



Indiana Historical Bureau

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News

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

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker is scheduled for Thursday, August 13, 2009. The state historical marker that commemorates Marshall “Major” Taylor and his world-record-setting cycling career will be dedicated at the intersection of 38th Street and the Monon Trail, just south of the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. The ceremony will begin at noon.

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 dedication ceremony for this state historical marker that honors Taylor’s stellar career and his pioneering role as cycling’s first African American champion. Several of Taylor’s descendants are scheduled to participate in this event, and they will unveil the marker. This ceremony is being held in conjunction with Hoosier Heritage Day at the Indiana State Fair.

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 more than 90 years the Indiana Historical Bureau, an agency of the State of Indiana, has been marking Indiana history. Since 1947, 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. There are approximately 500 of these markers across the state.

For more information about this marker, the state Historical Marker Program, and other resources about Indiana, visit the Indiana Historical Bureau’s website at www.IN.gov/history or call 317-232-2537.

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