

ACT NO. 7771

**BILL NO. 31-0230**

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

**Regular Session**

**2015**

An Act amending title 1 Virgin Islands Code by designating the month of November the "David Hamilton Jackson Month" and providing for the digitization of all publications of *The Herald* and of all historically significant documents about David Hamilton Jackson

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**WHEREAS**, on September 28, 1884, David Hamilton Jackson was born on Estate East Hill, Christiansted, St. Croix; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Jackson was educated at the East Hill School, where his father was the principal and his mother was a teacher; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Jackson himself became an educator and later a bookkeeper at the business of James C. Canegata; and

**WHEREAS**, about 1910, Mr. Jackson studied law at Howard University and returned to St. Croix and engaged in the private practice of law; and

**WHEREAS**, from in 1779, Denmark had enacted an ordinance allowing for the publication of only government subsidized newspapers; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1915, Mr. Jackson was selected to travel to Denmark to request that the ordinance be repealed in the Danish West Indies; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of his request, King Christian X and the Danish Parliament agreed to repeal the ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 1, 1915, Mr. Jackson published the first edition of *The Herald*, the first free press newspaper in the Danish West Indies; and

**WHEREAS**, *The Herald* became the voice of the people, which Mr. Jackson used to inform and educate the laboring class; and

**WHEREAS**, also in 1915, Mr. Jackson, with the assistance of Ralph Bough, organized one of the first labor unions in the Danish West Indies, the St. Croix Labor Union; and

**WHEREAS**, at that time, the men, women, and children in St. Croix labored in the cane fields from dawn to dusk for wages of 10 and 20 cents per day; and

**WHEREAS**, the labor union advocated for higher wages and better working conditions, which were achieved after a general strike; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Jackson encouraged the people to develop self-confidence and pride in themselves as human beings equal to any man, regardless of color or social position; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Jackson also taught the people to take pride in their race and to strive for personal development as a means of dissipating the damaging effects of servitude inflicted by slavery and semi-slavery; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Jackson, frustrated with the lack of reform by the Danish government, advocated for the United States to purchase the islands from Denmark, which occurred in 1917; and

**WHEREAS**, from 1923-1926, Mr. Jackson served on the Colonial Council of St. Croix; and

**WHEREAS**, from 1931-1941, Mr. Jackson served as a judge of the Municipal Court and played a role in the development of the 1936 Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 30, 1946, Mr. Jackson died, having served the people of St. Croix as an educator, an editor, a labor leader, a lawyer, and a legislator; and

**WHEREAS**, November 1, 2015, will be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first publication of *The Herald*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature of the Virgin Islands recognizes that David Hamilton Jackson made significant contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands, particularly to the people of the island of St. Croix; Now, Therefore,

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

**SECTION 1.** Title 1 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 11 is amended by adding a section 200g to read:

**“§ 200g David Hamilton Jackson Month**

(a) The month of November of each year is designated as “David Hamilton Jackson Month” to highlight Mr. Jackson’s achievements and his contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands.

(b) The Commissioner of Education, the Virgin Islands Cultural Heritage Institute, the Virgin Islands Historic Preservation Office and the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums shall develop appropriate programs and ceremonies within their respective areas of statutory jurisdiction for the celebration of "David Hamilton Jackson Month."

**SECTION 2.** The Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Division of Archives, shall locate and digitize all publications of *The Herald* and all historically significant documents about David Hamilton Jackson and shall deposit them in all public school libraries.

**SECTION 3.** The sum of \$10,000 is appropriated from the \$150,000 cultural education allotment for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, to the Department of Planning and Natural Resources for the digitization of all publications of *The Herald* and all historically significant documents about David Hamilton Jackson.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on September 23, 2015.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 25<sup>th</sup> Day of September, A.D., 2015.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Neville James".

Neville James  
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Myron D. Jackson".

Myron D. Jackson  
Legislative Secretary

Bill No. 31-0230 is hereby approved.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, this 24<sup>th</sup> day October A.D., 2015.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth E. Mapp".

Kenneth E. Mapp  
Governor

