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Press Contact
Richard Motta
340-474-2399
www.vi.gov
richard.mottajr@go.vi.gov

Governor Bryan Issues Proclamations in Honor Of Governor Luis, French Heritage and Sports, Parks and Recreation

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS — Governor Albert Bryan Jr. issued proclamations for July honoring and commemorating Governor Juan F. Luis; French Heritage Week and Bastille Day; and National Sports, Parks and Recreation Month.

The Governor designated the week of July 10-16 as "French Heritage Week, and also noted in his proclamation Bastille Day on July 14, which marks the anniversary of overthrow of the Bastille prison on July 14, 1789, and was a major event of the French Revolution. Bastille Day is celebrated around the world as French Independence Day.

"St. Thomas is home to many French Caribbean people, and their descendants, who immigrated to the former Danish West Indies during the late 1800s through the 1960s, and people celebrate Bastille Day in the U.S. Virgin Islands with proud enthusiasm, primarily on St. Thomas," Governor Bryan wrote. "There is a week-long celebration called French Heritage Week that includes Bastille Day, and during this time hundreds of St. Thomas residents join together to celebrate French heritage with various planned community events. In the Virgin Islands, the French heritage community, many of whom came to the Virgin Islands from Guadeloupe, St. Barths and St. Martin, has played a major role in our culture and economic life, and continues to do so."

The Governor also issued a proclamation in observance of the birthday of the late Governor Juan F. Luis on July 10. In 1978, Governor Luis first succeeded Governor Cyril King, who died in office, before becoming the Territory's third elected Governor in 1978 and winning re-election in 1982 to become the USVI's longest-serving Governor, from 1978-1987.

"The dignity and stature of the people of the United States Virgin Islands were immensely enhanced by Governor Juan Francisco Luis through his political service," Governor Bryan's proclamation says.

Governor Bryan also issued a proclamation in recognition of July being National Sports, Parks and Recreation Month.

"Our local parks and beaches are often our first experiences in nature, our introduction to a favorite hobby or physical activity. They are, also, places to gather with friends and family, spaces to celebrate life's special moments, spots of respite and healing, sites that connect us with essential community services, and so much more," the Governor wrote. "Local parks have been essential throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, with many

community members finding a new appreciation for the essential spaces that the Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation manages, and the high-quality programs that the Department provides."

The proclamation also recognizes July 16 as "Parks and Recreation Professionals Day.

"Sports, Parks, and Recreation professionals perform many unseen tasks that preserve, maintain, and restore our open spaces, cultural zones, beaches, sports facilities, and parks for all to enjoy," Governor Bryan wrote.

The Bryan-Roach Administration is investing in the Territory's people, infrastructure and future through transparency, stabilizing the economy, restoring trust in the government and ensuring that recovery projects are completed as quickly as possible. Visit transparency.vi.gov

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