

Good Day Members of the 33rd Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands, other testifiers, the listening and viewing public.

My name is David Calvert Marsh, son of the late Calvert Curtis Marsh, a native of Coral Bay, St. John. My father was the original owner of property 10-19 Estate Carolina, Coral Bay, St. John, USVI.

Allow me to begin with a background of my father and then align it to why we are here today.

My father was born on April 11, 1946. He proudly boasted being among the few actually born on St. John. I often remember the many drives around Coral Bay with my father and he would talk to me about his childhood playing with his siblings down by the bay. He often mentioned that he would like to see Coral Bay develop and serve the community. As tourism grew on St. John, my father saw an opportunity to help Coral Bay grow and leased a portion of 10-19 Estate Carolina to allow a restaurant, called “The Still” to be developed on it. He later opened an Inn in Coral Bay, St. John. The 29th Legislature of the Virgin Islands honored my father with Bill # 29-0126, naming a portion Route 107 and Route 108, “Calvert C. Marsh Road”. An excerpt from the bill states:

WHEREAS, Calvert C. Marsh demonstrated that he had a heart and passion for the well-being and development of the island of St. John through his endless service to such organizations as the St. John Lions Club, the St. John American Legion, the St. John Ambassador Sports Club and the Forty-plus Baseball Club; and

WHEREAS, Calvert C. Marsh believed in upward mobility through education

and believed in serving his country and community; and
WHEREAS, Ernest Jenner Marsh, on behalf of his heirs, one of whom is Calvert Marsh, donated property in Coral Bay, St. John so that the road on Bordeaux Mountain could be constructed;

My father's love for Coral Bay, St. John, and the Virgin Islands on a whole is now within me. Those drives and talks were his way of instilling his love, passion, and beliefs in developing Coral Bay in me.

Now, we are presented with a great opportunity for not just Coral Bay, St. John but the entire Virgin Islands; a Marina. The first thought and question that my mother, Augusta Madline Marsh, and I had was, "How would daddy feel about this?"

The Marina will have a positive impact on the St. Johnian generational community by providing jobs for local (V.I.) people. The marine industry is of high interest for many young people on St. John. I remember growing up and listening to school mates talk about becoming a boat captain. This interest still continues today, as many young men and teenagers talk about entering the field. My son, after graduating from Ivanna Eudora Kean High School, joined the U.S. Coast Guard and is planning to return home to pursue a profession in the marine industry upon the culmination of his tour of duty.

In addition to jobs, the Marina in Coral Bay will help to maintain and beautify the harbor. It would also revitalize the area and eliminate the harbor

pollution. I can foresee people enjoying the Marina's harbor walking the pier as they similarly do in Frederiksted, St. Croix's on the Ann Abramson Marine Facility and Yacht Haven Grand in St. Thomas.

The Marina has the potential to provide a hope and promise to the people of St. John. Hopefully, the influx of people through the Marina will encourage local families to develop (businesses) on their land rather than sell their property. In addition, the much-needed police presence in Coral Bay will be visible with the increase in businesses that the Marina potentially can bring.

In closing, my mother and I, on behalf of my late father, believe that the Marina will have a positive impact for Coral Bay, for St. John, and the Virgin Islands. Although there are cons with any and every project, the pros heavily outweighs the cons in this regard. It is my belief that this Marina will provide Coral Bay with a new positive experience. Thank you for the time and the opportunity to provide my testimony.

Respectfully,

David C. Marsh