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Juel T.R. Molloy Honored with Proposed Renaming of Human Services Complex

Lawmakers support Bill 35-0316 to rename the Department of Human Services as the "Juel T.R. Molloy Complex," recognizing her decades of public service and transformative leadership in the Virgin Islands

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Juel T.R. Molloy By. V.I. LEGISLATURE

Juel T.R. Molloy was honored on Tuesday during a hearing before the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection, where lawmakers discussed a proposal to recognize her extensive contributions to the Virgin Islands. The legislation, Bill 35-0316, introduced by Senators Ray Fonseca and Milton Potter, seeks to name the V.I. Department of Human Services buildings the "Juel T.R. Molloy Complex."

Ms. Molloy, who began her government service as a Legislative Staff Assistant and Assistant Executive Secretary at the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, expressed her gratitude for the recognition. She credited the Legislature for funding her education at two prestigious Ivy League institutions, which she said was critical to her career achievements. "I will never forget from whence I came...Dreams do come true," Ms. Molloy declared.

Sen. Fonseca described Ms. Molloy as "a walking giant in public service," highlighting her ability to lead during crises and motivate employees. He noted her extensive career, which spanned several administrations and included 17 years as executive director of the Virgin Islands Community Action Agency, as well as a role as an assistant to Governor Roy Lester Schneider.

During the hearing, a number of individuals who had worked with Ms. Molloy testified to her impact. Former Senator James O'Bryan called her "one of the greatest public servants in the history of the Virgin Islands," citing her commitment to serving the poor, elderly, and other vulnerable groups. He suggested the Legislature should further honor Ms. Molloy by awarding her the Medal of Honor, a sentiment shared by Sen. Potter.

Sedonie Halbert, a former commissioner of the Department of Human Services and close friend, recalled Ms. Molloy's accomplishments, including spearheading a project to restructure the Knud Hansen Memorial Hospital building, transforming it into a comprehensive human services and health agency. She described Ms. Molloy as a "financial wizard," recognized for ensuring that federal funds were effectively utilized.

Other colleagues also spoke highly of Ms. Molloy's dedication. Joanne Barry praised her as a "shining example" for public service, while Whitman Brown commended her thoughtful approach to decision-making, always considering the broader impact on the community. Senator Samuel Carrion noted Ms. Molloy's humility despite the respect she commanded, sharing that her motivation came from her faith.

Senators Javan James Sr. and Kenneth Gittens echoed their colleagues' appreciation, with Gittens remarking that Ms. Molloy's work "truly set the pace" for the Department of Human Services. He supported the proposal to name the complex in her honor, while also emphasizing the need for ongoing maintenance of the facility.

The legislation now moves to the Committee of Rules and Judiciary, where it will be further considered. If passed, the name "Juel T.R. Molloy Complex" will soon be associated with the home of the Department of Human Services, cementing Ms. Molloy's legacy in the Virgin Islands.