



**Violet Armstrong “Aggie” Bough** was born in Frederiksted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands in 1929 to native Virgin Islanders mother Florence “Florie” Alicia Charles and father Radcliffe Armstrong.

At age eleven, her love of singing and playing a toy piano led to piano instruction by the island’s renowned Adam Thomas. At age 16, she was hired as the organist of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, playing the large pipe organ for all services, weddings, funerals and church concerts. At times, while playing, she bolstered the alto section of the church choir with her strong range of mezzo-soprano and alto vocals.

After graduating from high school, Bough left the islands and attended St. Augustine’s College, Raleigh, North Carolina. On the Dean’s list all semesters and earning the highest GPA of three magna cum laude graduates, she led her class in the graduation procession and obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Science. She was inducted into the Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, and pledged Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Thereafter, in the 1950’s, she became the President/Basileus of the Gamma Xi campus chapter, Raleigh N.C. She was recommended for fellowships such as the Fulbright, Woodrow Wilson, and the Union Theological Seminary.

Bough pursued a post-graduate degree and obtained a Master of Arts from Teacher’s College Columbia University, New York. She continued to hone her classical music skills by also attending the New York College of Music. She earned post-graduate credits for courses and workshops at the College of the Virgin Islands (now University of the Virgin Islands), the University of Illinois, University of Wyoming, New York University and the University of Connecticut.

Bough returned to St. Croix to teach on the elementary and secondary levels in the Virgin Islands Department of Education. During the 1970’s, she served as Supervisor of Social Studies for the department, advanced to an Assistant Principal and finally Territorial Social Studies Supervisor before retiring from the VI Department of Education, 1984 as a highly respected educator.

For more than 35 years, after Bough returned home, she resumed her position as organist of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. She played the church’s pipe organ and piano throughout the island for numerous community affairs and government ceremonies. She often accompanied her daughter, a classically trained lyric soprano, alto saxophonist, and graduate of Howard University whose voice instructor was the renowned coloratura soprano, Mattiwilda Dobbs.

Bough lived a remarkable active and service-oriented life. Over the years, she continued her service in the sorority by becoming a charter member of the Mu Gamma Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., St. Croix and served as a past Basileus/President and Pecunious Grammateus/Financial Secretary in the local chapter. After more than 50 years of service in the sorority, and a life member, Bough was the first sorority member to achieve the “Golden Member” status in the International Region, and was recognized at the 2004 Boule in Nashville, Tennessee.

Ms. Bough’s dedication to education and love of learning was a constant in her life. She inspired her daughter Ingrid A. Bough, J.D. to pursue a similar career path and was extremely proud of her daughter’s accomplishments on the mainland, particularly her daughter’s 20-year federal service at the Library of Congress; juris doctorate with a concentration in Intellectual Property law, and local VI government service in the Department of Education and in libraries, archives and museums.

Although restricted from physical activity in her later years, Bough continued her support, monetary and otherwise in the community. On August 9, 2009, Bough was called home to play the largest pipe organ and sing with thousands of angels before her Lord and Savior.

In 2019, her daughter became a published author with a children’s cultural/history book “*Violet Loves the Letter V: Virgin Islands Pride*” dedicated in honor of her mother who wanted to be remembered as an educator, historian, church organist, and culture bearer. The book available in hardcover and soft cover, has received 5-star ratings on Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble. [www.noirillion.com](http://www.noirillion.com)

Bough’s dedication to her beloved homeland, years of service and contributions in the VI Department of Education, and to the entire Virgin Islands community will always be remembered.