



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 31, 2017

My warmest wishes as our Nation celebrates the 100th anniversary of the transfer of the Virgin Islands from Denmark to the United States.

The Convention between the United States and Denmark, effective March 31, 1917, for the cession of the Danish West Indies has contributed to the outstanding character, strength, and vibrancy of the United States of America.

Today, we honor the proud history of the U.S. Virgin Islands and its remarkable legacy as part of our Nation. Virgin Islanders have found great success as members of the American family, distinguishing themselves in the arts, literature, and sports, and achieving great acclaim in the fields of education, medicine, science, engineering, agriculture, politics, and law. Virgin Islands patriots have served honorably in all branches of the United States Armed Forces and continue to serve and sacrifice for our freedom and liberty. As we express our gratitude to our proud citizens of the U.S. Virgin Islands, we pause to pay tribute to our Virgin Islands warriors who have given the last full measure of devotion for their country, and for our freedom.

The United States is delighted to share this celebration with the great Danish people, our steadfast ally and partner in nearly every international sphere. We appreciate the indomitable spirit of Denmark, to which our Nation's soul is inextricably linked through the beautiful Virgin Islands, and so much more. We look forward to strengthening our true, historic, and lasting friendship and, as we forge ahead, to fostering the joint security and prosperity of our nations.

We thank God for the U.S. Virgin Islands, for its wonderful people, and for making the U.S. Virgin Islands part of the United States of America.

Congratulations, U.S. Virgin Islands, on your American century.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name of the President of the United States at the time, Donald Trump.