

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



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**The Virgin Islands Board of Education  
Commemorates Birthdate of Gladys Abraham**

The 18<sup>th</sup> Virgin Islands Board of Education wishes to commemorate the birthdate of one of the icons of Virgin Islands Education, Ms. Gladys A. Abraham. 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.

Ms. Gladys A. Abraham was born in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands on October 11, 1922. She attended the Nisky School in St. Thomas and later graduated from the Charlotte Amalie High School. Soon after she was employed as a temporary teacher by the Department of Education, where she was assigned to the George Washington School in 1944. In 1946 Ms. Abraham was awarded a permanent license to teach in the Virgin Islands. In 1953, Ms. Abraham received her Bachelor of Science degree from New York University majoring in Elementary Education.

In 1956, Ms. Abraham was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to India where she spent a year studying Sociology at Bombay University and visiting villages, schools, and other institutions. In 1962 she completed the requirements for a Master of Arts degree in Psychology and Teaching from Teachers College, Columbia University. During the 1959-1960 school year, she was appointed as Principal Teacher at what is now the Joseph Sibilly Elementary School. She was then made the Assistant Principal at the Lockhart Elementary school where she functioned in that capacity from 1962-1970. In 1970 she became the first Principal of the new school in Kirwan Terrace.

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.