

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

24-44

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

May 4, 2021

To posthumously celebrate the life and legacy of Elgin Gay Baylor, one of the greatest basketball players of all time.

WEHREAS, Elgin Baylor was born on September 16, 1943, in Washington, D.C.;

WHEREAS, Elgin Baylor attended Phelps High School before attending and graduating from Spingarn High School, where he set a Washington, D.C. high school record in 1954 by scoring 63 points in a basketball game;

WHEREAS, Elgin Baylor, nicknamed “Rabbit,” distinguished himself as an elite basketball talent in the all-Black high school league, on his club team, Stonewall A.C. and on outdoor basketball courts throughout Washington, D.C.;

WHEREAS, Elgin Baylor was denied access to public facilities and recognition for his abilities by white leaders of then-segregated Washington, D.C.;

WHEREAS, the racist beliefs held by college administrators and coaches at local predominantly white institutions denied him the opportunity to play basketball at any local university;

WHEREAS, Elgin Baylor attended the College of Idaho and, along with fellow Washingtonians Warren Williams and Gary Mays, led the basketball team to an undefeated 1954-55 season;

WHEREAS, the basketball program at College of Idaho was disbanded after one season, Elgin Baylor continued his college career at Seattle University where he, along with fellow Washingtonians Lloyd Murphy and Francis Saunders, led them to their only NCAA championship game in 1958 and was named the tournament’s most outstanding player, despite losing in the final game;

WHEREAS, Elgin Baylor was selected as the first pick in the 1958 NBA draft by the then-Minneapolis Lakers;

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WHEREAS, Elgin Baylor was an 11-time NBA all-star with 10 first-team All-NBA appearances;

WHEREAS, Elgin Baylor was named NBA Rookie of the Year and NBA All-Star Game MVP in the 1958-59 season, leading the Lakers to the NBA Finals;

WHEREAS, Elgin Baylor led the Lakers to 8 NBA Finals appearances;

WHEREAS, Elgin Baylor was the first NBA player to score more than 70 points in a game when he scored 71 points on November 15, 1960, against the New York Knicks;

WHEREAS, Elgin Baylor holds the record for the number of points scored in an NBA Finals game with 61 points in Game Five against the Boston Celtics on April 14, 1962;

WHEREAS, during the 1961-62 NBA season Elgin Baylor, a United States Army reservist, averaged 38.3 points, 18.6 rebounds, and 4.6 assists despite only playing on weekends due to being called upon for active duty;

WHEREAS, Elgin Baylor holds a career double-double, is third all-time in average points per game at 27.36, and tenth all-time in average rebounds per game with 13.55;

WHEREAS, Elgin Baylor changed the game of basketball with his skill and athleticism, and is said to have been the first player to play “above the rim”;

WHEREAS, Elgin Baylor was inducted to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1977;

WHEREAS, Elgin Baylor was selected to the NBA’s 35th Anniversary All-Time Team in 1980 and named one of the 50 greatest players in NBA history in 1996;

WHEREAS, Elgin Baylor was named NBA Executive of the Year in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Elgin Baylor passed away on March 22, 2021.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Elgin Gay Baylor Posthumous Memorial Recognition Resolution of 2021”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia posthumously recognizes and celebrates the life and talent of Elgin Gay Baylor for his positive impact on the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.