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**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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RUBY MARGARET ROUSS

SENATOR HOLLAND L. REDFIELD II AS MINORITY LEADER OF THE 17TH LEGISLATURE AND NATIONAL COMMITTEEMAN OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS STATED TODAY THAT THE VIRGIN ISLANDS PEOPLE HAVE LOST ONE OF THEIR GREATEST OF LEADERS IN SENATOR RUBY MARGERET ROUSS. THERE IS NO QUESTION SHE WILL JOIN THE RANKS OF SUCH OUTSTANDING VIRGIN ISLANDERS AS D. HAMILTON JACKSON, MARCUS GARVEY, MELVIN H. EVANS AND CYRIL E. KING. NOT SINCE THE OTTLEY ERA HAS THERE BEEN ONE SINGLE SENATOR WHO HAS ATTAINED THE INFLUENCE OVER THE SOCIAL POLITICAL DESTINY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

WHEN SENATOR ROUSS SPOKE ON AN ISSUE BOTH FRIENDS AND FOE LISTENED. HER QUALITIES AS A LEADER WERE UNIQUE. HER LOVE FOR HER PEOPLE WAS ENDURING AND UNFALTERING, HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TERRITORY, WILL BE FELT FOR YEARS TO COME.

TO SPEAK OF HER PERSONAL SACRIFICIES TO THE VIRGIN ISLANDS PEOPLE WOULD BE AN UNDER-STATEMENT. DAYS, MONTHS AND YEARS PASSED THROUGH HER LIFE IN WHICH FAMILY, COUNTRY AND HER VIRGIN ISLANDS WERE HER SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE. LET THERE BE NO MISTAKE RUBY MARGARET ROUSS PAID THE ULTIMATE PRICE FOR THIS DEDICATION. ON A PERSONAL LEVEL I MARVELED HOW SHE COULD WALK AMONG THE RICH, POOR, BLACKS, AND WHITES WITH EQUAL RESPECT FOR THEIR CONDITION AND THEIR VIEWS.

HOW RARE A QUALITY IN OUR LEADERSHIP TODAY. SHE TRULY SET ON EXAMPLE WHICH OUR YOUTH SHOULD BE PROUD TO EMULATE. MANY PEOPLE ONLY SAW THE TOUGH-SIDE OF THIS LEADER. BUT AS A FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, I HAD THE UNIQUE PRIVILEGE OF SEEING A SIDE OF THIS WOMAN THAT FEW OTHERS SAW. I KNOW HOW SHE ANGUISHED, HOW BIG HER HEART WAS AND HOW UNDERSTANDING SHE WAS WHEN ARRIVING AT THE CRUCIAL DECISIONS SHE MADE.

I PERSONALLY LEARNED SO MUCH FROM THIS GREAT LADY; HER GRASP OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS WAS UNMATCHED. I KNOW SHE WOULD NOT WANT US TO DWELL ON HER PASSING. SHE WOULD WANT HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO REMEMBER THE GOOD TIMES AND FOR US TO TAKE SOME OF THAT PRECIOUS STRENGTH SHE POSSESSED AND CONTINUE ON WITH THE FUTURE OF THESE VIRGIN ISLANDS. GOD BLESS YOU RUBY M. ROUSS, YOU WILL REST IN PEACE.