



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 4, 2026

Press Contact:

Richard Motta Jr.

340-474-2399

www.vi.gov

richard.mottajr@go.vi.gov

Governor Bryan Proclaims August Observances Honoring Forgiveness, History, Agriculture, Military Service, and Human Resources Professionals

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – Governor Albert Bryan Jr. has issued a series of proclamations recognizing significant observances throughout the month of August, highlighting the values of compassion, public service, agriculture, military sacrifice, and professional excellence while encouraging Virgin Islanders to participate in activities that strengthen communities across the Territory.

Governor Bryan proclaimed Sunday, August 2, 2026, as "Global Forgiveness Day" in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Established by Rev. Dada J.P. Vaswani, the internationally renowned humanitarian and spiritual leader of the Sadhu Vaswani Mission in India, Global Forgiveness Day and the accompanying "Moment of Calm" promote world peace, reconciliation, and international brotherhood through the simple but powerful act of forgiveness.

"Forgiveness is one of the most powerful tools we have for healing ourselves, strengthening our relationships, and building more compassionate communities," Governor Bryan said. "As we observe Global Forgiveness Day, I encourage every Virgin Islander to take a moment to reflect, forgive, and move forward with kindness and understanding."

Governor Bryan also proclaimed Friday, August 7, 2026, as "Melvin H. Evans Day" in recognition of the remarkable life and legacy of the late Dr. Melvin H. Evans, whose contributions to medicine and public service transformed the Virgin Islands.

Established under Title I, Section 186 of the Virgin Islands Code, the annual observance honors Dr. Melvin Evans' distinguished career as chief physician-in-charge of Frederiksted Hospital, Assistant Commissioner of Health, and a dedicated private physician.

Melvin Evans made history when he served as the final Governor appointed by a U.S. President from 1969 to 1971 before becoming the first popularly elected Governor of the Virgin Islands, serving from 1971 to 1975.

"Governor Melvin H. Evans dedicated his life to improving the health and well-being of the people of the Virgin Islands," Governor Bryan said. "His groundbreaking leadership, commitment to public service, and enduring legacy continue to inspire generations of Virgin Islanders."

Governor Bryan has also proclaimed August 2-8, 2026, as "National Farmers Market Week" in the Territory, recognizing the important role local farmers and farmers markets play in strengthening food security, supporting local agriculture, improving public health, and growing the Virgin Islands economy.

The Governor encouraged residents to visit the Territory's farmers markets throughout the week to support local farmers and enjoy fresh, locally grown fruits, vegetables, and agricultural products.

"Our farmers work tirelessly to provide fresh, nutritious food while preserving our agricultural traditions and strengthening our food security," Governor Bryan said. "Supporting our local farmers markets is an investment in our economy, our health, and our future."

Recognizing the extraordinary courage and sacrifice of America's military personnel, Governor Bryan proclaimed Friday, August 7, 2026, as "Purple Heart Day" in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Originally established by General George Washington on August 7, 1782, the Purple Heart Medal is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces who are wounded or killed in combat while serving their country. Purple Heart Day serves as a solemn opportunity to honor the brave servicemen and servicewomen whose sacrifices have safeguarded the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans.

Governor Bryan called upon all Virgin Islanders to remember and thank the living and deceased members of the Armed Forces whose courage, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment have rendered the highest service to the Territory and the Nation.

"We owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude to the men and women who have borne the wounds of war and to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedoms," Governor Bryan said. "Their courage and selflessness will never be forgotten."

In recognition of the professionals who help build productive workplaces and strengthen organizations throughout the Territory, Governor Bryan proclaimed August 9-15, 2026, as "SHRM Virgin Islands HR Week."

The observance recognizes the contributions of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), founded in 1948, which today serves more than 340,000 members across 180 countries and positively impacts more than 362 million workers and their families worldwide through education, professional certification, advocacy, and networking opportunities.

Governor Bryan commended human resource professionals throughout the Virgin Islands for their leadership in developing workplaces that value employees, encourage professional growth, and foster organizational success.

"Human resource professionals are instrumental in attracting talent, developing our workforce, and creating workplaces where employees can thrive," Governor Bryan said. "Their expertise helps strengthen our public and private sectors and contributes significantly to the continued growth and success of the Virgin Islands."

Governor Bryan encouraged all Virgin Islanders to join in observing these important August commemorations and to reflect on the values they represent—compassion, leadership, service, resilience, community, and professional excellence—as the Territory continues working together to build a stronger future for all.

#