

BILL NO. 30-0297

Thirtieth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

January 9, 2014

An Act honoring and commending Orville “Chopper” Brown for his outstanding service to youths on the island of St. John and naming the basketball court located in Pine Piece, Enighed in his honor

PROPOSED BY: Senators Craig W. Barshinger and Shawn-Michael Malone

1 **WHEREAS**, Orville “Chopper” Brown was born on the island of St. John to Alicia and
2 R. Alexander Brown; and
3 **WHEREAS**, Orville “Chopper” Brown’s siblings include Myron “Mover” Callwood,
4 Earla Christopher, Ira “Big John, or D” January, M. Otancia “Tanty” Hendricks and Theresa
5 Brown Farray; and
6 **WHEREAS**, Orville “Chopper” Brown is married to Brenda Brown and is the father of
7 Yasmin Brown, Nichole Brown-Wilkerson, Habibah Bell, Okyeame Brown and Adaiiah Brown
8 and is the grandfather of Niquita Powell, Kenyon Hall, Briahna Charlery, Elizabeth Wilkerson
9 and Elijah Wilkerson; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Orville “Chopper” Brown attended the Julius E. Sprauve School from
2 kindergarten through the 9th grade and the Nazareth Bay High School from the 10th through the
3 12 grade; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Orville “Chopper” Brown is an active member of the Moravian Church on
5 St. John; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Orville “Chopper” Brown was employed at Caneel Bay Resort for several
7 years as a Lifeguard and Groundskeeper and from 1978 to 2007 worked at the Virgin Islands
8 Department of Housing Parks and Recreation, now the Department of Sports, Parks and
9 Recreation, serving as a Recreation Leader, Recreation Leader 2, Supervisor of Parks and
10 Recreation and as District Director of Parks and Recreation for the island of St. John; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Orville “Chopper” Brown was named the Department of Housing Parks
12 and Recreation Employee of the Year in 1994, 1999 and 2004 and was also awarded the
13 Department of Education’s Feddy Award on December 8, 1990; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Orville “Chopper” Brown was a dedicated Government employee and
15 never took a day off from work during his tenure thereby accumulating 3,000 hours of Annual
16 Leave and 3,000 hours of Sick Leave, allowing him to retire early with 31 years of service; and

17 **WHEREAS**, in every position held with the Department, Orville “Chopper” Brown did
18 not allow a job description to restrict his commitment to provide St. John’s youth with every
19 service offered and formed, coordinated and ran basketball, softball, baseball, football, soccer
20 and swimming leagues and tournaments; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Orville “Chopper” Brown marked the fields, cut the grass, and served as
22 referee and umpire for many events which was most rewarding to him offering the opportunity
23 to use his extensive sports knowledge and skills to teach youths on St. John how participation in
24 extracurricular activities can influence lives, develop character, sportsmanship and friendships;
25 and
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1 **WHEREAS**, Orville “Chopper” Brown also organized sports activities for the youths of
2 St. John, external to those offered through the Department’s programs and coordinated a
3 swimming program with the National Park Services and lead St. John historical and seashore
4 hikes along National Park trails; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Orville “Chopper” Brown” conducted these year-round activities to keep
6 St. John children out of trouble as he believed that it is most important to teach children manners
7 and the fundamental rules of respect for self and the community; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Orville “Chopper” Brown worked with nearly all of the young people of St.
9 John, regardless of color or nationality and regularly visited each school on the Island to let
10 students know about sports programs offered by the Department and encouraged their
11 participation; and

12 **WHEREAS**, before the Department had transportation on St. John, Orville “Chopper”
13 Brown used his personal vehicle, a silver Ford pick-up, to transport youngsters to sports events
14 and could be seen dropping young athletes at their homes around 7:00 pm everyday of the week;
15 and

16 **WHEREAS**, the St. John business community always supported sports programs ran by
17 Orville “Chopper” Brown and his fellow workers at the Department, and parents trusted and
18 appreciated the discipline he instilled in their children, as he served as a father figure to many on
19 St. John and still advises them past their young days; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Orville “Chopper” was indeed qualified for employment in the areas of
21 sports and recreation as he is an accomplished athlete in several sports, which in ranking order,
22 are basketball, football, softball and baseball;

23 **WHEREAS**, During his lifetime, Orville “Chopper” Brown played these sports
24 outstandingly as a member of the St. John Force Basketball Team that played against teams on
25 St. Thomas and Tortola; the Ambassador Softball Team of St. John, travelling to Canada and

1 Calebra; the Apache Softball Team of St. Thomas, travelling to Florida; the Virgin Islands
2 National Softball Team, playing against teams in Santo Domingo, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Florida
3 and Tacoma, Washington in the World Softball Tournament; the Double A Baseball League as a
4 member of the Pals Team on St. Thomas and the Indians Team on St. John; the Semi-Pro
5 Baseball League in New York known as the New York Bombers; and was invited to the
6 Philadelphia Phillies and the Kansas City Royals baseball camps; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Orville “Chopper” Brown is a renowned steel drummer and toured
8 throughout the continental United States, appearing in the Rose Bowl Parade in California, at
9 Carnegie Hall and Rockefeller Center in New York and at venues in Florida and Washington,
10 DC.; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Orville “Chopper” Brown, is a very humble gentleman, believes that God
12 rewards us for our good works done for others during our lifetime; Now, Therefore,

13 ***Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

14 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the People of the Virgin
15 Islands, honors and commends Orville “Chopper” Brown for his many years of dedicated service
16 in the field of sports to the young people of St. John and the community at large and for his
17 continued mentoring of these youths past their childhood days.

18 **SECTION 2.** In recognition of Orville “Chopper” Brown’s work and contributions in
19 the field of sports to the young people of St. John the basketball court located in Pine Piece,
20 Enighed, St. John is named “The Orville “Chopper” Brown Basketball Court”.

21 **SECTION 3.** The sum of \$3,000 is appropriated, in the fiscal year ending September 30,
22 2014, from the General Fund to the Department of Public Works for the purpose of erecting the
23 appropriate signage at The Orville “Chopper” Brown Basketball Court located at Pine Piece,
24 Enighed Cruz Bay, St. John, Virgin Islands.

1 **SECTION 4.** In recognition and appreciation of his contributions to the people of the
2 Virgin Islands and especially the young people of St. John, a perma plaque copy of this Act shall
3 be prepared and presented to Orville “Chopper” Brown by the President of the Legislature or the
4 President’s designee at an appropriate ceremony.

5 **BILL SUMMARY**
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7 This bill honors and commends Orville "Chopper" Brown for his outstanding service to
8 youth in the St. John community and names the St. John Basketball Court, located in Pine Piece
9 Enighed Cruz Bay, after Orville "Chopper" Brown.

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13 **BR13-0949T /October 18, 2013/ AA/Reviewed by YLT**
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