



COMMUNITY CALENDAR & MEDIA INVITE



State Office of Public Affairs

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Armed Forces Month Observances in the Territory “United in Purpose - Steadfast in Service”

Nations around the world hold observances for Armed Forces Day to recognize and honor their military forces and the dedication of their families who serve with them. In the United States, Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May. The 2012 theme is “**United in Purpose - Steadfast in Service**” and Armed Forces Day is Saturday May 19.

The observance began when President Harry Truman set out to establish a single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country. On May 20, 1950, the first single observance replaced individual events held by the Army, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard and Air Force.

In the Virgin Islands, Armed Forces month is celebrated with events throughout the month of May. Veterans, family members, caregivers and survivors are invited to attend the following activities planned in their honor.

May 18-22 - The Department of Veterans Affairs begins five days in the territory to share its new resource guide and network with local veteran’s providers at its clinics, family assistant centers and community organizations. The Post-Deployment Readjustment Guide will be distributed at the VING Readiness Centers, American Legion Halls and the Legislative Hall in Cruz Bay.

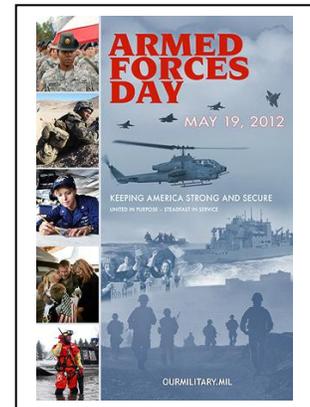
(See detailed schedule below.)

Friday May 18 – Movie Night for Military families at the American Legion Hall in Sub Base from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Refreshments will be served. (Contact Keishell Daniel at 774-6100).

Thursday May 24 – The Survivors Remembrance Tree Replanting and Plaque Dedication in the Franklin Roosevelt Veterans Park on St. Thomas 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Sunday May 27 – The Veterans’ Family and Survivors Fun Day in Griffith Park on St. Thomas is from 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. (Contact Sandra Benjamin at 344-7033, SOS Coordinator)

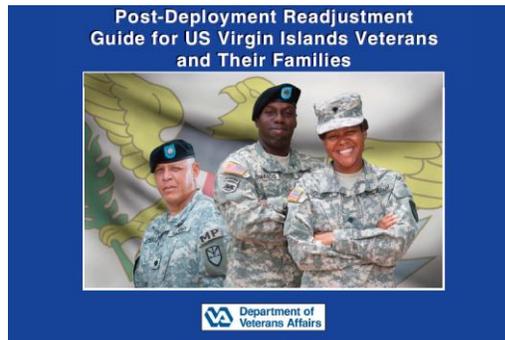
Monday May 28 – Memorial Day ceremonies will be held throughout the territory.



Friday June 1 – V. I. Missions will host its annual tribute to those who served at 7 p.m. at the Marriott’s Frenchman’s Reef Resort. The Theme is “**Our Beacon of Courage and Strength.**”

The three 2012 honorees are Harry Daniel (U.S. Army, retired), and V. I. Guardsmen Sergeant Wilfred Todman (2011 Soldier of the Year) and Staff Sergeant Phillip Grant (2011 NCO of the Year). For more, contact Kathy Ritter at 344-1863 or Dr. Bentley Thomas at 513-0994.

For more information on the resource guide distribution, contact Veterans Affairs at 773-6663 on St. Croix or 774-6100 on St. Thomas.



FRI May 18 – American Legion Hall (STT) from 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

SAT May 19 - SFC Francis Readiness Center (VING) from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

SUN May 20 – LTC Jackson Readiness Center (VING) from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

MON May 21 – American Legion Hall (STX) from 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

TUE May 22 – Legislative Hall in Cruz Bay (STJ) from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

For more history on Armed Forces Day, go to the DoD site at www.defense.gov/afd/military/history.html.

www.vi.ngb.army.mil