

## A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

*In the Council of the District of Columbia*

**To recognize the U.S. Virgin Islands'** contributions as an integral part of the United States and declare February 26, 2008 as Virgin Islands Day in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Virgin Islands have been an integral part of the United States since its acquisition from Denmark in 1917;

WHEREAS, citizens of the Virgin Islands have, throughout the years, made many valuable contributions to the history, culture, and defense of the United States;

WHEREAS, citizens of the Virgin Islands, like the citizens of the District of Columbia, do not have voting representation in the United States Congress and must petition Congress through their non-voting Delegate to the House of Representatives or directly through lobbying Members of Congress;

WHEREAS, the people of the Virgin Islands and the people of the District of Columbia share common ideals and support mutual efforts to ensure greater participation in the nation's political processes;

WHEREAS, Governor John P. deJongh, Jr. and Lt. Governor Gregory Francis of the U.S. Virgin Islands have organized a day of special events in Washington, D.C. on February 26, 2008, including the celebration of the Territory's "Alexander Hamilton Distinguished Public Service Awards" given to two public servants in recognition of their contributions to the life of the nation and who exemplify the ideals of Alexander Hamilton, a distinguished son of the Virgin Islands;

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "U.S. Virgin Islands Recognition Resolution of 2008".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and appreciates the contributions of the U.S. Virgin Islands and its position as an integral part of the United States and declares February 26, 2008 as Virgin Islands Day in the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register, the District of Columbia Statutes-at-Large, or the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations.



### THE ALEXANDER HAMILTON AWARDS COMMITTEE

DELEGATE DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

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DR. LAVERNE E. RAGSTER

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## THE ALEXANDER HAMILTON AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE

JW MARRIOTT, GARDEN TERRACE ROOM  
1331 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2008

## ABOUT ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Alexander Hamilton (1755 or 1757-1804) was an American politician, statesman, writer, lawyer, soldier, and a Virgin Islander. One of the United States' most brilliant early constitutional lawyers, Hamilton co-wrote the Federalist Papers, which successfully defended the U.S. Constitution. His accomplishments, insights and ideas helped shape the United States and remain a tremendous source of pride for today's Virgin Islanders.

Alexander Hamilton's upbringing in the U.S. Virgin Islands shaped his life and his views toward American politics and government policies. Many biographers credit Hamilton's views on equal rights to a Presbyterian minister, Hugh Knox, who came to St. Croix in 1772. Knox educated Hamilton and preached about sobriety and the evils of slavery.

His experience with business and commerce began on the island of St. Croix in 1768, when Hamilton was in charge of business affairs in a counting house where he developed his understanding of economics. That experience helped him put the United States onto a sound economic footing as its first and most influential Secretary of the Treasury.

Though the balance of power between federal and state government was not well-established at the beginning, Hamilton consistently took the side of greater federal power at the expense of the states. Hamilton founded the Federalist Party, the first political party in the United States, which he defended until his death in a duel with political rival Aaron Burr.

## 2008 AWARD RECIPIENTS



### SENATOR ORRIN G. HATCH

Senator Hatch was born on March 22, 1934, and is the ninth-most senior member of the Senate, and its fourth most senior Republican. As a statesman, Senator Hatch is perhaps best known for his chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee, a position in which he served from 1995 to 2001 and again from 2003-2005. Senator Hatch has participated in the confirmation hearings of eight of the nine current Supreme Court justices and countless federal judges. He is also a member of the Senate Finance Committee, where he serves as the senior Republican on the Health Care Subcommittee. Senator Hatch is well known for embodying the principles of integrity, honesty and candor. Among his many accomplishments is the creation of the modern industry of generic drugs and nutritional supplements.



### SENATOR JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, IV

Senator Rockefeller was born on June 18, 1937, and is in his fourth term in the United States Senate. He previously served as Governor of West Virginia. His distinguished public career has focused on health-care and other issues affecting American families, children, as well as on the defense of American national security. He serves as Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. He serves on the Finance Committee, where he is chairman of the Subcommittee on Health Care. He is also a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, and the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committees. His esteemed family's philanthropy is responsible for the creation of the St. John National Park.

## PRESENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

MASTER OF CEREMONIES.....	Dr. LaVerne Ragster President, University of the Virgin Islands
WELCOME.....	Hon. Donna M. Christensen Delegate, United States Virgin Islands
VIRGIN ISLANDS DAY	
PROCLAMATION.....	Hon. Jack Evans Council of the District of Columbia
REMARKS.....	Richard Brookhiser Author of <i>Alexander Hamilton, American</i>
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS.....	Hon. John P. deJongh, Jr. Governor, United States Virgin Islands
AWARD RECIPIENTS.....	Hon. Orrin G. Hatch United States Senator, Utah Hon. John D. Rockefeller, IV United States Senator, West Virginia
CLOSING REMARKS.....	Hon. John P. deJongh, Jr. Governor, United States Virgin Islands

## ABOUT THE ALEXANDER HAMILTON AWARD

The Alexander Hamilton Award for Distinguished Public Service was initiated by the Government of the United States Virgin Islands in 2006. The award is presented to national leaders whose outstanding public service careers can be characterized by a dedication to freedom and democracy, and a concern for the underrepresented. The awardees are nominated by a selection committee of notable Virgin Islanders, and approved by the Governor.

The California based sculptor, Jon Lee Steel, a West Point graduate, designed and forged the 2008 Alexander Hamilton Awards with the intention of combining honor, integrity and history with simplicity and rustic beauty. The 10-ounce medallions are individually crafted of cast bronze, plated with 14K gold, and trimmed with a sterling silver band. Hamilton's image and the United States Virgin Islands is engraved on the face of each medallion. The name of each recipient is engraved on the reverse side.



A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR UNDERWRITERS:

MR. AND MRS. JAMES A. CANNAVINO OF LOVANGO CAY, USVI

ROBERT W. O'CONNOR AND MARGARET EVERETT OF ST. THOMAS, USVI

HOVENSA, L.L.C.

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