

# V.I. STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION NEWS

SUMMER 2017

## CONGRATULATIONS

### BSN GRADUATES OF UVI

Antonia T. Alexander, Naomi Commodore, Samantha C. Daniel, Rosemary Dennery-Francis, Shahara-Ann M. Donastorg, Kishela S. lake, Shanice A. Laurent, Yehiyubi A.O. Abreu, Renita O. Phillip, Jiva A.S. Niles, Shanice A. Turnbull, Christine A. Udyecz, Danielle D. Woods, Indra S. Wrensford

### ASN GRADUATES OF UVI

Elizabeth Harding, Francis Jacksrrria James, Chantauh Marshall, Evelisse Santiago, Sarah Williams, Letitia Wise



## NIGHTINGALE TRIBUTE

MAGNOLIA SIMPSOM, FLORINE DIAZ,  
RITA PHILLIPS, WISTERIA KRIGGER,  
BERECIA REED, ELLEN EMANUEL,  
LYNETTE SYLVESTER



## DISTRICT 01 CELEBRATES THE OPENING OF NURSES WEEK WITH THE TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

*2017 NURSES WEEK THEME*

*HEALTHY NURSE: HEALTHY NATION*



VISNA and GUAM Delegation with V.I. Congressman Stacey Plaskett and lead staff for Health Jeffrey Nowill. Please visit the VISNA website, [visnaus.org](http://visnaus.org), for ANA Membership Assembly 2017 highlights.

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

## U.S. Territories Deserve Equitable Health Care

*Cosponsor H.R. 2404, Improving the Treatment of the U.S. Territories Under Federal Health Programs Act.*

Dear Colleague:

Nearly four million Americans reside in the United States territories of the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands. As Americans, they deserve just as much access to the federal health programs as anyone else.

Yet, compared to the States and the District of Columbia, the Medicaid and Medicare programs provide significantly less federal financial participation to U.S. territories. Regarding Medicaid, the most egregious distinctions include a cap on federal financial participation at an amount that has no relationship to local needs, an arbitrarily low Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) limit, and exclusion from the disproportionate share hospital (DSH) program. The territories are currently forced to operate under an even lower per-capita cap than that proposed this session for the States and the District of Columbia.

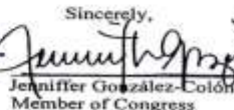
With the territories facing high rates of poverty, this treatment has resulted in a lack of access to medical care for many Americans, including children, for no other reason than where they reside. It has also had unfair and deleterious impacts on the finances of local governments and hospitals. Accordingly, the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico found in its final report last year that "the territories should be treated in a more equitable and sustainable manner under the Medicaid program," and Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price testified before the Senate Finance Committee that "[w]e absolutely, have to find the resources to make sure (the territories) have the health care they need."

We agree, and have sponsored H.R. 2404, Improving the Treatment of the U.S. Territories Under Federal Health Programs Act of 2017, to correct these and other inequities. Specifically, the bill would lift the territories' annual Medicaid per-capita cap and arbitrarily low FMAP limit, and provide an equitable formula for Medicaid and Medicare DSH payments. The bill also includes additional provisions for improved treatment of territories under Medicare, and a report on their practical exclusion from the exchanges under the Affordable Care Act.

Please join us in co-sponsoring this legislation and help send a message that the territories deserve better and to be treated fairly. Should you have any questions or wish to sign on, please contact Jeffrey Nowill (x51790) in Representative Plaskett's office.

Sincerely,

  
Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress

  
Jennifer González-Colón  
Member of Congress

  
Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
Member of Congress

  
Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen  
Member of Congress

  
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

  
José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress

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## WE ARE MISSING YOU! PLEASE REJOIN US!

We understand the need for an increase in the Staff Collective Bargaining fees but many of you dropped your professional dues.

Did you know that VISNA/ANA dues enable you to: say what VISNA does for you, run for elective office, represent VISNA nationally, access the extensive practice, leadership and educational offerings on the ANA website, speak for the nursing profession, and advocate for your patients/clients? Several important decisions are facing VISNA at this time. Help decide YOUR professional future. Please contact your HR Directors to reinstate the professional dues.

### Contact Us

#### **V.I. State Nurses Association**

P.O. Box 3617, C'sted, USVI 00822

340-244-6874

visnaus@icloud.com

website: visnaus.org

facebook: visna nurses

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#### **V.I. STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 3617, C'sted, USVI 00822

#### **VISNA MEMBER**

St. Croix District (01)

St. Thomas/St. John District (02)

# **SAVE THE DATE**

**OCTOBER 7 & 8, 2017**

**VISNA BIENNIAL CONVENTION**

**St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.**

**VISNA and ANA Bylaws amendments, possible re-structuring of VISNA, reports from the Board of Nurse Licensure, the School of Nursing and the Nurse Representatives on the hospitals' Boards, BSN by 2020 opportunities, CEUs and election of a new Board of Directors highlight the convention.**

**USE THE POWER OF YOUR DUES**

# CALL TO NOMINATIONS 2017-19 BIENNIUM

The Virgin Islands State Nurses Association issues the initial call for nomination of eligible members to serve for the upcoming biennium. The following positions are open.

**OFFICERS:** President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer (one each)

**DIRECTORS:** Four

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** A minimum of five (5)

**REPRESENTATIVE to ANA MEMBERSHIP ASSEMBLY:** A minimum of two

**DELEGATE to CARIBBEAN NURSES ORGANIZATION CONVENTION:** A minimum of two

Persons desirous of being nominated should have governance experience, in depth awareness of VISNA's structure and operation, full membership and computer literacy. CONSENT TO SERVE forms must be completed and further information will be given on availability and submission of these forms.

More information will be posted on worksite bulletin boards and VISNA website **visnaus.org**

**Publisher**

Joyce Heyliger  
Executive Director