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A Political Powerhouse: USVI Leaders Reflect on Alicia 'Chucky' Hansen's Impact

Community Center / **Published On October 04, 2023 06:29 AM /**

Staff Consortium **October 04, 2023**

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Alicia 'Chucky' Hansen, left, and her daughter Elizabeth Watley, right. By. DEAR PRODUCTIONS

The U.S. Virgin Islands is in mourning following the passing of former Senator Alicia "Chucky" Hansen. Prominent figures in the region have stepped forward to offer their condolences and reflections on her impactful tenure in the Virgin Islands Legislature.

Governor Albert Bryan Jr. expressed his sorrow, stating, "With heavy hearts, we mourn the loss of former Senator Alicia 'Chucky' Hansen, a distinguished and long-serving member of the Virgin Islands Legislature. Chucky was a fearless advocate for the people of the Virgin Islands. Beyond politics, Chucky was a trusted supporter and advisor to me."

Echoing the sentiment, Lieutenant Governor Tregenza Roach noted, "Senator Hansen was an unparalleled political pioneer. She was a woman of unwavering conviction who fought relentlessly for the rights of the less fortunate. Through her countless, outstanding, and significant contributions, Senator Alicia "Chucky" Hansen's legacy will forever be etched in Virgin Islands History."

The V.I. Public Finance Authority highlighted Hansen's legacy, drawing attention to her tenure as a trailblazer and advocate for her constituents. They emphasized how Senator Hansen paved the way for many female leaders and expressed condolences to her family and friends.

Other senators added their voices, reminiscing about the influence Senator Hansen had on them personally and on the region as a whole. Senator Donna Frett-Gregory lauded Hansen as a trailblazer and passionate advocate. Senate President Novelle E. Francis, Jr. mentioned her pivotal role in shaping the legislative landscape. Senators Dwayne M. DeGraff and Kenneth L. Gittens both acknowledged Hansen's dedication to the promotion and betterment of the Virgin Islands.

Joseph Boschulte, the Commissioner of the Dept. of Tourism, also expressed his condolences, emphasizing Hansen's formidable presence in politics and the lasting impact she had on the community.

Hansen passed on Monday night at the age of 70. Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Hansen first made her foray into politics in 1986. In an era when clinching a senatorial seat without political party affiliation was almost Herculean, she managed to defy the odds. Over her career, Hansen served an impressive 11 terms as senator for the District of St. Croix. A testament to her political might, she still holds the record for the most votes in a senatorial election in the district.

Apart from her political ventures, Hansen was a household name in the USVI, not just for her representation in the Senate but also for her distinct voice in the media. As a radio personality, she actively addressed contemporary issues through her show "Keeping in Touch." The platform ranged from engaging political discussions to homely advice on maintaining a harmonious household.