

THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT HOUSE Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802 340-774-0001

## NOTARY PUBLIC DAY NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

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## BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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## A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, America's first notary, Thomas Fugill, was appointed on November 7, 1639; and

WHEREAS, the first Notary Public Day was celebrated on November 7, 1975, and created to "recognize notaries for their public service and their contributions to national and international commerce," and

WHEREAS, since ancient Roman times, notaries public have recorded matters of judicial and commercial importance and performed private transactions when professional skills and integrity were needed; and

WHEREAS, it has been an honor and privilege for the Lieutenant Governor of the Virgin Islands to appoint and regulate notaries in the Virgin Islands since 1967, and for the Lieutenant Governor to have played an integral role in implementing the appointment process; and

WHEREAS, the notary statute codified at Virgin Islands Code, Title 3, Chapter 29, "Notaries Public," has been in effect since 1988; and

WHEREAS, a notary public in the Virgin Islands is a person appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, whose primary role is to serve the public as an impartial witness to the execution of important documents while verifying identities; and

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WHEREAS, Virgin Islands public notaries proudly serve as the front line defense against document fraud and attempts at forgery; and

WHEREAS, notaries affirm that participants in transactions have entered into agreements knowingly and willingly; create a trustworthy environment, and can corroborate important documents with full confidence and authenticity; and

WHEREAS, notaries provide an essential service to the community and are entrusted to perform their duties truthfully and with integrity; and

WHEREAS, serving the people of the Virgin Islands as a notary public is an honor bestowed upon the individuals who take the oath of office to serve our community with distinction.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I Albert Bryan Jr., Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, do hereby proclaim **November 7, 2023**, as "**NOTARY PUBLIC DAY**" in the United States Virgin Islands. I encourage the community to recognize and applaud Public Notaries throughout the territory for their outstanding work and invaluable service they provide in the welfare of the whole family, commerce, immigration, and social equity.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this <u>31st</u> day of October, A.D. 2023.



Albert Bry

Governor

Attest:

Tregenza A. Roach, Esq Lieutenant Governor