



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

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

BELLS OF PEACE: A WORLD WAR I REMEMBRANCE DAY

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

A PROCLAMATION

Whereas, a century ago, 4.7 million American families sent their sons and daughters off to serve in the armed forces in World War I; and

Whereas, the first unit of the United States Army to engage forces of the German Empire was the Puerto Rican regiment in which Virgin Islanders also served; when on March 21, 1915, a German supply ship tried to force its way out of San Juan Harbor to deliver supplies to German U-boats, came under fire from positions at El Morro Castle, and the Germans were forced to surrender the ship; and

Whereas, a century ago, the purchase of the Danish West Indies became a strategic issue in foreign and military policy, and the Danish West Indies was purchased by the United States of America to protect against enemy naval or submarine attacks on shipping in the Caribbean and Atlantic; and

Whereas, the United States Virgin Islands and all of her people were deeply affected by World War I; and

Whereas, on November 11, 2018, the World War I Centennial Commemoration will mark the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended the fighting in World War I on the land, sea and air; and

Whereas, the tolling of bells is a traditional expression of reverence and remembrance used to honor the fallen;

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 November 11, 2018, as: **BELLS OF PEACE: A WORLD WAR I REMEMBRANCE DAY**. I call upon all Virgin Islanders to observe the national tolling of the bells at 11:00 a.m. in memory of those who served in World War I.

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 29th day of September, 2018.





Kenneth E. Mapp
Governor

ATTEST: 

Governor Osbert E. Potter
Lieutenant Governor