



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001**

**VIRGIN ISLANDS OBSERVANCE OF
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY**

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 2021, President Joseph R. Biden Jr. recognized Indigenous People's Day on October 11 via proclamation. Again in 2022 the President recognized Indigenous People's Day on October 10 honoring the "sovereignty, resilience, and immense contributions that Native Americans have made to the world;" and

WHEREAS, Indigenous People's Day, celebrated on Monday, October 9, 2023, is an occasion for Virgin Islanders of Indigenous Amerindian Caribbean Descent to reaffirm their deep ties to the original peoples of the Caribbean and the United States of America, and to celebrate their profound cultural connections with Indigenous people, their rich traditions, and their heritage shared with kin across the expanse of the Caribbean, the Americas, and the world; and

WHEREAS, it is important that all citizens of our diverse Territory join in acknowledging and celebrating the invaluable economic, political, cultural, scientific, educational, spiritual, and religious contributions of Indigenous Caribbean Amerindians and global Indigenous Peoples; and

WHEREAS, the Guainia Taino Tribe of the Virgin Islands, in partnership with other communities, such as the Guainia Taino Tribe of the British Virgin Islands, the Guainia Taino Tribe of Boriken, and Opi'a Taino International, Inc., have championed Indigenous Amerindian historic preservation, educational research and heritage restoration. These efforts include establishing alliances, ancestral support and cooperative agreements with the United Confederation of Taino People; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Amerindian people of the Caribbean have contributed to the national tradition of every aspect of our society—from agriculture and science to business and the

arts. We honor the history, culture and essential roles of Indigenous Peoples within the American and Virgin Islands heritage narratives.

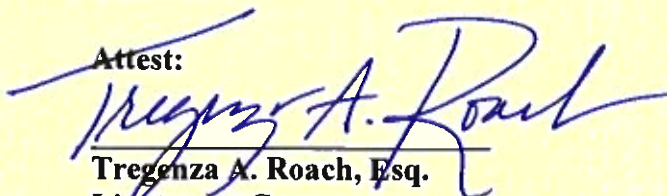
NOW THEREFORE, I, Albert Bryan Jr., Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, empowered by the Authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, do hereby proclaim **October 9th** as the "**Indigenous People's Day**" throughout the United States Virgin Islands. We honor America's first inhabitants and the Tribal Nations that continue to thrive today. I encourage everyone to celebrate the many Indigenous communities and cultures that make up our community, and join in celebrating and honoring Indigenous People worldwide.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas Virgin Islands, this 29th day of September, 2023.



Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor

Attest:



Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.
Lieutenant Governor