



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

(340) 774-3552 • communications@viwapa.vi / www.viwapa.vi

WAPA Hosts Memorial Ceremony Honoring Fallen Lineman Apprentice Raymond A. Christian

St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands (June 5, 2025) — Yesterday, the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “the Authority”) held a memorial ceremony marking the anniversary of the passing of Lineman Apprentice Raymond A. Christian, who tragically lost his life while on duty eighteen years ago. The intimate gathering was held at the Judith’s Fancy site where Mr. Christian sustained the injuries that ultimately claimed his life, bringing together WAPA leadership, linemen, and members of Christian’s family to honor his memory.

The ceremony opened with remarks from Karl Knight, CEO and Executive Director of the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority, who welcomed those gathered and reflected on the enduring impact of Christian’s loss. “This is more than a moment of remembrance — it’s a reminder of the risks our line crews face every day and the importance of caring for one another on and off the job,” Knight said. “Raymond was one of us, and his spirit lives on in this Authority and in every lineman who takes the field.”

WAPA Governing Board Chairman Hubert Turnbull also spoke, standing alongside Christian’s mother, Ramona Menders, who has remained closely connected to the Authority family over the years. In his remarks, Turnbull emphasized the lasting bonds within the utility. “We always say WAPA is a family, but today shows we’re more than that — we’re extended family, especially to the loved ones left behind,” Turnbull stated. “To Ms. Menders, you will always have a place among us. This is your family, too.”

In a moving moment, Ramona Menders, addressed the linemen present, urging them to watch out for one another on every job. She encouraged them to take care of themselves and their brothers in the field and to always ensure they are properly equipped with the right safety gear. Her words were a powerful reminder of the very real hazards of the profession and the responsibility every crew carries for each other’s lives.

The ceremony included a moment of silence and the placement of flowers at the site. It was a gathering marked by shared grief, gratitude, and the unspoken bond among line workers who understand the sacrifices of their trade.

The Authority thanks all who came out to honor Raymond A. Christian’s memory and remains dedicated to upholding the highest standards of safety and care for its line crews.

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About WAPA: The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority is an autonomous agency of the Virgin Islands Government which produces and distributes electricity and drinking water to residential and commercial customers in the territory. WAPA was created by the Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands in 1964 through Act No. 1248. Today, WAPA generates electrical power at production plants on St. Thomas and St. Croix and distributes electrical service through smart grids to customers on St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John, Hassel Island, and Water Island. Potable water is distributed to almost 13,000 customers through water lines and standpipes. WAPA also has the responsibility of installing and maintaining streetlights.