



*Building Our Future Through  
Education, History and Culture!*

# NOVEMBER 2015 HOLIDAYS CELEBRATIONS RECOGNITION IN THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

*November:*

*D. Hamilton Jackson Day ... November 1<sup>st</sup>  
Veterans Day ... November 11<sup>th</sup>  
Thanksgiving Day ... November 26<sup>th</sup>*

*Holidays observed by the United States Virgin Islands  
strengthen an important process in the development of the territory.*

*Compliments of:  
Virgin Islands Department of Education  
Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education*

# D. HAMILTON JACKSON DAY

**A changed legislation to D. Hamilton Jackson Day was approved on July 7, 1981 through Bill #14-0244 Act #4579. It states ...**

**To Amend Chapter 11 of Title 1, Virgin Islands Code, To Change the Name of Liberty Day to D. Hamilton Jackson Day.**

**WHEREAS David Hamilton Jackson was born on St. Croix on September 28, 1884; and**

**WHEREAS early in life, Jackson took a keen interest in the affairs of his island, and always stood for what he believed in with courage and conviction; and**

**WHEREAS he was selected to go to Denmark to represent Virgin Islanders in their effort to convince King Christian X and the Danish Parliament to abolish government control of the press; and**

**WHEREAS Jackson returned home with the right to a free press and published *The Herald*, a newspaper; and**

**WHEREAS David Hamilton Jackson organized one of the first labor unions in the Virgin Islands and was long recognized in the community as an outstanding labor leader; and**

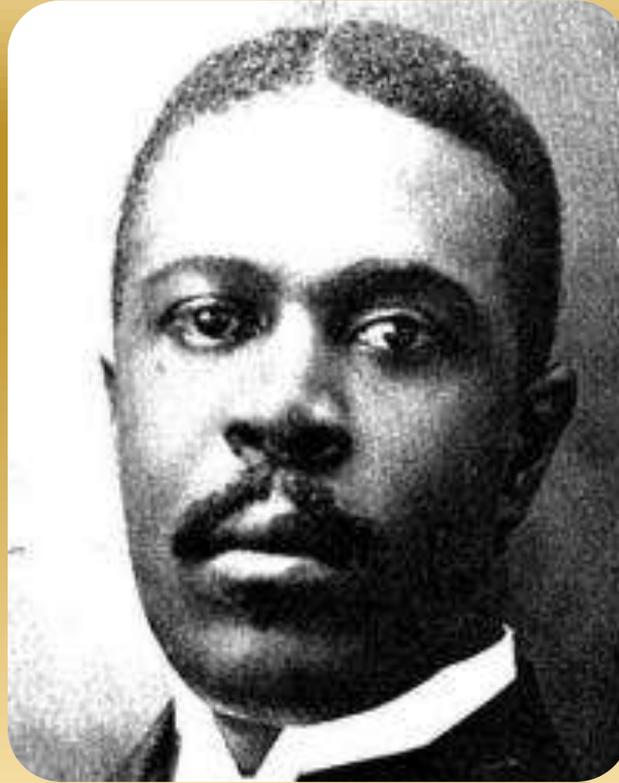
**WHEREAS Liberty Day is now celebrated in the Virgin Islands on November 1 in observance of the right to a free press;  
Now, Therefore,**

***Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

**Section 1. Title 1, section 171, subsection (a), Virgin Islands Code, is amended as follows:**

**After the date November 1, strike the words "Liberty Day" and insert in lieu thereof "D. Hamilton Jackson Day".**

**Enacted in honor of D. Hamilton Jackson's tireless effort dating back to 1915 in the Danish West Indies, it reminds us of our right to freedom of the Press. Lawyer, Judge of the Municipal Court of St. Croix, labor leader, and president of the Labor Union Bank on St. Croix, he was also an editor and publisher of The Herald Newspaper on St. Croix. Formerly known as Liberty Day, D. Hamilton Jackson Day, which is also referred to as Bull and Bread Day, is a local holiday celebrated on *November 1<sup>st</sup>* in the United States Virgin Islands.**



*Happy D. Hamilton Jackson Day*

Suggested Family and Classroom Activities:

Research the life of Mr. David Hamilton Jackson

Conduct a discussion why D. Hamilton Jackson Day is and/or is not important

Attend a celebration of D. Hamilton Jackson Day observance

Interview a community member about the importance of Mr. Jackson

Courtesy of

Text: A Teachers Guide to Holiday Observances in the Virgin Islands, page 54; Virgin Islands Cultural Highlights, page 17; Legislative Archives

Pictures: <http://stcroixsource.com/content/news/local-news/2010/10/31/territory-celebrates-d-hamilton-jackson-day>

# VETERANS' DAY

**Celebrated on November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans' Day. It is an official federal holiday of the United States of America, which honors and celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans.**

**It is celebrated on the same day as other world holidays such as Armistice Day or Remembrance Day. These are recognized in other parts of the world marking the anniversary of the Armistice signing by Germany that ended World War I at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month in 1918.**

**The day is honored on the mainland with a Veterans' Day National Ceremony held at the Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. The ceremony starts precisely at 11:00am with a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns and continues inside the Memorial Amphitheater with a parade of colors by veterans' organizations and remarks from dignitaries. This ceremony is intended to honor and thank all who served in the United States Armed Forces.**

**In the United States Virgin Islands, parades are held in all three islands – St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas. Parades are held at alternate times of the day. Most definitely, the parades include armed forces veterans being joined by elected officials to include the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, public schools marching bands and their JROTC, Junior Fire Fighters, Boys and Girls Scouts, and Seventh-day Adventist Church Youth Ministries' Adventist Youth, Pathfinder, Adventurers, and Eager Beavers. The parades are commemorated by several ceremonies. On St. Croix they are held at the Buddhoe Park in Frederiksted and the Basin Triangle in Christiansted; while on St. John they are held on Coral Bay and Cruz Bay; and on St. Thomas at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Veterans Memorial Park.**

**Veterans' Day is a great opportunity to thank a veteran for serving in the US Military Armed Forces.**



**Suggested Family and Classroom Activities:**

Attend and/or participate in a Veterans Day Parade and ceremony

Interview a veteran about his/her experience serving his / her country

Prepare and share a special package with a veteran overseas

**Courtesy of**

**Text:** [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veterans\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veterans_Day);

**Picture:** <http://www.habitatcd.org/happy-veterans-day/>

# THANKSGIVING DAY

Like the annual harvest festivals celebrated throughout the world, Thanksgiving Day is national holiday, which was designed to pay our homage to the Almighty for this bountiful harvest. The immigrants, who were members of the English Separatist Church (a Puritan sect), sailed to our country aboard the Mayflower. After taking shelter in the Netherlands and becoming disgusted by their lifestyle, in search of a better life they settled in the United States. Their beginning were horrendous and the climate was unfavorable, which lead to many death. In 1621 to their amazement, their hard turmoil bore fruits for them as there was a huge harvest. In thanksgiving, they celebrated their feast with 91 Indians who helped them during their harsh times.

First celebrated in Plymouth Rock, Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1621 is what is known as Thanksgiving Day. However, it wasn't until George Washington became the first president of the United States that he proclaimed the first national Thanksgiving Day in 1789. It was traditionally celebrated to give thanks for the food collected at the end of the harvest season.

Thanksgiving Day, which will be celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November (*November 26<sup>th</sup>*), is a day where family and friends gather together to give thanks for what they have and for the many blessings they have received throughout the year.

In the U. S. Virgin Islands two Thanksgiving Days are celebrated. Firstly is the Local Thanksgiving Day in October as a way to give thanks to God for sparing the islands from the disasters of the hurricane season and subsequently celebrate the national Thanksgiving Day as a way to give thanks to God for his continual blessings.

In the US Virgin Islands, this day is used as an opportunity to assist the less fortunate of our community by sharing care baskets and a meal with them. Family and friends also gather together with big meals in celebration of God's faithfulness. Many churches services are held as means of giving thanks to the Almighty for His countless blessings.



Suggested Family and Classroom Activities:

Participate in Thanksgiving Day celebration, such as church service and/or feeding the less fortunate project

Organize a drive to assist the less fortunate and elder of our community (for example, a can drive, clothing and/or toiletry collection)

Prepare and deliver care packages for the less fortunate in your community

Courtesy of

Text: [www.timelineanddate.com](http://www.timelineanddate.com); <http://www.thanksgiving.org.uk/thanksgiving-history.html>; <http://facts.randomhistory.com/thanksgiving-facts.html>;

Pictures: [http://kclayouthchallenges.blogspot.com/2014\\_11\\_01\\_archive.html](http://kclayouthchallenges.blogspot.com/2014_11_01_archive.html)



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