

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

12/18/2023-AMENDED AND REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

BILL NO. 35-0116

Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

August 22, 2023

A Resolution honoring and commending Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Gerard Galiber for his leadership in the Virgin Islands National Guard and his dedication to his country and to the people of the Virgin Islands

PROPOSED BY: Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.

1 **WHEREAS**, Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Gerard Galiber was born on September 16,
2 1932, on the island of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, the youngest of eight children born to Henry
3 Alphonse Galiber—a master cricket player, First Class Petty Officer with the United States
4 Navy, and a Supervisor of Sanitation for the Virgin Islands Public Works Department—and
5 Adele Louise Lanclos Galiber—beloved pianist, music teacher, and Supervisor of Music for
6 Virgin Islands public schools; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Galiber attended Saints Peter and Paul Catholic
8 School from the first through the twelfth grades and graduated in June 1951. In high school, he
9 was a member of the Boy Scouts of America which laid the foundation for his interest in serving
10 in the military. He grew up in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands with his five older
11 siblings: Flavius, Rudolph, Doris, Norma, and Andre and many childhood friends including his
12 cousins Victor Lanclos, and Gilbert Henry and friends, Richard Callwood, and Larry Richardo;
13 and

1 **WHEREAS**, as a child, Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Galiber loved animals and spent a lot
2 of time taking care of and playing with his dog, *Zurich* and cat, *Swasty*. He spent his free time
3 building model airplanes and toy sail boats and during elementary school, he worked a
4 newspaper route with the Virgin Islands Daily News. While on his paper route, he spent time
5 collecting the seeds of flamboyant trees, that were later aerial flown by a private citizen to
6 populate the island more densely with beautiful trees; and

7 **WHEREAS**, during his assignment at USARV Headquarters, Lieutenant Colonel Leayle
8 Galiber was sent to the I Corps Tactical Zone during the Tet Offensive to assist the Navy with
9 restoration of power generation at the Da Nang Evacuation Hospital. During that tour, he
10 received the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement or service in a combat zone; and

11 **WHEREAS**, to support the efforts of World War II, Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Galiber
12 collected lead linings from cigarette boxes and was a telegrapher at the local cable office for
13 his last two years of high school; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Galiber attended St. John's University,
15 Teachers College, in Brooklyn New York, and then Howard University School of Engineering
16 and Architecture, in Washington D.C. where he joined the Reserve Officer Training Corps
17 (ROTC) as a sophomore and then received a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering
18 in July 1958; and

19 **WHEREAS**, in July 1958, Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Galiber was commissioned as a
20 second lieutenant in the U.S. Army with a specialty in air defense artillery. In February 1959,
21 he entered active-duty service and served as the Integrated Fire Control System (IFCS) Platoon
22 Leader of two Nike (surface-to-air missile) sites in the Chicago, Illinois and Gary, Indiana
23 areas, and one at Thule Air Force Base in Greenland; and

24 **WHEREAS**, during his service as Platoon Leader, Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Galiber
25 trained Illinois National Guard personnel to operate the IFCS section of the Nike Ajax Missile

1 site, led the re-training of active-duty personnel for the Nike missile site, and was the Battery
2 Control Officer of "A" Battery at Thule AFB at the time President John F. Kennedy was
3 announcing the quarantine of Cuba in October 1962; and

4 **WHEREAS**, beginning in November 1962, Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Galiber served as
5 the intelligence and security officer of a Nike battalion in Gary, Indiana and then a battalion at
6 Fort Clayton in the Panama Canal Zone. In July 1966, while in the Panama Canal Zone, he
7 was detailed to the Corps of Engineers and re-stationed to Fort Stewart, Georgia to assist with
8 the formation and training of the 34th Engineer Construction Battalion. There he was assigned
9 as the Construction Officer of that battalion and deployed as its troop commander to Bien Hoa,
10 Vietnam in April 1967; and

11 **WHEREAS**, having been promoted to the rank of Major during the period of movement
12 to Vietnam, Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Galiber was reassigned to the US Army Engineer
13 Command in Vietnam, as the project officer for the construction of a new building for
14 headquarters U.S. Army, Vitenam (USARV) in Long Binh. Upon completion of that project,
15 he was assigned as the utility officer in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics at
16 Headquarters, U.S. Army Vietnam. During that tour, he requested and received a permanent
17 branch transfer from Air Defense Artillery to the Corps of Engineers; and

18 **WHEREAS**, upon his return to the continental United States in April 1968, Lieutenant
19 Colonel Leayle Galiber was assigned as one of two Assistant Army Engineers at Headquarters,
20 First U.S. Army, Fort Meade, Maryland where he was detailed to be the engineer evaluator of
21 a West Virginia Army National Guard construction battalion annual training, became a member
22 of a Sentinel-Sprint (anti-ballistic missile) Site selection team, and was detailed to serve as the
23 Military Aid to the ninth civilian Governor of the Virgin Islands, Ralph M. Paiewonsky, during
24 the week of Richard M. Nixon's first Presidential inauguration; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Galiber returned to Vietnam in June 1971 where
26 he was assigned as the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) Engineer Advisor to

1 the Vietnamese Military Property Construction Officer (MPCO) in Da Nang and, concurrently,
2 the MPCO in Hue; and

3 **WHEREAS**, during his second tour in Vietnam, Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Galiber
4 received the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal, 1st Class, for his support of the
5 Vietnamese recovery from the effects of a typhoon that struck three of the five northern
6 provinces in September 1971. He was detailed from his MPCO assignment to assist and advise
7 the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) 10th Combat Engineer Group in the counter-
8 offensive to the North Vietnam's Easter Offensive of 1972 in Quang Tri Province, and he
9 received a second Bronze Star Medal for support of the MPCOs throughout the year and the
10 ARVN combat engineer battalion; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Galiber returned to the continental United States
12 in July 1972 and was assigned as Chief of the Combat Engineering Instructor Section of the
13 Engineering School at Fort Belvoir, Virginia; and

14 **WHEREAS**, in January 1973, Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Galiber was detailed to serve
15 as the Military Aide to the first elected governor of the Virgin Islands, Melvin H. Evans, during
16 the week of President Nixon's Second Inauguration; and

17 **WHEREAS**, in April 1973, Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Galiber was reassigned as the
18 Assistant to the Commander at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, for National Guard Affairs with
19 the specific mission of assisting the Virgin Islands territory to achieve federal recognition of
20 the Army National Guard units; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Galiber was instrumental in guiding the
22 organization of the Virgin Islands National Guard in 1973. He was mission-oriented and looked
23 at the big picture knowing that establishment of the National Guard in the Virgin Islands would
24 benefit the territory because it would empower the Governor to activate the Virgin Islands
25 National Guard during a territorial emergency or a natural disaster; and

1 **WHEREAS**, by an Act of Congress, sponsored by U.S. House Representative Ronald de
2 Lugo, the territory's first delegate to the U.S. Congress, the Virgin Islands National Guard was
3 federally recognized on October 19, 1973. In a ceremony officiated by Major General La Vern
4 E. Weber, Director of the United States Army National Guard, Lieutenant Colonel Leayle
5 Galiber was appointed acting Adjutant General and took command of the first two units to be
6 activated, a Headquarters Detachment and the 661st Military Police Company, both on St.
7 Croix. He was permanently assigned as the U. S. Property and Fiscal Officer (USPFO) for the
8 Virgin Islands National Guard, and temporarily as Acting Adjutant General, pending the
9 confirmation of Adjutant General Gerard Luz James; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in February 1974 the Virgin Islands National Guard saw the formation of
11 the 662nd Military Police Company on St. Thomas. In October 1974, the 666th Army Band
12 was established on St. Croix. In November 1974, the Virgin Islands National Guard received
13 its first call to territorial active duty by Governor Melvin H. Evans, when torrential rains
14 resulted in widespread flooding throughout the islands; and

15 **WHEREAS**, by September 1976, the Virgin Islands National Guard doubled in strength
16 and the first reorganization occurred. The Guard expanded its force with the 666th Army Band
17 and the 666th Military Police Battalion on St. Thomas. The newly structured Combat Service
18 Support organization was subordinate to the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Galiber was reassigned to Headquarters, US
20 Army Garrison, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland in September 1975, where he served as Chief
21 of the Housing Division, Directorate of Industrial Operations; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Galiber met Kirsten Anderson, fell in love, and
23 married her on December 7, 1975, in Christiansted, St. Croix. They had two children, Leayle
24 Jr., born on September 13, 1976, and John, born on November 13, 1978; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Galiber retired from active duty in March 1979,
26 at Fort Meade having progressed in rank from Second Lieutenant in 1958, to First Lieutenant

1 in 1960, to Captain in 1963, to Major in 1967, and finally to Lieutenant Colonel on January 1,
2 1974. Upon retiring from active duty, he was selected to be the Installation Master Planner in
3 the Directorate of Engineering and Housing at Fort Meade, until he retired from Civil Service
4 in January 2003; and

5 **WHEREAS**, during his expansive military career, Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Galiber
6 received invaluable assistance and could not have achieved all of his success without the
7 USPFO of the Georgia National Guard, Major Poulson, Chief Warrant Officer Four Jackson,
8 Army Military Police enlisted advisor Staff Sergeant Watkins, Chief Warrant Officer Four
9 (RET) Gregory R. Francis and several members of the former U.S. Army Reserve unit on St.
10 Croix; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Gerard Galiber, the youngest of eight children,
12 is proud to boast that his son, John M. Galiber, served in the United States Navy and achieved
13 the rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer. He is also proud that his three older brothers, a niece,
14 and several nephews have served their country and their territory or state, giving their time and
15 expertise to the military, the Virgin Islands Government, the people of the Virgin Islands and
16 the United States; and

17 **WHEREAS**, The Virgin Islands National Guard receives more than 52 million dollars
18 annually in federal funding which helps the National Guard continue to recruit volunteers to
19 serve the Virgin Islands, and to employ civil servants to support its important mission; and

20 **WHEREAS**, since its inception in 1973, the Virgin Islands National Guard has grown
21 exponentially and today stands as a proud division of the National Guard of the United States,
22 with a vision of providing a ready force that is warfighting-capable and governor-responsive,
23 with soldiers and airmen who have always lived up to the National Guard's motto, "Always
24 Ready, Always There." The Virgin Islands National Guard remains "The Guardians of the
25 Eastern Front"; Now, Therefore,

26 ***Be it Resolved by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

