



*"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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OLYMPIC ICON DR. JOHN CARLOS TO MC RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA INDUCTION CEREMONY

OAKLAND – The African American Ethnic Sports Hall of Fame, which is dedicated to honoring black and other ethnic sports legends, announced that Dr. John Carlos will MC the annual Riverside, California induction ceremony at the Mission Inn, 3649 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, California 92501 on Saturday, March 7, 2009.

It lasted for only as long as it took to play the National Anthem and yet it has lasted for four decades. The image of Tommie Smith and John Carlos, their black-gloved fists raised to the heavens on October 16, 1968, in the Mexico City Olympics to protest for Human Rights, has somehow grown in power over the last 40 years.

Smith and Carlos sacrificed privilege and glory for a larger purpose. They left fame and money on the table because of a higher calling. Dr. Carlos, who won the Bronze Medal at the Olympics, has since traveled the world and remains in great demand.



This year's inductees include former US 80-meter hurdle champion and Riverside's own, Rosie Bonds. Other inductees include '68 Olympians boxer Armando Muniz and track and field Reynaldo Brown; former Globetrotter, J. C. Gipson; former NFL standout, Kermit Alexander; baseball's Jim "Mudcat" Grant; multiple sport athlete, Norm Bass; and champion golfer Bill Wright.

Community leaders also will be honored: Lois Carson (Lifetime Leadership Award), Darrell Miller (Youth Advocate Award), Robert Bonds (Outstanding Leadership Award), Bob Grant (Trailblazer Award), and Howard Bingham (Lifetime Arts & Cultural Award). The complete list of inductees and other honorees can be viewed on our Web site at www.afrosportshall.com.

The Annual Induction Ceremony will begin with a "VIP Reception with the Stars" at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. and the induction ceremony at 8 p.m. A percentage of the funds will help sponsor THE EIGHT Foundation's program for families for emergency assistance (food, clothing, utility assistance, etc.)

<http://www.theeight.org>. <http://www.theeight.org>

The AAESHOF is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization, and is dedicated to the development of opportunities for young, less fortunate youth to gain exposure to positive aspects of life.

Sponsored in part by The Mission Inn, City of Riverside, Amtrak, Outback Steakhouse, and Wells Fargo.

Tickets at \$75.00 and \$100.00 can be purchased at <http://www.afrosportshall.com>.

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