

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERANS
AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

11/19/2024-REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR

10/22/2024-AMENDED AND REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

BILL NO. 35-0316

Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

August 30, 2024

An Act honoring and commending Mrs. Juel Turnbull Rhymer-Molloy for her years of dedicated service and numerous contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands

PROPOSED BY: Senators: Ray Fonseca, Carla J. Joseph, Milton E. Potter,
Angel L. Bolques, Jr., Kenneth L. Gittens, Donna A. Frett-Gregory,
Alma Francis Heyliger, Marvin A. Blyden, Samuel Carrión and
Dwayne M. DeGraff
Co-sponsor Diane T. Capehart

1 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Juel Turnbull Rhymer-Molloy is the daughter of the late James and
2 Idalia Turnbull; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Rhymer-Molloy, the proud mother of one son, was born on St.
4 Thomas, Virgin Islands, and graduated from the Charlotte Amalie High School in 1963, with
5 several honors, among which were scholarship, leadership, and citizenship awards such as
6 “Student of the Year Award”, the “Chamber of Commerce Business Award”, and the “Leon
7 Mawson Business Award” for being the outstanding business student of the graduating class;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS**, upon graduating from high school, Mrs. Rhymer-Molloy attended
10 Hampton Institute now Hampton University in Virginia where she studied business education

1 and received a Bachelor of Science degree, cum laude with departmental honors, in 1967 for
2 being an outstanding business student; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Rhymer-Molloy returned home to the Virgin Islands and worked
4 with the Legislature of the Virgin Islands in the positions of Legislative Staff Assistant and
5 Assistant Executive Secretary; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Juel Rhymer-Molloy continued her studies at the Wharton School of
7 Finance and Commerce of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where
8 graduate studies were undertaken in Business Administration, with specialization in the area of
9 Industrial Relations, and she later received a Master of Arts degree in Psychology from
10 Columbia University, New York City, New York, in 1970; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Rhymer-Molloy was employed with the Virgin Islands Community
12 Action Agency for seventeen years, fourteen of which she served as its Executive Director; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Rhymer-Molloy has held memberships in such organizations as the
14 League of Women Voters, the Humanities Council, and the Eta Phi Beta Sorority, serving as
15 past president of all three organizations; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Rhymer-Molloy also served in other community organizations and on
17 boards such as the St. Thomas/St. John Crime Committee, the Business and Professional
18 Women's Club, the National Community Action Executive Directors Association, the National
19 Head Start Board, the Drug Policy Board, the Governor's Committee on Crime Prevention
20 Board, the Economic Policy Board, and the Virgin Islands Housing Authority Board of
21 Commissioners; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Rhymer-Molloy has been the recipient of numerous honors including
23 her induction into the Virgin Islands 1st Bi-Annual Women's Hall of Fame, special recognition
24 at the White House for outstanding contributions to the Head Start Program, the "Virgin Islands
25 Community Action Agency Award for Outstanding Service", the "Federal Emergency

1 Management Award”, the “Youth in Government Community Service Award”, the “Ralph M.
2 Paiewonsky Human Rights Award”, the Rotary Club’s “Person of the Year”, two Christchurch
3 Methodist Church Awards, the “Wilbur ‘Bill’ La Motta Community Service Award”, and the
4 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development’s “HOPE Award” for the
5 leadership that she provided as Board Chairman in bringing the Virgin Islands agency out of
6 troubled status; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Rhymer-Molloy, while serving as the Commissioner of the
8 Department of Human Services, consolidated several social service agencies and provided one-
9 stop services to many clients, thereby allowing her, along with an excellent staff, to achieve a
10 lifelong dream of helping many underprivileged people of the Virgin Islands to reach a higher
11 level of self-sufficiency, cut government waste, and bring federal awards to the Department for
12 its efficiency and effectiveness; and

13 **WHEREAS**, on November 7, 1994, Mrs. Rhymer-Molloy received a letter from then
14 First Lady Joan Harrigan Farrelly, wishing her well on her retirement from the Government of
15 the Virgin Islands and thanking her for the difference that she made in Mrs. Farrelly’s life and
16 the lives of others; and

17 **WHEREAS**, after a brief retirement, Mrs. Rhymer-Molloy worked as an Assistant to
18 Governor Roy Lester Schneider; worked on contract for the former late Honorable Senator
19 Lorraine L. Berry, returned to the executive branch and worked for former Governor Charles
20 Wesley Turnbull as his Chief of Staff; retired again for a few years, then worked as a consultant
21 to former Governor Kenneth Ezra Mapp, and now is fully retired; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Juel Rhymer-Molloy has earned the respect and admiration of the
23 people of the Virgin Islands for her unselfish dedication to her goal to make a better future for
24 the residents of the Territory; and

25 **WHEREAS**, in Resolution No. 1394, the Legislature of the Virgin Islands honored and

1 commended Mrs. Juel Rhymer-Molloy for her extensive government service, commitment, and
2 dedication to her community; Now, Therefore,

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

4 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin
5 Islands, again honors and commends Mrs. Juel T. Rhymer-Molloy for her lifetime of service,
6 contributions, and dedication to the people of the Virgin Islands by naming the complex
7 housing the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services the “Juel T.R. Molloy Complex”
8 and bestowing upon her the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor.

9 **SECTION 2.** In recognition and appreciation of Mrs. Juel T.R. Rhymer-Molloy’s
10 contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands, the President of the Legislature, or the
11 President’s designee, shall have a perma plaque copy of the Act prepared and presented to Mrs.
12 Juel T.R. Molloy, at an appropriate ceremony in her honor for the renaming of the complex
13 housing the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services to the “Juel T.R. Molloy Complex”.

14 **SECTION 3.** The sum of \$15,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September
15 30, 2025, from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands to
16 the Department of Public Works, for signage to be erected at the main entrance to the complex.

17 **BILL SUMMARY**

18 This bill honors and commends Mrs. Juel Turnbull Molloy for her years of dedicated
19 service and numerous contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands by renaming the
20 complex housing the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services to the “Juel T.R. Molloy
21 Complex” and bestowing upon her the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor.

22 **BR24-0986/July 5, 2024/LMW/REVISED/July 24, 2024/LMW**