



U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

523 National Center

Reston, VA 20192

<https://www.usgs.gov/us-board-on-geographic-names>

August 11, 2026

Dr. Kendrick Cashman Taylor Jr.
15435 Fawn Lane
Reno, NV 89511

Dear Dr. Taylor:

We are pleased to inform you that on August 5, 2026, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names approved a proposal to name a feature in Antarctica in your honor, Taylor Ice Divide.

The entry is available at the website of the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), the nation's official geographic name repository. One may view the entry at our website at <http://geonames.usgs.gov>; click on Antarctica and then search. Type the name into the name box and click send. Once retrieved in columnar format, click the name to view the full entry and to use the map function.

Taylor Ice Divide 79° 28' 01" S 112° 05' 06" W (-79.467 -112.085) – approximate center

Taylor Ice Divide, area, a flow-divide boundary within the West Antarctic Ice Sheet (commonly referred to as "WAIS") extending for approximately 475 miles (764 kilometers) in a southeasterly direction from a point (76.48112 S, 125.1022 W) near the Executive Committee Range to a point (80.7003 S, 97.5783 W) near Mount Woollard. The boundary is not distinctive as a visible feature because the ice sheet in this area has a very broad dome-like structure. It is the zone that separates the area where ice flows to Ross Sea from the area where ice flows to Amundsen Sea and follows the ice sheet drainage map of the Ice Mass Balance Intercomparison Exercise, IMBIE 2016 (<https://imbie.org/imbie-2016/drainage-basins/>). The WAIS Divide Ice Core was recovered along this ice divide at 79.467 S, 112.085 W. Named by ACAN for Kendrick Cashman Taylor Jr. for exemplary work in Antarctic science, engineering, and logistics that enabled major ice-coring research programs. Taylor was indispensable in providing leadership of ice coring programs for the United States, including Siple Dome and WAIS Divide coring programs. These ice cores have provided critical climate records as a major part of a long-term program to elucidate the history and stability of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet. Taylor was a major participant in ice coring projects including the Greenland Ice Sheet Program 2 in the late 1980s to early 1990s period and Antarctic programs in the mid-late 1990s (Siple Dome core), and 2005 - 2013 (WAIS Divide core).

Yours sincerely,

Scott Borg, Ph.D.

National Science Foundation (Retired)

Chair, Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names

U. S. Board on Geographic Names