Leader, Honorary Brigadier General Leayle
21 Galiber trained Illinois National Guard personnel to operate the IFCS section of the Nike Ajax
22 Missile site, led the re-training of active-duty personnel for the Nike missile site, and was the
23 Battery Control Officer of "A" Battery at Thule AFB at the time President John F. Kennedy
24 was announcing the quarantine of Cuba in October 1962; and

1 **WHEREAS**, beginning in November 1962, Honorary Brigadier General Leayle Galiber
2 served as the intelligence and security officer of a Nike battalion in Gary, Indiana and then a
3 battalion at Fort Clayton in the Panama Canal Zone. In July 1966, while in the Panama Canal
4 Zone, he was detailed to the Corps of Engineers and re-stationed to Fort Stewart, Georgia to
5 assist with the formation and training of the 34th Engineer Construction Battalion. There he
6 was assigned as the Construction Officer of that battalion and deployed as its troop commander
7 to Bien Hoa, Vietnam in April 1967; and

8 **WHEREAS**, having been promoted to the rank of Major during the period of movement
9 to Vietnam, Honorary Brigadier General Leayle Galiber was reassigned to the US Army
10 Engineer Command in Vietnam, as the project officer for the construction of a new building
11 for headquarters U.S. Army, Vitenam (USARV) in Long Binh. Upon completion of that
12 project, he was assigned as the utility officer in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for
13 Logistics at Headquarters, U.S. Army Vietnam. During that tour, he requested and received a
14 permanent branch transfer from Air Defense Artillery to the Corps of Engineers; and

15 **WHEREAS**, during his assignment at USARV Headquarters, Honorary Brigadier
16 General Leayle Galiber was sent to the I Corps Tactical Zone during the Tet Offensive to assist
17 the Navy with restoration of power generation at the Da Nang Evacuation Hospital. During that
18 tour, he received the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement or service in a combat
19 zone; and

20 **WHEREAS**, upon his return to the continental United States in April 1968, Honorary
21 Brigadier General Leayle Galiber was assigned as one of two Assistant Army Engineers at
22 Headquarters, First U.S. Army, Fort Meade, Maryland where he was detailed to be the engineer
23 evaluator of a West Virginia Army National Guard construction battalion annual training,
24 became a member of a Sentinel-Sprint (anti-ballistic missile) Site selection team, and was
25 detailed to serve as the Military Aid to the ninth civilian Governor of the Virgin Islands, Ralph
26 M. Paiewonsky, during the week of Richard M. Nixon's first Presidential inauguration; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Honorary Brigadier General Leayle Galiber returned to Vietnam in June
2 1971 where he was assigned as the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) Engineer
3 Advisor to the Vietnamese Military Property Construction Officer (MPCO) in Da Nang and,
4 concurrently, the MPCO in Hue; and

5 **WHEREAS**, during his second tour in Vietnam, Honorary Brigadier General Leayle
6 Galiber received the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal, 1st Class, for his support
7 of the Vietnamese recovery from the effects of a typhoon that struck three of the five northern
8 provinces in September 1971. He was detailed from his MPCO assignment to assist and advise
9 the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) 10th Combat Engineer Group in the counter-
10 offensive to the North Vietnam's Easter Offensive of 1972 in Quang Tri Province, and he
11 received the Bronze Star Medal's first oak leaf cluster during his second tour for support of the
12 MPCOs throughout the year and the ARVN combat engineer battalion; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Honorary Brigadier General Leayle Galiber returned to the continental
14 United States in July 1972 and was assigned as Chief of the Combat Engineering Instructor
15 Section of the Engineering School at Fort Belvoir, Virginia; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in January 1973, Honorary Brigadier General Leayle Galiber was detailed
17 to serve as the Military Aide to the first elected governor of the Virgin Islands, Melvin H.
18 Evans, during the week of President Nixon's Second Inauguration; and

19 **WHEREAS**, in April 1973, Honorary Brigadier General Leayle Galiber was reassigned
20 as the Assistant to the Commander at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, for National Guard Affairs
21 with the specific mission of assisting the Virgin Islands territory to achieve federal recognition
22 of the Army National Guard units; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Honorary Brigadier General Leayle Galiber was instrumental in guiding
24 the organization of the Virgin Islands National Guard in 1973. He was mission-oriented and
25 looked at the big picture knowing that establishment of the National Guard in the Virgin Islands

would benefit the territory because it would empower the Governor to activate the Virgin Islands National Guard during a territorial emergency or a natural disaster; and

WHEREAS, by an Act of Congress, sponsored by U.S. House Representative Ronald de Lugo, the territory's first delegate to the U.S. Congress, the Virgin Islands National Guard was federally recognized on October 19, 1973. In a ceremony officiated by Major General La Vern E. Weber, Director of the United States Army National Guard, Honorary Brigadier General Leayle Galiber was appointed acting Adjutant General and took command of the first two units to be activated, a Headquarters Detachment and the 661st Military Police Company, both on St. Croix. He was permanently assigned as the U. S. Property and Fiscal Officer (USPFO) for the Virgin Islands National Guard, and temporarily as Acting Adjutant General, pending the confirmation of Adjutant General Gerard Luz James; and

WHEREAS, in February 1974 the Virgin Islands National Guard saw the formation of the 662nd Military Police Company on St. Thomas. In October 1974, the 666th Army Band was established on St. Croix. In November 1974, the Virgin Islands National Guard received its first call to territorial active duty by Governor Melvin H. Evans, when torrential rains resulted in widespread flooding throughout the islands; and

WHEREAS, by September 1976, the Virgin Islands National Guard doubled in strength and the first reorganization occurred. The Guard expanded its force with the 666th Army Band and the 666th Military Police Battalion on St. Thomas. The newly structured Combat Service Support organization was subordinate to the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment; and

WHEREAS, Honorary Brigadier General Leayle Galiber was reassigned to Headquarters, US Army Garrison, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland in September 1975, where he served as Chief of the Housing Division, Directorate of Industrial Operations; and

WHEREAS, Honorary Brigadier General Leayle Galiber met Kirsten Anderson, fell in love, and married her on December 7, 1975, in Christiansted, St. Croix. They had two children, Leayle Jr., born on September 13, 1976, and John, born on November 13, 1978; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Honorary Brigadier General Leayle Galiber retired from active duty in
2 March 1979, at Fort Meade having progressed in rank from Second Lieutenant in 1958, to First
3 Lieutenant in 1960, to Captain in 1963, to Major in 1967, and finally to Honorary Brigadier
4 General on January 1, 1974. Upon retiring from active duty, he was selected to be the
5 Installation Master Planner in the Directorate of Engineering and Housing at Fort Meade, until
6 he retired from Civil Service in January 2003; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in October 2023, Honorary Brigadier General Leayle Gerard Galiber was
8 promoted to the honorary rank of Brigadier General (Virgin Islands) by Governor Albert Bryan,
9 Jr., in recognition of his significant contributions to establishing the Virgin Islands National
10 Guard; and

11 **WHEREAS**, during his expansive military career, Honorary Brigadier General Leayle
12 Galiber received invaluable assistance and could not have achieved all his success without the
13 USPFO of the Georgia National Guard, Major Poulson, Chief Warrant Officer Four Jackson,
14 Army Military Police enlisted advisor Staff Sergeant Watkins, Chief Warrant Officer Four
15 (RET) Gregory R. Francis and several members of the former U.S. Army Reserve unit on St.
16 Croix; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Honorary Brigadier General Leayle Gerard Galiber, the youngest of eight
18 children, is proud to boast that his son, John M. Galiber, served in the United States Navy and
19 achieved the rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer. He is also proud that his three older brothers,
20 a niece, and several nephews have served their country and their territory or state, giving their
21 time and expertise to the military, the Virgin Islands Government, the people of the Virgin
22 Islands and the United States; and

23 **WHEREAS**, The Virgin Islands National Guard receives more than 52 million dollars
24 annually in federal funding which helps the National Guard continue to recruit volunteers to
25 serve the Virgin Islands, and to employ civil servants to support its important mission; and

1 **WHEREAS**, since its inception in 1973, the Virgin Islands National Guard has grown
2 exponentially and today stands as a proud division of the National Guard of the United States,
3 with a vision of providing a ready force that is warfighting-capable and governor-responsive,
4 with soldiers and airmen who have always lived up to the National Guard’s motto, “Always
5 Ready, Always There.” The Virgin Islands National Guard remains “The Guardians of the
6 Eastern Front”; Now, Therefore,

7 *Be it Resolved by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:*

8 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin
9 Islands, honors and commends Honorary Brigadier General Leayle Gerard Galiber for his
10 instrumental dedication and hard work in helping to establish the Virgin Islands National Guard
11 and ensuring that the Governor of the Virgin Islands has the authority to call up service
12 members who will continue to serve and protect the interests of the Territory and its citizens.

13 **SECTION 2.** In recognition and appreciation of his contributions to the people of the
14 Virgin Islands, the President of the Legislature, or the President’s designee, shall have a perma
15 plaque copy of this Resolution prepared and presented to Honorary Brigadier General Leayle
16 Gerard Galiber, or his designee, at an appropriate ceremony.

17 **BILL SUMMARY**

18 This bill honors and commends Honorary Brigadier General Leayle Gerard Galiber for
19 his dedication and hard work in helping to establish the Virgin Islands National Guard, and for
20 his years of dedicated service to his country and to the people of the Virgin Islands.

21 **BR23-0552/August 15, 2023/HLF**

22 ..\\..\\..\\AMENDS\\35th Legislature\\FRANCIS, JR., NOVELLE E\\Amendment 35-624\\35-
23 624 (REVISED) - DRAFTED ON YELLOW.docx

24 ..\\..\\..\\AMENDS\\35th Legislature\\FRANCIS, JR., NOVELLE E\\Amendment 35-588\\35-
25 588-DRAFTED ON YELLOW.docx