



Indiana Historical Bureau

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NEWS

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“Marshall ‘Major’ Taylor” Indiana State Historical Marker Will Be Rededicated in Indianapolis

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker commemorating world cycling champion Marshall “Major” Taylor is scheduled for Friday, July 27, 2018. The marker dedication will begin at 1:00 p.m. at the intersection of 38th St. and the Monon Trail, across from the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, Indiana 46205.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “Marshall ‘Major’ Taylor”:

Born in Indianapolis, 1878, Taylor moved to Massachusetts, 1895, to pursue cycling career. In 1896, he set one-mile record at Capital City Track located here. He won his first professional race December 1896 and quickly established himself as a world-class cyclist. During his career, he set world records in distances from one-quarter mile through two miles. In 1899, Taylor won world one-mile professional cycling championship. He won U.S. circuit championships in 1899 and 1900 despite discrimination he confronted as cycling's first African-American champion. In early 1900s, he won races and acclaim in Europe and Australia. After retiring in 1910, he wrote his autobiography to inspire others. He died in 1932.

The public is invited to attend the rededication ceremony for this Indiana state historical marker that celebrates Taylor's racing career and his pioneering role as cycling's first African American champion. The marker was first installed and dedicated in August 2009. It was damaged in 2017. The Indiana Historical Bureau worked with the Major Taylor Association over the past year to have the marker replaced and reinstalled. The association helped fund the new marker with proceeds from its 2017 George Street Bike Challenge for Major Taylor in Worcester, Massachusetts. Several other individuals provided donations to help with the marker replacement as well. Taylor's descendants and representatives of the Major Taylor Association will be present to help unveil the marker.

The Indiana Historical Bureau (IHB) oversees the state historical marker program. State historical markers commemorate significant individuals, organizations, places, and events in Indiana history. These markers help communities throughout the state promote, preserve, and present their history for the education and enjoyment of residents and tourists of all ages. Since 1946, the marker format has been the large roadside marker, which has the familiar dark blue background with gold lettering and the outline of the state of Indiana at the top. Over 640 of these markers have been installed over the years.

For more information about the Indiana Historical Marker Program and other resources about Indiana, visit the Indiana Historical Bureau's website at <http://www.IN.gov/history> or call (317) 232-2535. For more information about the marker rededication ceremony commemorating Marshall “Major” Taylor, please contact Casey Pfeiffer at cpfeiffer@history.in.gov.

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