

ACT NO. 8948

BILL NO. 35-0394

THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2024

An Act honoring and commending Arthur Solomon for his work as Head Coach for the multiple champion winning Charlotte Amalie High School's Girls' Basketball Team and his contribution as a member of the Virgin Islands Men's National Basketball Team by naming the existing and any subsequent gymnasium at the Charlotte Amalie High School, "The Arthur "Gutu" Solomon and Myron "MC" Corbett Gymnasium"

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WHEREAS, Arthur Solomon was born on May 21, 1951 on the island of St. Kitts; and

WHEREAS, Arthur Solomon was affectionately known as "Gutu" or "Coach Solomon";
and

WHEREAS, Arthur Solomon grew up in the Oswald Harris Court community with his family and as the third eldest of eight children; Hiram Solomon, Winston Solomon, Jennifer Solomon, Sylvester Charles, George Corbett, Janice Corbett, and Myron Corbett; and

WHEREAS, Arthur Solomon enjoyed playing basketball with his brothers; Winston "Brother" Solomon and Sylvester "Sir Charles" Charles; and

WHEREAS, he developed exceptional skills at the sport of basketball which earned him a scholarship at the University of Texas El Paso to play the sport; and

WHEREAS, he transferred to Morgan State University to complete his undergraduate degree and then returned home to St. Thomas; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the Virgin Islands Men's National Basketball Team;
and

WHEREAS, Arthur Solomon as a member of the Virgin Islands National Basketball Team played many games against professional basketball teams from the island of Puerto Rico and his excellent play resulted in him being signed to a professional basketball contract with the Brujos de Guayama where he played for at least one season under the tutelage of Jerry Brown, the renowned coach of the Philadelphia 76ers; and

WHEREAS, he last played with the Virgin Islands Men's National Team in 1982 in Havana, Cuba; and

WHEREAS, his contributions to basketball continued with his later work as the head coach for the girls' basketball team at Charlotte Amalie High School; and

WHEREAS, his excellent work as the head coach of the Charlotte Amalie High School's Girls' Basketball Team resulted in numerous championships won for the school; and

WHEREAS, Coach Solomon's commitment to his players extended far beyond the court, as he instilled the values of discipline, responsibility, and perseverance, guiding them towards educational opportunities and fulfilling their dreams; and

WHEREAS, Coach Solomon served as Chair of the Charlotte Amalie High School Physical Education Department; and

WHEREAS, Coach Solomon advocated for improved resources, recognition and pay increases for high school and junior high school coaches across the territory; and

WHEREAS, Coach Solomon, in 2001, launched a campaign to have a new gymnasium built at the Charlotte Amalie High School, coordinating a meeting with top governmental officials to include then Commissioner of Education Ruby Simmonds and Delegate to Congress Donna Christian Christensen; and

WHEREAS, Coach Solomon's unwavering integrity, generous spirit, and unwavering dedication to youth development earned him the respect and admiration of countless players, colleagues, and community members;

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands, honors and commends Coach Arthur Solomon for his tireless service and contributions to the Virgin Islands community through his athletic work.

SECTION 2. The President of the Legislature, or the President's designee, shall have a perma plaque copy of this Resolution prepared and presented to Arthur Solomon at an appropriate ceremony.

SECTION 3. The gymnasium at the Charlotte Amalie High School is named "The Arthur "Gutu" Solomon and Myron "MC" Corbett Gymnasium". The name "The Arthur "Gutu" Solomon and Myron "MC" Corbett Gymnasium" must be retained for any future relocation of the gymnasium on the Charlotte Amalie High School campus.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on November 20, 2024.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 21st day of November, A.D., 2024.




Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
President


Carla J. Joseph
Secretary



Bill No. 35-0394 is hereby approved.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, this 21st day of November 2024 A.D.


Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor