

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,  
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

11/20/2024-SPECIAL ORDERED

11/18/2024-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

**BILL NO. 35-0394**

**Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**October 30, 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 Myron "MC" Corbett and Arthur "Gutu" Solomon Gymnasium"

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senator Donna A. Frett-Gregory

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1       **WHEREAS**, Arthur Solomon was born on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 1951 on the island of St. Kitts; and

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

3       and

4       **WHEREAS**, Arthur Solomon grew up in the Oswald Harris Court community with his

5       family and as the third eldest of eight children; Hiram Solomon, Winston Solomon, Jennifer

6       Solomon, Sylvester Charles, George Corbett, Janice Corbett, and Myron Corbitt; and

7       **WHEREAS**, Arthur Solomon enjoyed playing basketball with his brothers; Winston

8       "Brother" Solomon and Sylvester "Sir Charles" Charles; and

9       **WHEREAS**, he developed exceptional skills at the sport of basketball which earned him

10       a scholarship at the University of Texas El Paso to play the sport; and

11       **WHEREAS**, he transferred to Morgan State University to complete his undergraduate

12       degree and then returned home to St. Thomas; and

1           **WHEREAS**, he was a member of the Virgin Islands Men’s National Basketball Team;  
2    and

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

8           **WHEREAS**, he last played with the Virgin Islands Men’s National Team in 1982 in  
9    Havana, Cuba; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

