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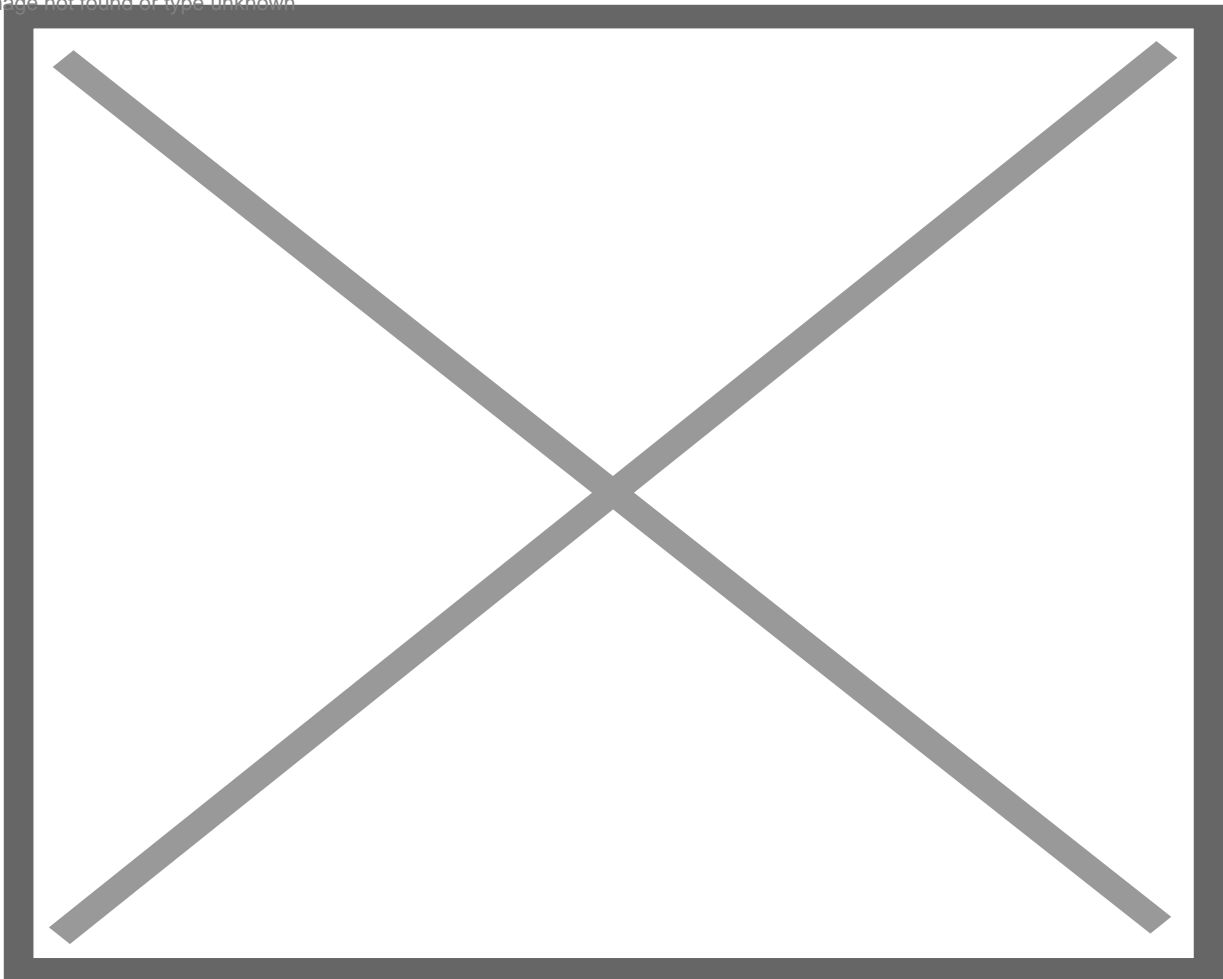
## **Alda Monsanto's Passing Mourned by Merchants Commercial Bank and Virgin Islands Community**

**A trailblazer in community-centered banking and a champion for public service, Monsanto leaves behind a legacy of leadership, integrity, and dedication to improving lives in the U.S. Virgin Islands**

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**Alda Monsanto, a founding member of Merchants Bank.**

Merchants Commercial Bank (MCB) has announced the passing of Alda Monsanto, a founding member and Board of Directors member. The board, management, and staff extended heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, and the broader Virgin Islands community.

Mrs. Monsanto was instrumental in establishing Merchants Commercial Bank, shaping its mission of community-centered banking, according to a release from the bank. Her visionary leadership

and dedication helped MCB grow into a trusted financial institution serving the Virgin Islands. Reflecting on her contributions, MCB CEO James Crites stated, “Alda Monsanto was a remarkable leader, an advocate for progress, and a true champion of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Her contributions to our bank and the community will be felt for generations.”

Beyond her impact on MCB, Mrs. Monsanto devoted her life to enriching the Virgin Islands through various professional and community roles. She spearheaded efforts to restore the statues at Education Park in Charlotte Amalie, preserving a vital piece of local heritage. As a Board Member Emeritus of the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands, she tirelessly supported initiatives designed to uplift and empower the territory.

Her professional journey was marked by a commitment to public service and community advancement. From 1971 to 1980, she served as Executive Director of the Virgin Islands Housing Authority, focusing on improving housing opportunities for residents. Later, from 1983 to 1991, she acted as the Chief Labor Negotiator for the Government of the Virgin Islands, navigating complex negotiations with integrity. Additionally, she worked as a Training Coordinator for Career Exploration Programs with the St. Thomas/St. John Chamber of Commerce from 1981 to 1983, helping young individuals develop skills and explore opportunities.

“Alda Monsanto’s passion for service and her dedication to the betterment of others was unmatched,” said Crites. “Her life’s work will continue to inspire our mission and community efforts.”

Her passing marks a significant loss for the Virgin Islands community and the many lives she touched throughout her career. Merchants Commercial Bank says it remains committed to honoring her legacy of service and community empowerment.