



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001**

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

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BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, this year, May 17-23, 2025 is National Safe Boating Week to highlight the importance of safe boating practices; and

WHEREAS, on average, 650 people die each year in boating-related accidents in the US; 75 percent of these are fatalities caused by drowning; and

WHEREAS, most of these accidents are caused by human error or poor judgment and not by the boat, equipment or environmental factors; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning each year would be alive today had they worn their life jackets; and

WHEREAS, approximately 100 million Americans engage in boating as a recreational activity. From coast to coast, and everywhere in between, people are taking to the water and enjoying time together boating, sailing, paddling, and fishing; and

WHEREAS, safe boating begins with preparation. The Coast Guard estimates that human error accounts for most boating accidents and that life jackets could prevent nearly 75 percent of boating fatalities. Through basic boating safety-procedures-carrying lifesaving emergency distress and

communications equipment, wearing life jackets, attending safe boating courses, participating in free boat safety checks, and staying sober when navigating-we can help ensure boaters on America's coastal, inland, and offshore waters stay safe throughout the season; and

WHEREAS, during National Safe Boating Week, the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Safe Boating Council, along with federal, state, and local safe boating partners encourage all boaters to explore and enjoy America's beautiful waters responsibly.

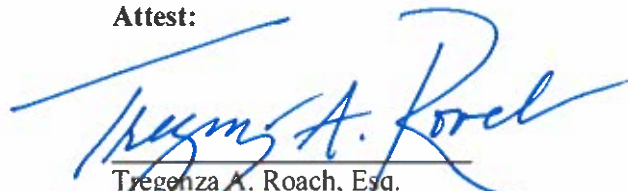
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Albert Bryan Jr., Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, **do hereby proclaim Saturday, May 17, 2025 through Friday May 23, 2025 as "National Safe Boating Week"** in the Virgin Islands. I urge all our citizens to observe this week by learning safer boating practices to maximize everyone's quality of life and protect the well-being of each other. I also encourage participation in appropriate activities and programs that emphasize the importance of safe boating.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I 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, this 14 day of May, A.D. 2025.




Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor

Attest:


Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.
Lieutenant Governor