

**GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF EDUCATION**



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**The Virgin Islands Board of Education  
Commemorates Birthdate of Pearl B. Larsen**

The 18<sup>th</sup> Virgin Islands Board of Education wishes to commemorate the birthdate of one of the icons of Virgin Islands Education, Mrs. Pearl B. Larsen. The Board believes it is important to recognize and commemorate those persons who have shaped the educational process in the Virgin Islands. Often, generations of our children pass through these public schools and have no idea who the buildings were named after or why. The Board is attempting to provide a sense of history and assure our children that affording them a quality education was a conscious decision that was made many years before they were born.

Mrs. Pearl B. Larsen was born in Montgomery Alabama on September 27, 1894. Mrs. Larsen came to the Virgin Islands on a special teaching assignment in 1932. Mrs. Larsen was very involved with her community and at one time was the Superintendent of Schools for the St. Croix district. She was also instrumental in bringing the Scholastic Aptitude Tests to the Territory, where she was chief administrator and liaison to Princeton University. Prior to the advent of the College of the Virgin Islands, Mrs. Larsen was influential in helping local teachers complete their education by arranging for Hampton Institute instructors to visit the Virgin Islands and conduct workshops. Being a graduate of Hampton University, she worked with the institution to provide college level courses in the islands.

The former educator was also a renowned hostess in her later years, as well as the owner of a gift shop which she operated from the first story of her home. She was also active in the local Red Cross, Girl Scouts, the St. John's Anglican Church choir, and was one of the founders of the Christiansted Business and Professional Women's Club.

The members of the 18<sup>th</sup> Virgin Islands Board of Education, stand on the shoulders of this icon of education and feel that she is due the recognition, and to be commemorated in the month of her birth. The Board asks that the public join us in remembering her contributions and honoring her memory.

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Virgin Islands Board of Education is committed to its vision and will promote the transformation of the structure of existing public education through:  
1. governance over the public education system; 2. improved student, parent, teacher relationship; 3. comprehensive community engagement; 4. standards that promote high academic achievement; 5. creation of an environment that is conducive to effective communication; 6. enhanced quality of professional development for all; 7. provision of adequate resources to achieve our vision, goals and objectives.

**VISION STATEMENT**

To ensure that each child is provided with the best quality education which promotes our history and culture, guarantees academic achievement and builds strong communities.