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Hugo Dennis Jr., Respected Political Figure and Labor Advocate, Passes Away

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Hugo Dennis Jr. By. GOVERNMENT HOUSE

The U.S. Virgin Islands is mourning the loss of former Senate President Hugo Dennis Jr., a respected teacher, businessman, labor activist and dedicated public servant who passed away on Wednesday, according to press statements from the V.I. Legislature and Government House.

A stalwart on the U.S. Virgin Islands' political scene, Dennis served two terms in the Legislature, in the roles of Senate President and Minority Leader respectively. Upon his departure from the lawmaking body, Dennis's leadership skills continued to benefit the territory as he took on roles in the Department of Housing, Parks, and Recreation, first as assistant commissioner and later as acting commissioner.

In addition to his substantial political achievements, Dennis was an ardent advocate for worker's rights. He was the founding president of both the St. Thomas-St. John Federation of Teachers and the Central Labor Council of the Virgin Islands, and he also served as a member of the Public Employees Relations Board.

Reflecting on Dennis's contributions to the territory, President of the 35th Legislature Senator Novelle Francis said on Wednesday, "Former Senator Dennis will be remembered as a leader and dedicated public servant. His commitment to the territory will be sadly missed. On behalf of myself and the members of the 35th Legislature, I extend heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of former Senator Hugo Dennis, Jr."

A statement from Governor Albert Bryan noted that the former senator "was a staunch advocate for the advancement of the U.S. Virgin Islands, and he has made invaluable contributions to our community throughout his public service career."

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