ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 104

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 8, 2018

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON
District 37 (Bergen)
Assemblyman JOSEPH A. LAGANA
District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS
Commemorates 100th anniversary of U.S. Virgin Islands becoming territory of United States.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As introduced.
AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Virgin Islands becoming a territory of the United States.

WHEREAS, On March 31, 1917, the United States purchased St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John from the Kingdom of Denmark for $25 million, in part due to the islands’ strategic location for military use during World War I; and

WHEREAS, 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the United States purchasing the U.S. Virgin Islands, and March 31st of each year is referred to as “Transfer Day” by residents of the islands; and

WHEREAS, In 1927, the United States granted citizenship to the residents of the islands, and in 1936, Congress passed the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands, providing political power to the local governments; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Virgin Islands elected its first governor, Melvin H. Evans, in 1970; and

WHEREAS, Tourism in the U.S. Virgin Islands has been growing over the past several decades, and today the islands are a thriving destination for people seeking an endless summer; and

WHEREAS, For New Jersey residents seeking a Caribbean vacation, the U.S. Virgin Islands are a short plane ride away and no passport is required for travel; and

WHEREAS, Recent Hurricanes Irma and Maria, respectively, caused devastating damage to the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the residents of the islands need the support of their fellow citizens as the islands recover from the storms; and

WHEREAS, This country and New Jersey are proud that the U.S. Virgin Islands are a part of the United States, and it is therefore fitting and appropriate to recognize the 100th anniversary of the islands becoming a territory of the United States; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House recognizes the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Virgin Islands becoming a territory of the United States.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

STATEMENT

This resolution commemorates the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Virgin Islands becoming a territory of the United States. March 31, 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the United States purchasing
St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas from Denmark, and March 31st is fondly referred to as “Transfer Day” by the residents of the islands. The U.S. Virgin Islands have become a thriving tourist destination where visitors can enjoy an endless summer.