

ACT NO. 7246

BILL NO. 29-0012

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2011

An Act renaming the new Regional Public Library in Estate Tutu, St. Thomas "The Charles Wesley Turnbull Regional Public Library" in honor of Governor Charles Wesley Turnbull, the sixth elected Governor of the United States Virgin Islands; to confer the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor on Governor Charles Wesley Turnbull in recognition of his outstanding public service and contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands

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WHEREAS, Governor Charles Wesley Turnbull was born on February 5, 1935, in Estate Thomas in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands to Ruth Ann Eliza and John Wesley Turnbull, immigrants from neighboring Tortola, British Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, Charles Wesley Turnbull attended the Leonard Dober Elementary School and the Charlotte Amalie High School, from which he graduated in 1952; and

WHEREAS, Charles Wesley Turnbull was awarded a Ford Foundation five year scholarship to further his education at Hampton University in Virginia, from which he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1958 with honors in history, and a Master of Arts degree in Secondary Education in 1959; and

WHEREAS, Charles Wesley Turnbull also attended New York University and the University of Minnesota where he obtained his doctoral degree in educational administration in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Charles Wesley Turnbull was very active in school activities during his college days at Hampton University having served as vice-president of his freshman class, president of his sophomore class, and president of his graduating class of 1958; and

WHEREAS, Charles Wesley Turnbull also served as Chief Justice of the Student Court, member of the Student Council, and Head Student Counselor of all male upper classmen and was involved in many other activities that contributed to the lives of all Hampton students; and

WHEREAS, Charles Wesley Turnbull has served the people of the Virgin Islands, especially the youth, in many professional capacities, including an elementary school teacher, a secondary school teacher, an assistant principal and principal of Charlotte Amalie High School, assistant commissioner, acting commissioner and commissioner of the Department of Education, adjunct professor, professor and, currently, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of the Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, Charles Wesley Turnbull has also served as a member and Chairman of the Virgin Islands Board of Education, and member of the Virgin Islands Board of Election; and

WHEREAS, Charles Wesley Turnbull's service in Education spans more than forty years; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Commissioner of Education from 1979 to 1987, many achievements were made in the field of public education, including upgrading the curriculum to make it more relevant to the needs of the students; and

WHEREAS, Charles Wesley Turnbull, as Commissioner of Education, established a Cultural Education Division to promote greater knowledge, awareness, and appreciation of the history and culture of the Virgin Islands and the wider Caribbean; and

WHEREAS, Charles Wesley Turnbull during his service of Commissioner of Education, was influential in the establishment of alternative education and school volunteerism, and new ventures in the area of vocational and technical education; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Commissioner of Education, Charles Wesley Turnbull oversaw the building of several new schools thereby eliminating double sessions; and

WHEREAS, Charles Wesley Turnbull has established an exemplary record of community and humanitarian service, including serving as an elected delegate to all five Constitutional Conventions of the United States Virgin Islands; serving as Secretary of the Second Constitutional Convention in 1972; serving as a delegate to the 1972, 2000 and 2004 National Democratic Nominating Conventions; and serving as a member of the following organizations: Christ Church Methodist Church, National Governors Association, Southern Governors Association, Democratic Governors Association, Roy Lester Schneider Hospital Board, Virgin Islands Historical Society (founder and president), Association of Caribbean Historians, Caribbean Studies Association, American Historical Association, Organization of American Historians, American Association for State and Local History, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Phi Alpha Theta (International Honor Society in History); and

WHEREAS, Charles Wesley Turnbull has also served or is now serving as a member of the Phi Delta Kappa (International Honor Society in Education), the History of Education Society (USA), the History of Education Society (UK), the American Association of School Administrators, Education Commission of the States, Council of Chief State School Officers, the Virgin Islands Humanities Council, the Territorial Committee of the Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the St. Thomas-St. John Friends of Denmark, the King Christian IV Guild (Denmark), the Dukes Club, the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, and the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller; and

WHEREAS, Charles Wesley Turnbull has received numerous awards and citations for leadership and service over time including the first Alexander A. Farrelly Public Service Award, the Turner Broadcasting System Trumpet Award, the Virgin Islands United Inc. Icon Award, the Caribbean Democratic Alliance Award, the University of the Virgin Islands Social Sciences Division Award, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Award of Excellence, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Leadership Award, the Virgin Islands Board of Education Distinguished

Service Award, the U.S. Selective Service System Exceptional Service Award (Silver), the Virgin Islands Humanities Council's Humanist of the Year Award, the U.S. Customs Service Citation, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Citation of Recognition, the distinguished Alumni Award, University of Minnesota, College of Human Development, the Charlotte Amalie High School Wall of Fame, and many other acknowledgements of his service and commitment to this community; and

WHEREAS, Charles Wesley Turnbull's biography is listed in Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in America, Who's Who among African Americans, Who's Who among America's Teachers, Who's among Students in American Colleges and Universities (1957 & 1958), the Dictionary of Caribbean Biography, and in many other prestigious publications; and

WHEREAS, Charles Wesley Turnbull has published, as well as presented, various scholarly papers and articles in the areas of history, education and culture; traveled widely in the United States, Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe; and in addition to travel, his hobbies and interest include reading, historical research, numismatics, and collecting antiques, especially West Indian and African-American; and

WHEREAS, Charles Wesley Turnbull was elected Governor of the United States Virgin Islands on November 3, 1998 and sworn in as the sixth elected Governor on January 4, 1999; and Governor Turnbull was re-elected overwhelmingly to serve a second term in November 2002; and

WHEREAS, Charles Wesley Turnbull, now retired, continues to devote his time and energy to serving the people of the United States Virgin Islands in a variety of community organizations and activities; 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 Territory, wishes to express its heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Governor Charles Wesley Turnbull, sixth elected Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, for his dedication, commitment, leadership, outstanding service and contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands.

SECTION 2. In recognition and appreciation of his contributions over the last half-century, the Legislature hereby names the new regional public library in Estate Tutu, St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands, "The Charles Wesley Turnbull Regional Public Library" in honor of Governor Charles Wesley Turnbull, the sixth elected Governor of the United States Virgin Islands.

SECTION 3. The Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources shall caused to be prepared, a distinctive sign bearing the inscription "The Charles Wesley Turnbull Regional Public Library" and shall conspicuously and permanently affix such sign on the front of the facility. A bronze plaque of the Governor, together with the inscription of this Act, shall be mounted in a protected area of the facility for all who utilize the facility to read.

SECTION 4. In recognition and appreciation of his contributions, the Legislature hereby confers the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor on Governor Charles Wesley Turnbull, sixth elected

Governor of the United States Virgin Islands.

SECTION 5. The Virgin Islands Medal of Honor, cast in gold, together with a perma plaque copy of this Act shall be presented to Governor Charles Wesley Turnbull by the President of the Legislature, or his designee, at an appropriate ceremony to be held for that purpose.

SECTION 6. There is hereby appropriated to the Department of Planning and Natural Resources from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Virgin Islands in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, the sum of ten thousand dollars to carry out the provisions of section 3 of this Act. Said funds shall remain available until expended.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on March 23, 2011.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 25th Day of March, A.D., 2011.



Handwritten signature of Ronald E. Russell in cursive.

Ronald E. Russell
President

Handwritten signature of Samuel Sanes in cursive.

Samuel Sanes
Legislative Secretary



Bill No. 29-0012 is hereby approved.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, this 9th day of April, A.D., 2011.

Handwritten signature of John P. de Jongh, Jr. in cursive.
John P. de Jongh, Jr.
Governor