

Puerto Ricans in the US Virgin Islands : Gov. Juan F. Luis Saldaña

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English Dept.
College of Humanities
Proyecto Diáspora

5-8 THE DAILY NEWS, INAUGURAL EDITION, JANUARY 8, 1979

Inaugural Address Of Gov Juan Luis

My Fellow Virgin Islanders and Friends:

The oath I have taken before you and before God is ours together and looks great significance to this moment.

I ask you to join with me on this historic occasion to rededicate ourselves to some simple and basic virtues — those of concern, love and kindness toward our fellow men.

For the simple virtues are the ones most needed today if we are to overcome the forces that divide us and nurture the values that unite us.

Four years ago, during the inauguration of the late Governor Cyril B. King, I appeared before you to tell you that all I wanted was to be a good Lieutenant Governor.

Today, I am grateful for this opportunity to appear before you again to say that all I want is to be a good Governor.

With this purpose in mind, and with God's guidance, my main objective in the next four years is to work with you to do all we can together to improve the quality of life in the Virgin Islands, recognizing that life quality is not measured merely by personal material gain, but also by our sense of community, our concern for our fellow Virgin Islanders, and our preservation of all that is valuable in our heritage.

Our recent social, economic, and political history all make clear that this objective will not be easy to achieve. I believe, however, that the time is now opportune for us to make a concerted effort to fulfill our dreams and aspirations and make the Virgin Islands a place in which each resident can live in peace, with pride, dignity and contentment.

In this pursuit, let us recognize that while the times are opportune, there are also times of rapid and incredible change — challenging the cultural traditions of our society, disturbing old values and old ways.

The measure of our success in shaping our destiny in the midst of this change will depend upon the manner in which we join reason to faith, action to experience, and

unity of purpose to unity of interest. We must act quickly and decisively in exploring the opportunity we now have to achieve our progress without deviations and to achieve change without hatred, preserving valuable differences of opinion but avoiding the bitter divisions of the past which have proven so detrimental to our progress.

All of us must play a significant role in advancing our common purpose by finding a new sense of purpose within ourselves. Without this fresh personal commitment, we cannot succeed in obtaining the best that is achievable for our people and for our Islands. We need always to bear in mind that democracy rests on citizen participation, and that democracy rests on citizen participation, and that democracy demands as much as it gives.

When we have succeeded in focusing the creative efforts of all Virgin Islanders on the task of overcoming the difficult circumstances we now face, generations to come will acknowledge of us that we indeed mastered our moment in history. This mastery is our purpose and our responsibility.

I believe in the people of the Virgin Islands and know you are ready to answer this call.

There is so much we need to do. From among our long list of priorities the following must be identified for immediate attention and action, although we must be careful to be realistic about what can be accomplished and to promise to do no more.

More now than ever before the effective management of our economy is demanded, to assure its continued, controlled growth. For the resources generated by our economy will play a major role in permitting us to address effectively the awesome task of meeting our varied and complex needs.

We must develop an effective crime control and prevention program — one that will involve, among other things, reforming our criminal justice system, insuring the effective rehabilitation of juvenile offenders, expanding our economy to provide more employment, instituting

mandatory educational programs for students who have dropped out of school, and ensuring that all children are by juveniles in their care and custody.

We must improve our educational system to meet the immediate and pressing problems which have created the educational requirements of our youth in this rapidly changing world.

We must devise effective fiscal and budgetary policies so that the Government can live within its means, production and the collection and disposal of waste.

We must expand and improve our health services to provide more and better housing in conjunction with an improved homeownership program, increase the press for the completion of all pending capital projects.

We must develop imaginative programs to meet the legitimate demands of our youth, improve the lives of senior citizens, and reach out with compassion and understanding to resolve the severe problems of the needy in our community.

I find reason for optimism in a new Virgin Islands Constitution that will promote the attainment of the levels of self-determination and political nationhood at the same time providing a framework for restructuring and reforming the operations of our government.

We must preserve and strengthen the relationship of our Territory and the United States of America, a great nation on earth and a nation of which we are very proud to be a part.

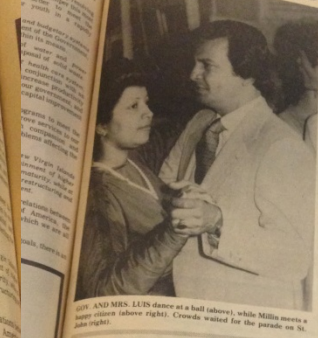
In order to accomplish these and other goals, I ask you to join with me and Lieutenant Governor Henry A. Millin in creatively seeking achievement and success with peace, pride and dignity.

Let us unite as one people in search of our destiny. Let us remain firm in our faith, steadfast in our purpose and confident in our God, thereby assuring the advancement and betterment of our people and our beloved Virgin Islands.

Thus you very much.

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Governor's Dance



GOV. AND MRS. LUIS dance at a ball (above), while Millin meets a happy crowd (above right). Crowds waited for the people on St. John's.

The Inaugural Address

(Continued from Page 8)

urgent need for the Administration and Legislature to work together. Mindful of this fact, I offer my fullest cooperation and assistance to the Legislature for the purpose of joining a meaningful working relationship in order to ensure the greatest public good.

Perhaps even more important, it is time to recognize that this Territory has approached the limits of what the Government, including the Administration, the Legislature and the Courts, can do by itself. We must now reach beyond the Government to enlist the assistance of concerned and committed Virgin Islanders in the achievement of our goals.

What has to be done must be accomplished by the Government and the people working together. Without the active assistance of the people, the Government will continue to experience serious problems. With the active assistance of the people, the Government can effectively resolve these problems.

I humbly accept the high honor you have bestowed upon me. I accept this honor cognizant of the duties and responsibilities of my office which are set forth in the Constitution and laws of the United States and in the laws of the Virgin Islands.

I ask you to join with me and Lieutenant Governor Henry A. Millin in creatively seeking achievement and success with peace, pride and dignity.

Let us unite as one people in search of our destiny. Let us remain firm in our faith, steadfast in our purpose and confident in our God, thereby assuring the advancement and betterment of our people and our beloved Virgin Islands.

Thus you very much.

with best wishes to

Gov. Juan Luis and Lt. Gov. Henry Millin

and the Members of the 13th Legislature

VIRGIN ISLE HOTEL

JANUARY 3, 1979

On this historic day we join with all Virgin Islanders in sending congratulations and best wishes to

Governor Juan Luis

Lt. Governor Henry A. Millin

Puerto Rican Leaders



VICE PRESIDENT OF the Puerto Rican Senate, F.S. Gov. Carlos Romero Barcelo. Left, the outgoing Gov. Pedro Ferraz.

WITH SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ...

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Jim St. John 1st Vice President
Cleve Keller 2nd Vice President
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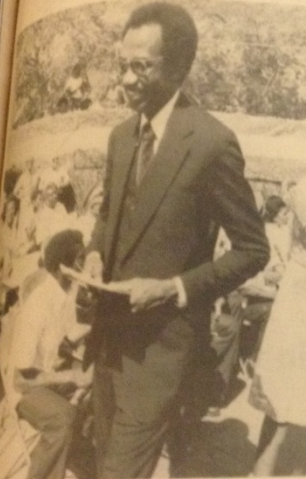
AND THE MEMBERSHIP

BALI HAI HOTEL	MIDTOWN GUESTHOUSE
BLUEBEARD'S CASTLE	MORNING STAR BEACH RESORT
BOLONGO BAY BEACH RESORT	PAVILIONS & POOLS
CANEEL BAY PLANTATION	PINEAPPLE BEACH RESORT
CARIB BEACH HOTEL	POINT PLEASANT VILLAGE
CROWN COLONY	RED HOOK MOUNTAIN
FRENCHMAN'S REEF	SCOTT HOTEL
GALLOW'S POINT COTTAGES	SEA HORSE COTTAGE
HARBOR VIEW HOTEL	SECRET HARBOR HOTEL
HOTEL 1829	SHIBUI RESORT
ISLAND BEACHCOMBER	SERENDIP APARTMENTS
LIME TREE BEACH RESORT	SAPPHIRE BEACH RESORT
MAHO BAY	ST. THOMAS SHERATON
MAGENS POINT HOTEL	SUGAR BIRD
	VIRGIN ISLE HOTEL

**ST. THOMAS
- ST. JOHN
HOTEL
ASSOCIATION**
salutes the administration of
GOV. JUAN LUIS
and
**LT. GOV. HENRY
MILLIN**

"WE TAKE THE BEST FROM YESTERDAY
WE PLAN THE BEST FOR TOMORROW
AND DO OUR VERY BEST TODAY."

Distinguished ...And Not So



DR. AUGUSTE RIMPEL, a distinguished "alumnus" of the islands, provides a contrast to the duo who brought up the rose in St. Thomas' parade. One observer found a dry spot (below right).



CONGRATULATIONS JUAN LUIS

New Administration Faces Myriad Problems

With the last strains of inaugural waltzes and military drumbeats now a lingering memory, public attention is turning to the agenda for action that now confronts Gov. Juan Luis.

Little has been heard from the governor in the two months between his election and his inauguration, either about his specific plans for solving the myriad problems facing the territory or about the people he will choose to help him solve them.

That is expected to change now that he has been sworn in as governor in his own right.

The problems facing the territory are so well known that a school child could recite the litany:

- Crime against person and property that, if unchecked, could prove disastrous, socially and economically.

- An educational system burdened with some double sessions, overcrowding, dilapidated schools, discipline problems and graduates who often are poorly prepared academically.

- Lack of adequate potable water on St. Thomas, with some residential areas and housing projects sometimes left without water for days on end.

- Frequent power outages.

- Woefully infrequent garbage collection on St. Thomas, a

situation that has spurred some residents recently to resort to arson to overcome the health hazards created by piled-up garbage sitting for days in cans and bins.

Other problems are less immediate in terms of improving people's day-to-day lives but will require priority action. In this category are the need for continued management of the economy with an eye toward controlling growth, as Luis pointed out in his inaugural address, and the need for greater emphasis on planning to make the most of the limited resources on these small islands.

The question for Luis and Lt. Gov. Henry A. Millin sounds simple but there are no easy answers: How does one go about solving these complex and often longstanding problems?

New policies presumably will be sought but a key, of course, is the people who are - or will be - put in charge of helping to devise plans of action and who are made responsible for carrying out those plans.

Several crucial Cabinet positions are vacant, namely the commissionships of public safety, education and commerce. They must be filled.

There also are persistent rumors that Luis may be considering a

shake-up - though perhaps a gradual rather than an explosive one - in other Cabinet and Cabinet-level positions.

This rumor gained some credence after the private but official New Year's Day inauguration ceremony at Government House to which Cabinet members were not invited. Perhaps this was an oversight, as one commissioner suggested privately, but other sources suggested that Luis did not want all of his cabinet members to get the false impression that they were witnessing something of which they would remain a part, and therefore did not invite any of them.

While Luis's choice of Amadeo Francis Jr. for commerce commissioner is an open secret, there has been no indication of whether the two have come to an agreement on Francis's conditions for accepting the job. Sources close to both believe the details have not been firmed up - particularly on salary.

Francis, who has 25 years of experience in economic development and tourism working for government and private industry in Puerto Rico, was a VIP guest at last week's inaugural festivities.

Meanwhile, Millin remains acting commissioner of commerce as he has been since the September departure of Auguste Rimpel Jr., who also was on hand for the

inauguration.

If Luis has made a decision about perhaps the most important vacancy in his Cabinet - a public safety commissioner to replace Charles Groneveldt, who stepped down last month - his choice is a well guarded secret.

Several names have been bandied about, including that of Acting Commissioner Gaylord Sprauve, who reportedly will be endorsed by the police officers and sergeants, and Milton Branch, who was a special prosecutor for the U.S. Justice Department in the Fountain Valley case and later served as chief of the Law Department's Criminal Division.

However, Luis has given no sign as to whether he favors either one or someone else to help him fight what may be the most difficult battle of his administration - the battle against spiraling and increasingly violent crime.

It will not be an easy battle to win, if past experience is any indication. But crime is so intricately intertwined with economic progress because of the territory's dependence on tourism, that failure at least to keep the lid on crime, - if not reduce it - could have drastic economic repercussions in addition to the obvious social ills that would stem from continued fear and unrest among Virgin Islanders and their visitors.

Education is the third element that remains intact. Sources close to Luis have indicated since October that he intends to appoint Charles Turnbull, now acting commissioner, to replace Gwendolyn K. who left last month, but an announcement has come from Government House.

The person responsible for issuing such announcements is Press Secretary Ronald Walker, who also has submitted his resignation but gave no effective date other than to say he would leave in January.

Walker was still on the job last week. Asked when he plans to leave, he replied, "The governor will decide in due time how long I remain in the position."

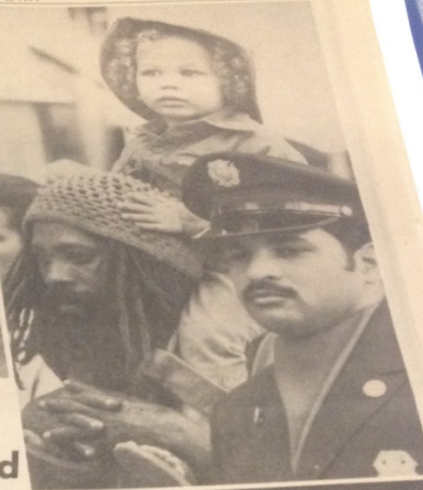
The name to surface recently as a possible replacement for Walker is that of Pam Johnson, an employee of Civil Defense who worked hard during the election campaign on public relations, losing congressional candidates Julio Brady and later for Lt. Millin. Ms. Johnson also handles public relations for recent inaugural activities.

There also have been reports that Luis may follow the path of his predecessor, the late E. King, and have a secretary for a time.

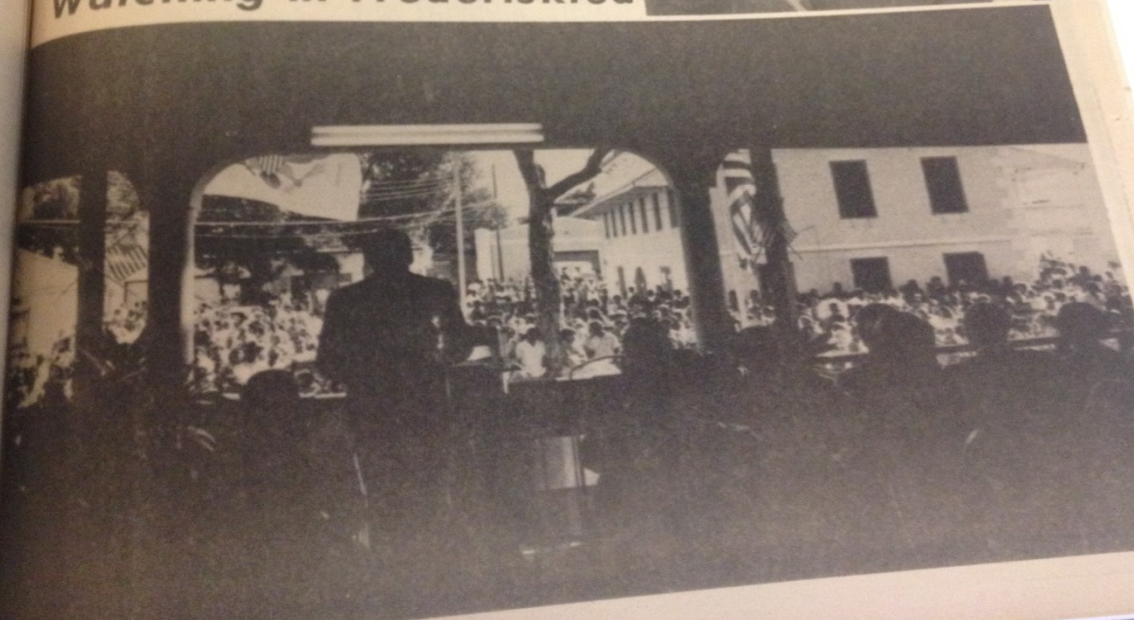
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CITIBANK, N.A.

and its VIRGIN ISLAND'S BRANCHES



Parade And Speech Watching In Frederiksted



My Fellow Virgin Islanders and Friends:
The oath I have taken before you and before God is ours together and lends great significance to this moment.

I ask you to join with me on this historic occasion to rededicate ourselves to some simple and basic virtues -- those of concern, love and kindness toward our fellow men.

For the simple virtues are the ones most needed today if we are to overcome the forces that divide us and nurture the values that unite us.

Four years ago, during the Inauguration of the late Governor Cyril E. King, I appeared before you to tell you that all I wanted was to be a good Lieutenant Governor.

Today, I am grateful for this opportunity to appear before you again to say that all I want is to be a good Governor.

...and with God's guidance, my

“Hay mucho por hacer. De nuestra lista de prioridades las siguientes deben identificarse como de inmediata atención y acción, pero debemos ser cuidadosos y realistas sobre que podemos cumplir y no prometer más que eso”

“Les pido que se me unan en esta ocasión histórica para rededicarnos a unas virtudes simples y básicas: preocuparnos por, amar a, y ser generosos con nuestros conciudadanos.”

“Las virtudes más simples son aquellas que hoy más necesitamos si vamos a superar las fuerzas que nos dividen y a cultivar los valores que nos unen”

responsibility.

I believe in the people of the Virgin Islands and know you are ready to answer this call.

There is so much we need to do. From among our long list of priorities the following must be identified for immediate attention and action, although we must be careful to be realistic about what can be accomplished and to promise to do no more.

More now than ever before the effective management of our economy is demanded to assure its continued controlled growth. For the resources generated by our economy will play a major role in permitting us to address effectively the awesome task of meeting our varied and complex needs.

On Tourism and Economic Development

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SECTION 4, Title 33, Chapter 3, Section 43, subsection (a), Virgin Islands Code, is amended by striking therefrom all of the first proviso clause and preserving the second proviso clause except that the word "further" is deleted and the word "however" is substituted in lieu thereof; and by adding to such Section 43 a new subsection (f) to read as follows:

"(f) Every individual and every firm, corporation and other association subject to the provisions of this Section and whose annual gross receipts are less than \$350,000 is exempted from the payment of gross receipts tax on the first \$5,000 of gross receipts each month. For the purposes of this subsection an individual, business, or association shall be presumed to have annual gross receipts of less than \$350,000 if the actual gross receipts for the preceding tax year of such individual, business, or association was less than \$350,000. The presumption shall continue each month until the actual gross receipts are \$350,000 or more for the taxable year, in which case the gross receipts tax is due and payable on the entire gross receipts for such tax year. Any individual, business, or association which paid gross receipts taxes on the entire gross receipts for a tax year and qualifies for the exemption provided by this subsection shall be refunded the amount which should have been exempt under this section. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, if an individual, firm, partnership, or any other association, is a member of a controlled group of more than one business at any time during the taxable period, then for purposes of this Section, the gross receipts of all of such businesses shall determine the amount of the exemption granted hereunder to each member of such controlled group. If a corporation is a member of a controlled group of corporations at any time during the taxable period, then, for purposes of this Section, the gross receipts of the entire controlled group shall determine the amount of the exemption granted hereunder to each and every member of such controlled group. For purposes of this subsection, the term 'controlled group' means any arrangement entered into subsequent to June 1982, whereby, or whereunder, (A) in the case of individual partnerships, or any other association, ownership of more than a 51 percent interest (as evidenced by amount of investment, share of

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Our findings were that in all size firms employees born in the Virgin Islands increased their proportion of the work force between 1981-1985. The proportion of West Indians not born in the Virgin Islands decreased in all three sized businesses. Residents of five years or more decreased in their proportion of employees of small sized businesses during the period, while experiencing a slight increase in medium and large firms. Finally, residents for less than five years increased proportionately in small and medium sized stores between 1981 - 1985, and decreased in large ones.

6. Investment and Indirect Employment Effects (See Table 23.)

We found that there was a net decrease in investment of \$333,753 in 1982, compared to an increase of \$5,639,497 in 1983. This trend continued in 1984, with an estimated additional investment of \$2,877,611. Without Bill 14-0411, we project that investment for 1983 would have been minimal (\$29,840 in 1983; the same for 1984).

Thus, the investment change with Bill 14-0411 has been significant. However, as explained below, other factors in addition to Bill 14-0411 may also have to be taken into consideration in assessing this change.

One immediate impact of new investment was upon employment in the construction industry. In the latter,

...would have been beyond the scope of our resources and the time frame allocated for our study. In addition, it is extremely difficult to measure with any precision such indirect economic effects.

As a result of these limitations, we were unable to estimate tax revenues from indirect effects. They, no doubt, exist and will lower the estimated net tax loss to the V.I. Government in 1983 and increase the estimated tax gain in 1984.

4. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

There is no doubt that the retail tourist sector engaging in the sale of items exempted from taxation under Bill 14-0411 experienced a considerable stimulus in 1984. It is reasonable to believe that the legislation played a considerable role in this stimulation, although the exact weight to be assigned to it is

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"6. Sections 2, 9, 10, 11, and 12 of this Act shall become effective on the date of enactment of this Act and shall continue until and unless repealed by an Act of the Legislature.

(112) Third Session by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on September 4, 1984.

Witness our Hands and the Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 10th Day of September, A.D., 1984.

Ruth M. Roach
GOVERNOR

Robert J. Roach
GOVERNOR

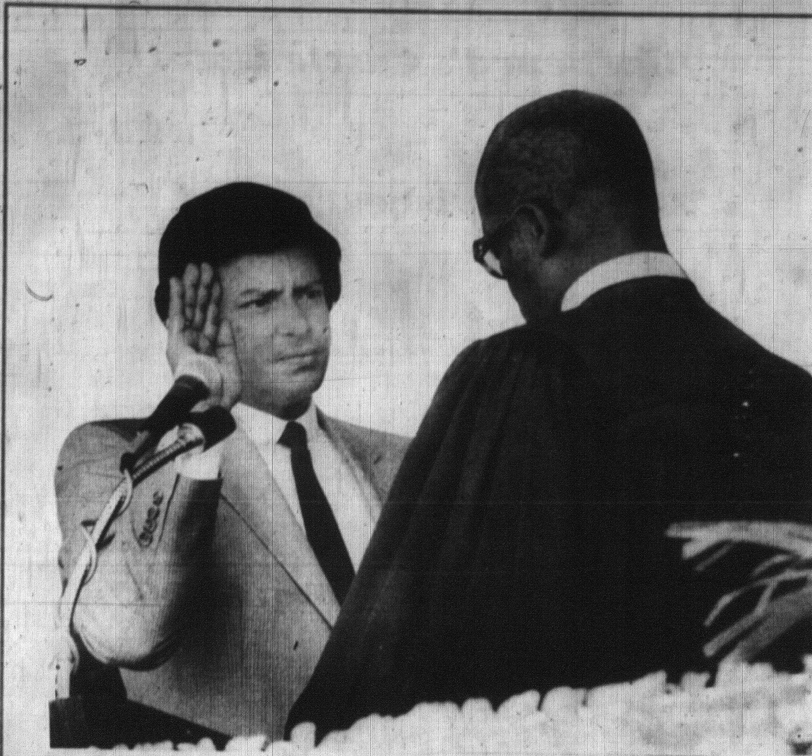
The above bill is hereby approved.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands this 10th Day of September at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I., September 10, 1984.

John J. Roach
GOVERNOR

'83 Inauguration Edition

The Daily News, January 1



The swearing-in of Gov. Juan Luis

THE DAILY NEWS, INAUGURAL EDITION 83

'All of us must work together'

■ This is the complete text of Gov. Juan Luis' inaugural address delivered Jan. 3 in Emancipation Garden, St. Thomas.

Today as a new chapter in the political history of the Virgin Islands is being recorded, I invite you to share with me and Lt. Gov. Julio A. Brady the significance of this special day on which we take the oath of office.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of those individuals in this community who elected us to office - for without such support this inaugural day for us would not have been possible. Again I wish to take this opportunity to express to them our deepest thanks and appreciation.

Each moment in history is but a transitory time marked with varying perspectives. But some stand out as great moments in which courses are set that will shape the future of government and the course of our very lives.

Today, I perceive forces in our beloved Virgin Islands now converging together that may make it possible for our deepest aspirations to be realized. Attainments that once seemed impossible are beginning to take shape all around us.

One has only to examine the overnight progress in the construction of public facilities on all three islands to see the ongoing progressive strides of our developing society.

Daily News Photo - Richard Gibson

Unfortunately, even the rapidity of the changes we see as a result of our impressive development is not fast enough to keep pace with some of our severe social and economic problems. But I am optimistic that we will continue to be successful in minimizing these remaining problems to acceptable levels. We will do so with God's help, with the help of our great nation, and with the help of the people of the Virgin Islands.

The chance to move swiftly again onto the high ground of continued progress begins today. This is our summons to move onto better times and greater things.

I know that Virgin Islanders are

land acquisition program for our people. We have done so because we have recognized that without land, our explosive population growth will make it virtually impossible to implement the viable homeownership and agricultural programs so desperately needed to promote the pride of ownership of a part of one's homeland and to increase local food production.

■ We have managed, despite our economic problems, to maintain a relatively low, non-injurious level of unemployment, which nevertheless we will continue to attempt to reduce to a more acceptable level.

■ We have created tough anti-crime laws calling for a host of stiff mandatory minimum sentences and have enhanced our crime-fighting capabilities in our efforts to signal to the criminal elements in this community that lawlessness will not be tolerated.

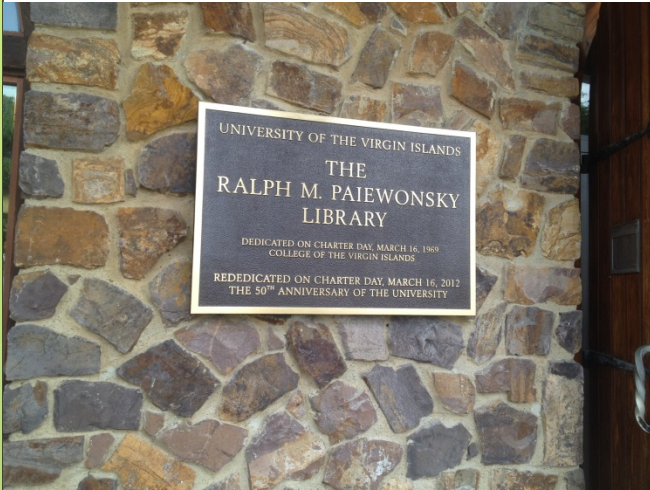
■ And while it is impossible to attain perfection in what we do, we have brought significant progress to most departmental service areas of our government. Observing new ambulances, fire trucks, police cars, garbage trucks, specialized road patching trucks and grass cutters and buses on our roads and highways is testimony to this fact.

Realizing that the task in continuing our progress to make our lives more secure has just begun anew, I now call upon all elected and appointed leaders, civic as well as private, to join forces together in a revitalized attack against our worst enemy, the social and economic problems that beset us.

I submit to you on this, inaugural day, that for my part I have again, with renewed spirit begun this attack. But realizing that much more remains to be done and requires the full cooperation of all, let us from this day on form a healthy working partnership to achieve these goals. For our part Lieutenant Governor Julio Brady and I pledge to do all we can to maintain this partnership and to work together with all committed groups of the public and private

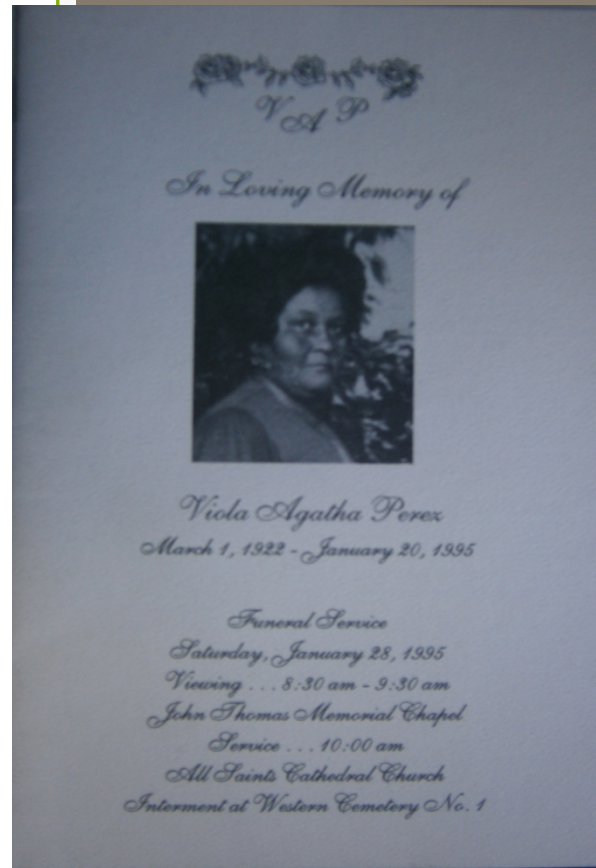


University of the Virgin Islands



VI- STH Friendship Committee





<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~vicgl/FuneralBooks/FuneralBooks.pdf>



Preguntas??