

**RESOLUTION NO. 1844**

**BILL NO. 32-0170**

**THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

**Regular Session**

**2018**

A Resolution honoring and commending Lorna Lenise Freeman for her outstanding charitable performances for the community and her many contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands and for being a true ambassadress of the Virgin Islands

---0---

**WHEREAS**, Lorna Lenise Freeman, was born on November 27, 1967, to Sidney and Grethel Freeman, on the island of St. Thomas and is the second of four children; and

**WHEREAS**, she is affectionately known as “The Voice”, “The Fox” and “Songstress”; and

**WHEREAS**, her enlightening musical journey dates back to the 1970’s, when from the tender age of seven, she began singing and performing for a wide variety of audiences; and

**WHEREAS**, during her formative years, she developed and nurtured her passion for music – singing in church and in school as a featured vocalist of various groups, including, but not limited to “the Freeman’s Trio”, along with her siblings; “Echoes with Soul” and the Ivanna Eudora Kean High School (“IEKHS”) Chorales and Concert Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Jo-Sandra Jones-James; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1986, Lorna’s creative musical acumen afforded her the opportunity of attaining a number of musical distinctions and historic accomplishments and some of these notable highlights includes her authoring and arranging her IEKHS’ senior class song; serving as a featured soloist in both St. Thomas’ WBNB-TV Channel 10 “We’ve Got the Touch” television commercial; and the U. S. Virgin Islands first official album, recorded and released by a high school choir – IEKHS Cultural Mix in; and

**WHEREAS**, in the spring of 1986, Lorna graduated from IEKHS with several honorary musical recognitions and scholarships; and

**WHEREAS**, this astounding vocalist received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music, with a concentration in Vocal Performance from Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia; and

**WHEREAS**, while she was in undergraduate school, she accomplished several social and professional distinctions, such as winning the coveted Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.'s Miss Black and Gold Title for Morris Brown College, and she next won the statewide Miss Black and Gold of Georgia Title, along with Best Talent and Miss Congeniality; and Lorna, then, went on to place First Runner Up and achieved the Best Talent title for the Regional Competition; and

**WHEREAS**, Lorna also toured the United States with Morris Brown's Concert Choir; and

**WHEREAS**, she was inducted into Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity, Inc. and the Synfonette Society – the supportive group of Phi Mu Alpha Professional Fraternity, Inc.; and

**WHEREAS**, Lorna's musical journey continued to flourish after her undergraduate years, with the unyielding collaborative support and influence of family and other distinguished musicians; and

**WHEREAS**, she continued to challenge herself, nurture her craft and expand her overall musical reach; and

**WHEREAS**, her exceptional musical gift has been widely recognized for the strength of her stunning five-octave voice and, because of this extensive range, she earns frequent comparisons to well-known musicians like Whitney Houston, Mariah Carey, Patti La Belle, Celine Dion and Allison Hinds; and she has had the privilege of performing several first-rate renditions of each of their famous recordings; and

**WHEREAS**, her talent moves easily from glossy gospel ballads to hip-hop-inspired, from dance-pop to extreme classic, from sultry jazz to the Caribbean-flavored traditions of calypso and reggae; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout her career, Lorna has experienced tremendous success in performing on both the national and local stage; and

**WHEREAS**, during the 1990's, Lorna proudly represented herself and did our Territory proud when she appeared on both amateur night at New York City's famed Apollo Theater and on Ed McMahon's Next Big Star Competition, where she was the winner; and

**WHEREAS**, Lorna loves working with the youth groups; and

**WHEREAS**, while living in Maryland, she conducted the Joshua Group Ministries Choir at her church in Silver Spring, Maryland; and

**WHEREAS**, here in the Territory, Lorna has shared the stage with a cadre of world-renowned recording artists, including but not limited to, Al Hirt, Lou Rawls, the Stylistics, Al Green, The O'Jays, Dianne Reeves, Patti La Belle, Melba Moore, Louis Taylor, 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Mighty Sparrow, Lord Kitchener, Arrow, and many other talented, local musicians; and

**WHEREAS**, she has performed at the Reichhold Center for the Arts where she was handpicked by Roseline Pabon, the Associate Musical Director of the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra, to perform as a guest soloist at the Symphony's 2005 concert and also handpicked for the leading female roles in two musical productions at Reichhold – 'the King and I' and the "Sound of Music"; and

**WHEREAS**, she has made several guest appearances at Starfest I and II, Christmas Caribbean Style I and II, Reichhold's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Opening Concert, Tempo's Badness "Outta" Style, a Benefit Concert for Janine Martin, multiple University of the Virgin Islands Christmas and spring concerts, the Territorial Court Rising Stars concerts, and various pageants and recitals; and

**WHEREAS**, over the years Lorna has experienced immeasurable success and appreciation for extending her uplifting and melodic musical gifts to several social, political, ceremonial and community engagement causes in the Virgin Islands; and

**WHEREAS**, through radio, television, internet and other broadcast media, she has shared her melodic, soothing and angelic sounds with thousands of residents and visitors alike; and

**WHEREAS**, some of her signature performances include rousing selections at the Farrelly/Hodge campaign kickoff reception, various inaugural activities and events for the following Governors of the Virgin Islands: Roy Schneider, M.D.; Charles Turnbull and John de Jongh;

**WHEREAS**, she has also performed at the Charlotte Kimmelman's Cancer Institute's dedication ceremonies, Charlotte Kimmelman's annual fundraising galas, and the University of the Virgin Islands Founders Day, Charter Day and Presidential Inaugural ceremonies; and

**WHEREAS**, Lorna's additional performances were at several Virgin Islands Transfer Day and Veterans' Day ceremonies; swearing in events for Legislators, Commissioners, Law Enforcement, Fire Service and Court Appointed Officers, as well as ground-breaking proceedings, prayer breakfasts and, both, public and private-sector award programs; and

**WHEREAS**, she firmly believes that music is the universal language of the world, and as such, she also believes that there is much responsibility to share and give back as much as possible when blessed with the gift of music; and to this end, Lorna prides herself in the outreach work and musical collaborations she has had with her Virgin Islands community over the years and in her ability to directly inspire youths and adults alike; and

**WHEREAS**, this talented musician has volunteered as a vocal coach at Joseph Gomez Elementary School, Ivanna Eudora Kean High School and Charlotte Amalie High School; and

**WHEREAS**, she is often seen singing inspiring spirituals at island funerals and weddings; and

**WHEREAS**, she had the privilege of serving as a guest choral conductor/performer with the Adult Choir at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Cathedral and as Choir director/performer with the Lutheran Church of Reformation; and

**WHEREAS**, from 2003-2008, Lorna served as a vocal instructor at the Virgin Islands Institute of Performing Arts and as lead instructor at the Jones School of Music; and

**WHEREAS**, she has also enjoyed mentoring several of our Virgin Islands queens, among whom 13 have won best talent, including the late 2009 Carnival Queen Karence DeCosta; and

**WHEREAS**, she relishes the opportunities to help keep the legacy of music alive in the Virgin Islands; and in support of that mission, she was a long-standing lead vocalist with the popular Starlites Band, entertaining masses throughout the Territory and abroad for over 10 years; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2004, Lorna successfully co-produced her first holiday season CD entitled "Joy to the World", which still currently remains in high, perpetual demand; and

**WHEREAS**, her voice continues to be heard on several commercial jingles as well as several recording projects in support of other local and stateside musicians; and

**WHEREAS**, in recent years, Lorna can be found entertaining the masses with Spectrum Band; and with Spectrum's 2009 release of "Party Nice Again", Lorna made Virgin Islands History as the only individual to appear on both the first album recording by a Virgin Islands high school choir (IEKHS) and the first professionally produced, televised music video by a Virgin Islands band or group on Tempo; and

**WHEREAS**, also in 2009, she was named the first female recipient of the Mario de Chabert Music Achievement Award; and

**WHEREAS**, Lorna recently received the Virgin Islands Music Heritage Award for her outstanding musical contributions to the community, as well as receiving the League of British Virgin Islanders Award for her outstanding contributions to the British Virgin Islands' community; and

**WHEREAS**, Lorna received the Choice Wireless & Remember the Times Musical Media Award for her musical contributions to the community; and

**WHEREAS**, she proudly celebrated over 10 years as a lead vocalist with Spectrum Band, with the 2015 VI Carnival Road March tune – “Left, Right, Stop, Wuk Up”; and

**WHEREAS**, Lorna recently retired with distinction from Spectrum band and can now be seen weekly as the featured vocal artist at Da Chill Station's Jazz Nights in St. Thomas, and she is also the featured host of the widely popular Da Vybe's (107.9 FM) Radio Program – “Kissing After Dark”, on Monday evenings; and

**WHEREAS**, she is a distinguished member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., whose history of nurturing and uplifting generations of women has extended through and well beyond the shores of the U. S. Virgin Islands; and

**WHEREAS**, Lorna's musical journey has evolved over three amazing, awe-inspiring and blessed decades. Yet, she remains humbled and forever grateful to the Almighty, her family and all who have offered their unwavering support and encouragement; and

**WHEREAS**, Lorna believes music is said to be the speech of angels, the beauty of loneliness and pain and of strength and freedom. She further believes that it is the beauty of happiness, the beauty of disappointment and never satisfied love. Additionally, she believes it has the everlasting beauty of nature and being infinite; and

**WHEREAS**, if music is said to be the key to the female heart, Lorna's heart will forever remain unlocked; and so, her journey continues; Now, Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:*

**SECTION 1.** The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the U. S. Virgin Islands, honors and commends Lorna Lenise Freeman for her outstanding charitable contributions to the community and for being an ambassador of music for the Virgin Islands.

**SECTION 2.** The President of the Legislature or the President's designee shall prepare and present to Lorna Lenise Freeman a perma plaque copy of this resolution and the official Key to the Territory at an appropriate ceremony.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on June 14, 2018.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 25<sup>th</sup> Day of June, A.D., 2018.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Myron D. Jackson".

Myron D. Jackson  
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jean A. Forde".

Jean A. Forde  
Legislative Secretary