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## Bryan Receives Prestigious National Guard Award in Detroit

The Charles Dick Medal of Merit celebrates Bryan's unwavering commitment to the Virgin Islands National Guard and his advocacy for Guard members across the territory

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Governor Albert. Bryan, center left, and Major General Kodjo Knox-Limbacker, left, along with other VING awardees. By. GOV'T HOUSE

Government House announced Thursday that Governor Albert Bryan Jr. was recently awarded the prestigious Charles Dick Medal of Merit by the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) in Detroit. The award honor recognizes Governor Bryan's unwavering support and dedication to the National Guard and the men and women who serve.

The Charles Dick Medal of Merit, established in 1988, is awarded to elected officials who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to the National Guard. The award is named in honor of Major General Charles Dick, a celebrated figure from the Ohio National Guard whose legacy continues to inspire service and leadership. Government House said Mr. Bryan's receipt of this award "underscores his deep-seated commitment to enhancing the capabilities and readiness of the Virgin Islands National Guard (VING), as well as his advocacy on behalf of Guard members across the territory and the nation.'

Upon receiving the award, Governor Bryan expressed his profound gratitude to the National Guard community. "It is truly an honor to be recognized with the Charles Dick Medal of Merit," he said. "The National Guard plays an essential role in ensuring the safety and security of our Virgin Islands, especially in times of crisis. I remain committed to supporting the incredible men and women who serve, and I am proud of the Virgin Islands National Guard for its unwavering dedication to protecting our home."

According to the release, under Bryan's leadership, the V.I. National Guard has seen significant advancements in readiness, infrastructure improvements, and enhanced partnerships with federal agencies, all while continuing to safeguard the territory through natural disasters, emergency response efforts, and global deployments.

Major General Kodjo Knox-Limbacker, the Adjutant General of the Virgin Islands National Guard, lauded Governor Bryan's leadership, stating, "Governor Bryan has been a steadfast champion of the Virgin Islands National Guard. His advocacy and support have been instrumental in elevating our readiness and expanding our capabilities. We are thrilled that his efforts have been recognized on a national stage."

The award ceremony took place during the annual NGAUS conference, where elected officials, military leaders, and National Guard members from across the country gathered to discuss key issues affecting the Guard and the nation's defense.