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The Virgin Islands Board of Education
Commemorates Birthdate of Yvonne E. Milliner Bowsky

The 18th Virgin Islands Board of Education wishes to commemorate the birthdate of one of the icons of Virgin Islands Education, Mrs. Yvonne E. Milliner Bowsky. 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. Yvonne E. Bowsky was born on the island of Tortola on October 15, 1934. At the age of 14, she became a first grade teacher at the Jost Van Dyke's Methodist Primary School but later moved to St. Thomas where she resided for a short time. In order to complete her high school education, Mrs. Bowsky studied in New York for a short time. She later returned to St. Thomas where she began her thirty-two (32) year teaching career at Joseph Sibilly Elementary School. She continued her education at the College of the Virgin Islands and received a scholarship to attend New York University where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in 1968.

After working four years at the Charlotte Amalie High School, she was appointed as Assistant Principal of Ulla Muller Elementary School. She received her Master's Degree in Educational Administration from New York University in 1972. In August of 1973, she was tasked with the project of creating a new school by then Commissioner of Education Harold Haizlip. Today that school is known as the Yvonne E. Bowsky Elementary School.

Among her other accomplishments, Mrs. Bowsky was also employed at the College of the Virgin Islands as a part-time instructor. She also taught at the Adult Continuing Education Program for 20 years. As the elected president of the Administrator's Association in 1977 she was able negotiate their first contract. Presently, she is the CEO of Bowsky Auto Sales and Rental Inc.

The members of the 18th 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.