

## Eddie Lee Taylor, Sr.

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***Eddie Lee Taylor, Sr.*** was a lifelong resident of Melbourne, Florida. His life has been one of dedication and service to his church, family and community. His life has served as an example to countless men, women, and especially the youth who strive to reach the moral and educational heights that he has achieved.

**Why am I talking about Mr. Taylor, well I'm glad you asked.**

Mr. Taylor as he was affectionately called throughout the community was totally dedicated and committed to Lipscomb Street Regional Park. Mr. Taylor was President of the Lipscomb Street Regional Park Association for over 40 years.

As President of the the Association, he used his involvement to improve the quality and conditions of the Community Center and park for the residents in the south Melbourne area, particularly by focusing on upgrades of the baseball and softball fields, grounds and building through funding from CDBG offered by the City. Many services at the Park headed by Mr. Taylor stimulated our youth in the area of education, sports and giving back to the community through community service.

It is my desire and I ask that City Council and Mayor will support my request to rename **Lipscomb Street Regional Park to the Eddie Lee Taylor, Sr. Sports Complex.**

The Eddie Lee Taylor, Sr. Sports Complex would include the 3 ball fields, the multi-purpose field, the children's play area, Basketball Courts, Gazebo and sidewalk around the 2 lakes.

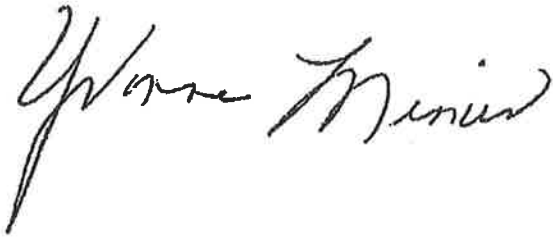
Mr. Taylor has innumerable achievements at Lipscomb Park over the 40 years that he was active until his health failed.

**Below are some of his achievements:**

- ▶ In 2004 through Mr. Taylor's efforts and working with the Community Block Grant Program and the City of Melbourne Park and Recreation, we were able to acquire a grant to renovation and improve the Park in 4 Phases working with a Master Plan. With includes a renovation of the kitchen at the center, upgrading of the center and much more;
- ▶ Each year Lipscomb Street Park Association would put in a request of improvements for the Community Center and Park with the Community Development Block Grant program;
- ▶ Partnering with 2 other non-profit organization, we were able to establish the first Summer Community Feed Program. Later added the United Way as a continuing partner;
- ▶ Supported Lipscomb Park Summer Camp Program by sponsoring 2-4 children each summer;
- ▶ Each year the Association sponsors a Banquet and recognizes and gives Academic and Sports awards and scholarship to will deserved graduating seniors both high school and college. Also, recognize an individual or organization that has given back to the community during the year;
- ▶ Help establish and fund senior programs at the park;
- ▶ Instrumental in acquiring a Baseball Little League, to better serve the youth in the area;
- ▶ Worked with the Park and Recreation to assure the park has great fields and everything the community kids needed to participate on the fields safely and adequately;
- ▶ Worked as a Liaison with the City of Melbourne and Recreation and the City of Melbourne Police Department to help keep phase out any disturbances as they aroused or try to deter in connection with Lipscomb Park;
- ▶ Sponsored a Thanksgiving Community Luncheon for 10 years at Lipscomb Community Center. Opened to the community;
- ▶ For over 30 years he was a constant and visual participant at the majority of the City Council and City Advisory Board meetings.

I asked for your support to rename Lipscomb Street Regional Park to Eddie Lee Taylor, Sr. Sports Complex. With your approval I ask that this item is included on our July 27 agenda.

Thanks very much for your consideration and approval.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wayne Minner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Melbourne City Council District 3

Eddie Taylor, Sr. was a lifelong resident of Melbourne, Florida. His life has been one of dedication and service to his church, family and community. His life has served as an example to countless men, women, and youth who strive to reach the moral and educational heights that he has achieved.

Eddie Taylor, Sr. received his high school diploma from Stone High School in Melbourne; a BS in Elementary Education from Florida Memorial University (then located in St. Augustine, FL) and a M.Ed. from the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

Mr. Taylor spent most of his adult life both as a teacher in Brevard County and Washington, DC. He was Vice Principal of Adult Education for Stone Middle School and Palm Bay High School. He organized the Adult Education program at Stone Middle school for the Brevard County School Board in the 1970s. For the first time many adults – particularly in south Melbourne – were able to attend evening classes after work and earned high school diplomas.

In addition, Mr. Taylor served as Chairman of the Trustee Board of Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church for many years. His leadership and vision led the Trustee Board in expanding the Church while being fiscally responsible.

Mr. Taylor continues to be a trailblazer in the community. He was the first African-American invited to join the Melbourne Jaycees in the early 70s, serving as its First Vice President in 1972. Under the guidance of the late Mr. Norm Keller, this affiliation with the Jaycees presented the opportunity for Mr. Taylor to create the Eddie Taylor Radio Broadcasting Program (1972-1994) with a focus on the African-Community within Melbourne and beyond. The program later evolved into the Eddie Taylor Gospel Show – the first of its kind, and a cross cultural Sunday morning outreach.

Mr. Taylor ran a hard-fought race for City Councilman of Melbourne in the late 70s/early 80s and was appointed by Florida Governor Lawton Chiles to Brevard County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners in 1993 and 1997 and appointed by Florida Governor Bob Martinez to Brevard County Housing Board of Commissioners (1989). He was elected Chairman of the Brevard Housing Authority in the 1990s and was an advocate for providing safe, decent and affordable housing for low-income residents. Through these positions he met then Vice-President George H.W. Bush and other distinguished dignitaries.

In addition, Mr. Taylor has received countless public service awards as testaments to his servant leadership within the community to include the following:

Humanitarian Award presented by Mount Moriah Baptist Church; Community Service Awards by Top Ladies of Distinction; Lipscomb Street Park Association Dedicated Community Service Award; Appreciation for Contribution to Elections Community Council for Supervisor of Elections Brevard County; Recognition of Outstanding and Devoted Services to the Caribbean Festival. Mr. Taylor even has a baseball field named in his honor at Lipscomb Park Community Center.

Once retired, Mr. Taylor continued to be involved in civic activities. He has served as Chairman of the Lipscomb Street Park Association for more than 40 years, and along with the Association, used his involvement to improve the quality and condition of the Community Center and park for the residents of the south Melbourne area. These efforts included a focus on upgrades of the grounds and building through the CDBG offered by the City of Melbourne, and services that will stimulated our youth in the area of education, sports, and giving back to the community. He has also worked tirelessly with other charitable groups in the county in organizing emergency aid to victims of natural disasters including hurricanes in the United States, the Caribbean Basin, and Central America.