



Indiana Historical Bureau

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NEWS

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“Branch McCracken” Indiana State Historical Marker Will Be Dedicated in Monrovia, Indiana

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker commemorating Indiana University basketball player and coach Branch McCracken is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2017. The marker dedication will begin at 11:30 a.m. outside the Monrovia Branch of the Morgan County Public Library at 145 S. Chestnut St, Monrovia, IN 46157. Parking for the event will be available in the library parking lot and near the baseball field across the street from the library.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “**Branch McCracken**”:

Esteemed basketball player and coach Emmett Branch McCracken was born in Monrovia in 1908. He led Monrovia High School to Tri-State Tournament wins in 1925 and 1926, as two-time MVP. McCracken played for Indiana University from 1927-1930. He led IU in scoring for three years and became a three-time All-Big Ten Team member. Inducted into Naismith Hall of Fame in 1960. McCracken coached Ball State basketball, 1930-1938. Hired as IU head coach in 1938, his team won the 1940 national championship. He served in the Navy during WWII; returned to IU in 1946. He coached Bill Garrett, the first African American regular starter in Big Ten basketball, 1948-1951. In 1953, he led IU to another national title. Retired in 1965; died in 1970.

The public is invited to attend the dedication ceremony for this Indiana state historical marker that celebrates McCracken’s contributions to Indiana basketball from the 1920s through the 1960s. As a player, McCracken led his IU team in scoring for three consecutive seasons. He began coaching the Indiana Hoosiers in 1938 and guided his teams to IU’s first NCAA basketball championships in 1940 and 1953.

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. For over 100 years the Indiana Historical Bureau, an agency of the State of Indiana, has been marking Indiana history. 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 600 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 dedication ceremony commemorating Branch McCracken, please contact Dawn Marsh at mmarsh@ccrtc.com.

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