



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

LABOR/MANAGEMENT

AWARENESS MONTH 2016

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

A PROCLAMATION

On June 28, 1894, The United States Congress passed an Act making the first Monday in September a legal holiday called *Labor Day*. Labor Day is celebrated to recognize and honor American workers for their social and economic achievements.

It is with deep appreciation that we proudly acknowledge and honor our fellow Virgin Islanders for their hard work and invaluable contributions to the economic, social and cultural development of this Nation, and in particular, this Territory. We remember and applaud our ancestors for the sacrifices they made, the tears and blood they shed, and their strong faith and courage in the fight for freedom, civil liberties and equality. We pray for those who continue in the fight to bring us closer to the realization of a democratic society and political and social freedom, at home and abroad.

We must be determined and committed to demonstrate our resilience by putting our heads together, pooling our resources, and working in the best interest of all Virgin Islanders. Labor and management have a responsibility to work harmoniously to that end. This will require that our workers prepare themselves to be competitive in today's job market by retraining themselves for job opportunities in those occupations poised for growth in fields such as allied health, renewable energy, construction, information technology, and entrepreneurship. Employers must invest in raising the skills and abilities of both their future and existing workers by implementing workforce development strategies that will ensure the future employability of our workers, raise productivity, and attract new industries to the Territory.

To that end, the Virgin Islands Department of Labor (VIDOL) provides responsive programs that support the workforce system and that are geared towards developing an informed and skilled workforce. They are charged with administering services and enforcing laws related to employment, training, protecting rights, improving the working conditions of the Territory's labor force, and providing timely support to labor and management alike.

Fittingly, the VIDOL will lead the territory in the celebration of *Labor/Management Awareness Month* by hosting various activities designed to educate and celebrate our workforce.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Kenneth E. Mapp, Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, do hereby proclaim the month of *September, 2016 as Labor and Management Awareness Month.*, in honor of our hard working men, women and employers of this Territory. I call upon all residents of the Territory to join the Commissioner of Labor and me in paying tribute to these invaluable members of our community for the many achievements and contributions they have made to the social and economic progress of this territory.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 28th day of August, A. D. 2016.





Kenneth E. Mapp
Governor

ATTEST:


Osbert Potter
Lieutenant Governor