



*"Like the lighthouse that guides
ships ashore, we are a guiding light into the past,
Illuminating athletes
who pioneered the way to the future."*

PRESS RELEASE

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FORMER GREAT ATHLETES TO BE INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

OAKLAND - Seven former great athletes and Olympians will be inducted into The African American Ethnic Sports Hall of Fame ("AAESHOF"), on Saturday, March 7, 2009 in Riverside, Calif.

The AAESHOF is a 501 (c) 3 non profit organization dedicated to honoring black and other ethnic sports legends. The organization further supports the development of opportunities for at-risk youth enabling them to gain exposure to positive aspects of life. Funds from the Annual Riverside Induction Ceremony will benefit Riverside County's The Eight which provides programs for families that emphasize life-management skills.

This year's inductees include former US 80-meter hurdle champion Rosie Bonds who hails from a family of Olympians and champions. Other inductees include '68 Olympians Reynaldo Brown and Armando Muniz; Baseball's Jim "Mudcat" Grant; former Globetrotter, J. C. Gipson; former NFL standout, Kermit Alexander; former champion golfer Bill Wright; and football/baseball player, Norm Bass.

Community leaders also will be honored at the AAESHOF event. Lois Carson will receive the Lifetime Leadership Award. Under Carson's leadership, three community childcare centers have been developed in Riverside County, 700 units of farm worker housing and an Urban Indian Center.

Carson also has been active in the Community Action initiative at the state and national levels, serving as board president of the National Community Action Partnership and the California/Nevada Community Action Partnership. Carson also assisted with the design of the Community Action Partnership Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) programs, a professional executive development strategy for community leaders.

The Annual Riverside Induction Ceremony will feature a "VIP Reception with the Stars" at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7p.m. and the ceremony at 8 p.m. at the Mission Inn, 3649 Mission Inn Ave. The event is sponsored in part by the Mission Inn, the City of Riverside, Kid Kesty Productions, Connect Welch, Retired Boxing Foundation and Outback Steakhouse.

Tickets are \$75.00 and \$100.00 and can be purchased at www.afrosportshall.com. For more information, contact Wendy Welch at 404-312-2100 or wendy@connectwelch.com or Alicia Hollins at 760-898-9535 arhollins@theeight.org.