

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



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**The Virgin Islands Board of Education
Commemorates Birthdate of Claude O. Markoe**

The 18th Virgin Islands Board of Education wishes to commemorate the birthdate of one of the icons of Virgin Islands Education, Mr. Claude O. Markoe. 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.

Born on the island of St. Croix on September 30, 1900, Mr. Claude O. Markoe is recognized as an outstanding educator who devoted his life to education on the island of his birth. A product of the local educational system, he earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Puerto Rico in 1922. His service in the local education system spanned a period of thirty plus years. He served as a teacher for nineteen of those years. He later served as principal of the Frederiksted Jr. High School from 1922 – 1941. During his administration he focused on curriculum improvements, faculty and staff development, and student personal growth. In 1985 he was inducted into the Virgin Islands Education Hall of Fame.

Mr. Markoe retired from the principalship of the Christiansted High School. After leaving the Department of Education, Mr. Markoe devoted his time to numerous civil, church, and charitable activities. He was the recipient of many awards and honors including recognition from the Legislature of the Virgin Islands. In his later years, Markoe established the Markoe Insurance Company. Listed among his affiliates are the St. Croix Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Caribbean Light Lodge (Freemasons), Boy Scouts, and more.

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