

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-241

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

January 9, 2018

To posthumously recognize the life of Roland Morris “Fatty” Taylor.

WHEREAS, Roland Morris “Fatty” Taylor was born March 13, 1946, raised in the East Capitol Dwellings in Ward 7, and, through his basketball prowess, brought recognition to Watts Branch Park, now known as Marvin Gay Park, for District of Columbia basketball legends;

WHEREAS, Roland Morris “Fatty” Taylor graduated from Spingarn High School and then became an alumnus of La Salle University;

WHEREAS, Roland Morris “Fatty” Taylor enjoyed an 8-year professional basketball career as a guard in the American Basketball Association (“ABA”) and the National Basketball Association (“NBA”);

WHEREAS, Roland Morris “Fatty” Taylor joined the ABA in 1969 and played one year for the Washington Capitals and then played for the Virginia Squires for the majority of his professional basketball career, amassing 3,495 points, 1,737 assists, and 1,715 rebounds in 5 seasons;

WHEREAS, Roland Morris “Fatty” Taylor played alongside noteworthy professional players while on the Squires, including Adrian Smith, “Jumbo” Jim Eakins, Julius “Dr. J” Erving, and George “Iceman” Gervin, whose nickname he is credited with coining;

WHEREAS, Roland Morris “Fatty” Taylor was an outstanding defensive player known for his hard work and hustle, and also known for playing a "run-and-gun" style of offense;

WHEREAS, Roland Morris “Fatty” Taylor was a veteran of several ABA playoffs and spent one season in the NBA (1976–77) as a member of the Denver Nuggets;

WHEREAS, Roland Morris “Fatty” Taylor was one of the first athletes from East Capitol Dwellings to make it to the NBA;

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

WHEREAS, Roland Morris “Fatty” Taylor retired from professional basketball in 1977 with combined ABA/NBA totals of 5,098 points, 2,563 assists, and 2,524 rebounds;

WHEREAS, Roland Morris “Fatty” Taylor ventured into real estate and restaurant and nightclub businesses, taught and coached in the Colorado high school districts, worked as a program coordinator for the nonprofit Colorado HAWKS Amateur Athletic Union boys basketball team for more than 5 years, and became the Founder, CEO, and Program Coordinator of his own program, Taylor Made Playaz, a year-round basketball program that assists at-risk youth, academically and socially;

WHEREAS, Roland Morris “Fatty” Taylor was diagnosed with male breast cancer in March 2000 and underwent surgery just one day after being diagnosed, ultimately having a mastectomy, and lived cancer-free for several years;

WHEREAS, Roland Morris “Fatty” Taylor helped educate fellow breast-cancer patients, particularly men, publicly sharing his battle with breast cancer to bring awareness to the fight against male breast cancer;

WHEREAS, Roland Morris “Fatty” Taylor suffered from blood clots in his lungs in 2011 and subsequently discovered that the cancer had recurred in his left breast, lungs, and bones;

WHEREAS, Roland Morris “Fatty” Taylor, in July 2015, discovered that cancer had spread into his pelvis, leading to several complications and he eventually succumbed to his complications, passing away on December 7, 2017 at the age of 71; and

WHEREAS, Roland Morris “Fatty” Taylor was an inspiration and impacted the lives of thousands from the District of Columbia.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Roland Morris “Fatty” Taylor Recognition Resolution of 2018”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia celebrates the many professional and personal achievements of Roland Morris “Fatty” Taylor and expresses condolences on his passing.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.