

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

BILL NO. 29-0355

Twenty-Ninth Legislature Of The Virgin Islands

July 10, 2012

A Resolution to recognize, honor and commend Vera Magdalena Falu Allende for her outstanding service to the people of the Virgin Islands

PROPOSED BY: Senator Alicia “Chucky” Hansen

1 **WHEREAS,** Vera Magdalena Falu Allende (“Ms. Falu”) was born at Ashford Memorial
2 Hospital (Presbiteriano) in Santurce, Puerto Rico on December 11, 1950, to Juan S. Falu Pesante and
3 Vera Leticia Allende Navarro; and

4 **WHEREAS,** Ms. Falu attended our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School until eighth grade when
5 she was transferred to Santurce Central High School as part of a pilot program for advanced students;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS,** Ms. Falu graduated from Santurce Central High School in 1966 with honors; and

8 **WHEREAS,** Ms. Falu attended the University of Puerto Rico where she subsequently graduated
9 in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration and a minor in Nutrition and
10 Dietetics; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu followed in her mother’s footsteps and went on to complete a fourteen
2 month Administration of Food Service Departments internship at the University of Puerto Rico Medical
3 Sciences Campus; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu went on to work for the Puerto Rico Department of Health as Chief
5 Dietician at the Humacao Health Center; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu visited St. Croix with her father and was offered a job at the Charles
7 Harwood Memorial Hospital in Christiansted, which she accepted; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu moved to St. Croix along with her husband and two children, Jose and
9 Gina, who were toddlers at the time; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu’s life has been a whirlwind of activities since then as she has been
11 involved in many service organizations on St. Croix including political organizations, her church, and
12 many other community organizations; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu’s father believed that serving the community was payment for being on
14 this earth and her family motto is “Service to All”; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu has held various positions in the Department of Health and the Juan F.
16 Luis Hospital and Medical Center; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu started at the only local hospital on St. Croix at the time, the Charles
18 Harwood Hospital, as Chief Dietician and worked through the ranks to progressively become the
19 hospital Patient Advocate and Safety Officer, and finally to become the special assistant to the Chief
20 Executive Officer; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu also served as Chief Dietician at the Juan F. Luis Hospital and was
22 instrumental in working with the Red Cross during the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo to bring assistance
23 to the citizens of the Virgin Islands; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in January 1995, Ms. Falu was nominated by Dr. Roy L. Schneider, then Governor
2 of the Virgin Islands, to become the first and only Puerto Rican Woman to serve in a cabinet level
3 position in the United States Virgin Islands as Commissioner of the Department of Licensing and
4 Consumer Affairs; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in her capacity as Commissioner of the Department of Licensing and Consumer
6 Affairs, Ms. Falu instituted the “one stop” program designated to expedite the business licensing process
7 and created several programs to assist both consumers and businesses; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu also served briefly as Deputy Commissioner of the Department of
9 Planning and Natural Resources where she worked on improving the permitting process; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu served for more than two years as Program Director of the Women’s
11 Personal Support Network at the Village Partners – Virgin Islands Partners in Recovery, a grant program
12 sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control of Atlanta through the University of Delaware Department
13 of Alcohol and Drug Studies; and

14 **WHEREAS**, when the grant period ended, Ms. Falu returned to government services as Deputy
15 Commissioner of the Department of Human Services with direct jurisdiction over the Herbert Grigg
16 Home for the Aged on St. Croix; and

17 **WHEREAS**, at the Herbert Grigg Home for the Aged, Ms. Falu supervised staff, physicians and
18 nurses, managed a 5.2 million dollar budget, and maintained a public-private partnership that she created
19 which has netted more than one million dollars in contributions to the institution over the past ten years;
20 and

21 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu has worked diligently to improve the community perception of the
22 Herbert Grigg Home for the Aged to one of excellence, which serves to create good will for the
23 institution; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu developed a non-profit civic committee called the “Friends of Herbert
2 Grigg” to ensure philanthropic donations to the institution; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu created and developed a viable, on-going volunteer program to assist staff
4 in providing quality medical care and companionship to the elderly residents; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu taught English as a second language as part of the Department of
6 Education’s literacy program at the prison; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu was a member of the Community Planning Group for HIV/AIDS; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu received certification as an instructor for the American Red Cross at a
9 time when there were very few African American instructors and was instrumental in providing
10 HIV/AIDS education; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu is a proud member of the American Association of Retired Persons
12 (AARP) Virgin Islands organization which serves persons over 50 years of age, serves as a member of
13 the Executive Council, and works extensively on community outreach member; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu is a certified paralegal, having graduated from the University of the
15 Virgin Islands Paralegal Certificate Program; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu’s community involvement is second to none; and

17 **WHEREAS**, at times of disaster, Ms. Falu works closely with VITEMA as an emergency
18 services coordinator and section chief of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC); and

19 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu was a Rotary member and received the distinction of becoming a “Paul
20 Harris Fellow” for Rotary International; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu has been a member and past president of the Business and Professional
22 Women’s Organization; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu is one of the founding members and a past president of the Virgin Islands
2 – Puerto Rico Friendship Civic Organization, and the only person of Hispanic descent to ever be
3 president of the Crucian Christmas Festival Organization; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu served twice as president of the Crucian Christmas Festival Organization;
5 and

6 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu served for three years on the Virgin Islands Board of Elections and served
7 at the John F. Kennedy Housing Community polling station as a judge of elections for over six years;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu values diversity and has worked very closely with the Montserrat
10 Association of the Virgin Islands, the Partners for Health of St. Croix, the St. Vincent and the
11 Grenadines Association, the 150th Emancipation Commission of the United States Virgin Islands, and
12 the Board of Directors of the United Way of St. Croix where she served as campaign chair for one term;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu is the founder of the AARP Friendly Visitors Program which helps to
15 provide companionship for the elderly at the Herbert Grigg Home for the Aged; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu has also served as a member of the Consumer Advisory Council for
17 Medicare, and other distinguished organizations; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu has been recognized and honored by several community organizations;
19 and

20 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Falu loves politics, reading, dancing, swimming and giving back to her
21 community; and

