

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 799

Honoring the Virgin Islands National Guard on its 50th anniversary.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 19, 2023

Ms. PLASKETT submitted the following resolution

OCTOBER 25, 2023

Referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## RESOLUTION

Honoring the Virgin Islands National Guard on its 50th anniversary.

Whereas the Virgin Islands National Guard was founded on October 19, 1973, in a ceremony officiated by Major General La Vern E. Weber, Director of the United States Army National Guard;

Whereas October 19, 2023, marks 50 years since the Virgin Islands National Guard was established;

Whereas the founders of the Virgin Islands National Guard, who were veterans of foreign wars, believed that the territory of the Virgin Islands was vulnerable and in a general state of unreadiness following the incorporation of the Virgin Islands as a territory of the United States;

Whereas the Virgin Islands National Guard and the thousands of members who have served in the Virgin Islands National Guard have made a vital contribution to the national defense of the United States over the last 50 years;

Whereas the Virgin Islanders in the United States Armed Forces have served and fought in every major United States military conflict of the 20th and 21st centuries;

Whereas, dating back to Hurricanes David and Frederick in 1979, the Virgin Islands National Guard has aided in disaster relief efforts and responded to major disasters, including Hurricane Hugo, Hurricane Marilyn, Hurricanes Irma and Maria, and the COVID–19 pandemic;

Whereas the Virgin Islands Army and Air National Guard have served and fought in major United States military conflicts since 1973, including Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas, in response to the catastrophic events of September 11, 2001, the Virgin Islands National Guard was deployed to missions worldwide, including in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Kosovo, Haiti, and Cuba;

Whereas members of the Virgin Islands National Guard have made the ultimate sacrifice in their valiant service to the Nation, including two servicemembers who were killed in action while serving in active duty during Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas in keeping with the National Guard’s motto of “Always Ready, Always There!”, the members of the Virgin Islands National Guard aided law enforcement in creating a secure environment for the 59th inaugural ceremonies;

Whereas, throughout their deployments to the National Capital Region in early 2021, the members of the Virgin Islands National Guard were instrumental in securing the peaceful transfer of power, one of the hallmarks of our Republic;

Whereas the members of the Virgin Islands National Guard completed their mission while also responding to, and working to mitigate, the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic;

Whereas members of the Virgin Islands National Guard serve their country and their community on a daily basis;

Whereas members of the Virgin Islands National Guard have served as ambassadors on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands and the United States throughout the world in times of peace and war;

Whereas the Virgin Islands Army National Guard and Air National Guard embody the values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage; and

Whereas the members of the Virgin Islands National Guard and their families deserve commendation for their sacrifices and dedication over the last 50 years: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) honors and commends the Virgin Islands  
3       National Guard for its 50 years of outstanding service to the Virgin Islands and the United States; and

4               (2) sends its sincere gratitude to the thousands  
5       of men and women who have served in the Virgin Is-  
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- 1 lands National Guard for their contributions to their
- 2 country and their community.

