

ACT NO. 8938

BILL NO. 35-0027

THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2024

An Act honoring and commending Mr. Myron Corbett posthumously for his many contributions to the youth of the territory and renaming the gymnasium at the Charlotte Amalie High School “The Arthur “Gutu” Solomon and Myron “MC” Corbett Gymnasium”

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WHEREAS, Myron Corbett was affectionately known as “MC” or Coach Corbett”;

WHEREAS, Myron Corbett was born on April 4, 1965, to parents Margaret and Richard; and

WHEREAS, he was the youngest of eight children; Hiram Solomon, Winston Solomon, Arthur Solomon, Jennifer Solomon, Sylvester Charles, George Corbett, and Janice Corbett; and

WHEREAS, he grew up in the Oswald Harris Court community and loved being around his family, especially his brothers; and

WHEREAS, his older brothers, Winston “Brother” Solomon, Arthur “Gutu” Solomon, and Sylvester “Sir Charles” Charles, were all exceptionally skilled at the game of basketball; and

WHEREAS, Myron Corbett spent countless hours watching and emulating his brothers before eventually playing basketball himself, shortly becoming an exceptional player; and

WHEREAS, after having a successful freshman year at Charlotte Amalie High School, Myron Corbett’s commitment to his family took him off the island of St. Thomas to Washington, D.C. to care for one of his brothers who was battling cancer; and

WHEREAS, Myron Corbett enrolled in the Paul Laurence Dunbar High School; and

WHEREAS, he excelled as a student; and

WHEREAS, after graduation from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in 1984, he attended Barber-Scotia College in North Carolina, where he later graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1988; earning a Bachelor of Science degree in marketing; and

WHEREAS, although Myron Corbett was living stateside, he never lost his connection to the Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Corbett returned home in the early 1900s after former Senator Allison "Allie" Petrus expressed his interest in Mr. Corbett's returning home to St. Thomas to help develop programs that bring growth and exposure to the Territory; and

WHEREAS, after returning home to St. Thomas, Mr. Corbett started working with the nationally recognized television program, "*Graffiti Street*"; and

WHEREAS, after "*Graffiti Street*" gained success on St. Thomas, he made the decision to expand the show to the island of St. Croix; and

WHEREAS, Myron Corbett decided to give back to the show's staff, primarily made up of students, by organizing annual international trips that served as an opportunity for the students to observe other cultures first hand; and

WHEREAS, the "*Graffiti Street*" team was able to travel to England, Germany, Belgium, Holland, France, Brazil, Italy, Panama, and a variety of other places under Corbett's leadership; and

WHEREAS, the pride he felt from positively impacting the lives of students in the program made him refocus his efforts to his first love, basketball; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Myron Corbett became head coach of the Charlotte Amalie High School's varsity women's basketball team, helping them win ten straight championships during an eleven-year timespan; and

WHEREAS, after his success, he moved on to working with the University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas campus, women's basketball team; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Corbett's determined spirit helped the UVI team make the final four before his departure; and

WHEREAS, he eventually went back to coaching the women's varsity basketball team at the Charlotte Amalie High School, leading them to another championship in 2008; and

WHEREAS, as a testament to his commitment to the success of the island's youth, he helped many of the high school athletes earn four-year athletic scholarships, allowing them to attend college free of charge and

WHEREAS, in addition to these notable contributions, Myron Corbett held leadership positions in a host of organizations and particularly took pride in being the coach of the international women's basketball team, director of the V I Housing Authority Free Your Mind Basketball League, and coordinator of the CAHS Character Lunch League; and

WHEREAS, the Lunch League was such a hit that both radio and internet shows wanted to announce the games throughout the island; ultimately making it the first lunch league to be broadcasted live simultaneously on two separate radio stations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Corbett took an interest in the entertainment industry after listening to a local group called “G-Storm”; and

WHEREAS, he was so impressed by G-Storm’s talent that he paved the way for the group to perform at the famous Apollo Theatre in Harlem, New York, which earned G-Storm second place honors at the end of the night; and

WHEREAS, his commitment to the positive development of the Territory’s youth was further depicted during his twenty-four years of service with the Department of Education of the Government of the Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, Myron Corbett’s brilliant mind for business helped him become a hit at the concession stand in the CAHS gym and inspired him to create his “CA” brand of hats and t-shirts, which quickly became popular; and

WHEREAS, outside of all his accomplishments on the island and within his community, his biggest achievement was his love and devotion to his family; and

WHEREAS, Myron Corbett was a dedicated son, father, brother, uncle, and friend; and

WHEREAS, Myron Corbett was able to live out his dreams every day until his passing on September 1, 2017, and his legacy of greatness through service and commitment to others lives on in all our hearts; Now Therefore,

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 Myron Corbett posthumously for his outstanding contributions to the youth in the community through creating various avenues for youth engagement toward success, as well as his years of service to the youth as a coach at the Virgin Islands Department of Education.

SECTION 2. 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.

SECTION 3. (a) Notwithstanding the use restrictions in 33 V.I.C. §3092a. (c), there is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, the sum of \$10,000 from the School Construction, Maintenance and Capital Fund to the Bureau of School Construction and Maintenance to erect the proper signage and a permanent plaque with the name “The Arthur “Gutu” Solomon and Myron “MC” Corbett Gymnasium”.

(b) The funds appropriated in subsection (a) remain available until expended.

SECTION 4. The President of the Legislature or the President's designee shall prepare and present a perma plaque copy of this act to the family of the late Myron Corbett at an appropriate ceremony.

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. 35-0027 is hereby approved.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, this 25th day of November 2024 A.D.


Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor