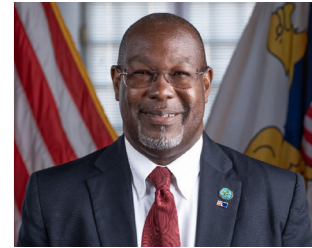




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Fellow Virgin Islanders,

The V.I. Department of Labor wishes a safe, happy, and thoughtful “Liberty Day,” in the name of our very own David Hamilton Jackson. As resilient people with a history of self-determination, we celebrate the leader of leaders, David Hamilton Jackson. As a historical figure, we know him as the labor rights leader and the public advocate that kept the working person at the forefront of his mission while challenging the colonial powers at the time. As a cultural icon, we see his efforts as a timeless movement that recharges every time we stand up for our rights as citizens.

David Hamilton Jackson is one of the Department of Labor’s greatest examples of career perseverance. Jackson’s hard work is exemplified by the many career opportunities he had taken throughout his lifetime. With over five distinct pathways, his interdisciplinary approach to gaining experience contributed to his enduring legacy. Jackson's ability to remain passionate about civic engagement is evident in the roles he played and the actions he took to educate the public about their rights and responsibilities. He used his work experiences to build skills that help him gain success engaging with opponents in non-violent means while empowering the workforce.

The progress from firepower to the power of the pen is demonstrated in the transition we see from leaders of the historic Labor Riot that transformed to collective bargaining and public forum, in the time of D. Hamilton Jackson. Jackson embodied the empowerment and progression of citizenship in the Virgin Islands. As the benefactors of his work, we must be the examples today that future generations can connect to. After David Hamilton Jackson, we share this responsibility to protect our Liberty. Let us never forget.

In observance of this day, let us use the cultural lessons from our historical and modern-day leaders to carry on a legacy of strength and progress. We must have the tough conversations and stand collectively in modern times to engage as active citizens and allow the passion for your fellow Virgin Islanders and their pursuit to make our islands better. We are reminded on Liberty Day that the best way for us to move forward is together. Take Liberty seriously on this day and remember the life and legacy of the great David Hamilton Jackson.

Respectfully,

On behalf of Gary A. Molloy
Commissioner

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