



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

**WORLD POLIO DAY**

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**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES**

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**A PROCLAMATION**

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**WHEREAS**, World Polio Day is held on October 24 in celebration of the birth of Jonas Salk, the American researcher who developed the first polio vaccine in 1955; and

**WHEREAS**, most know it as poliovirus. The virus is spread from person to person, typically through contaminated water. It can attack the nervous system, and in some instances, lead to paralysis. Although there is no cure, there is a safe and effective vaccine – one which Rotary and our partners use to immunize over 2.5 billion children worldwide; and

**WHEREAS**, Polio cases have dropped by 99.9 percent since 1988 and the world stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease, many of the people immunized against polio living in developing countries are saved from possible paralysis; and

**WHEREAS**, there are over 1.4 million Rotary members in more than 46,000 clubs throughout the world, including the ten Virgin Islands Rotary and Rotaract Clubs, that sponsor service projects to address such critical issues as poverty, disease, hunger, illiteracy, and the environment in their local communities and abroad; and

**WHEREAS**, Rotary, in 1985, launched PolioPlus and in 1988 helped establish the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), which today includes the World Health Organization (WHO), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to immunize the children of the world against polio; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 1 million Rotary members have donated their time and money to eradicate polio, and every year, hundreds of members work with health workers to vaccinate children in countries affected by polio. Rotary members work with UNICEF and other partners to prepare and distribute informational materials for people in areas that are isolated by conflict, geography, or poverty. They also mobilize to recruit fellow volunteers, assist in transporting the vaccine, and provide other logistical support.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Albert Bryan Jr., Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, do hereby **proclaim Monday, October 24, 2022**, as “*World Polio Day*” in the United States Virgin Islands. I encourage all citizens to join me and Rotary International in the fight for a polio-free world.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have 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, Virgin Islands, this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October, A. D. 2022.



  
**Albert Bryan, Jr.**  
Governor

Attest:

  
**Donna Fret-Gregory**  
Acting Lieutenant Governor