

second Civil Rights Game and new Urban Invitational—40 years since the tragic death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—are on the heels of our observance last year of the 60th anniversary of Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier. ESPN is honored to join with MLB to celebrate baseball's cultural history."

Tickets to the games being played at the MLB Urban Youth Academy will be available for purchase on game day for \$5. Proceeds from the ticket sale will benefit the Major League Baseball Urban Youth Academy, which is a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation.

"On behalf of our team, I would like to say how honored we are to have been invited to an event like this, especially in its first year," said Bethune-Cookman Coach Mervyl Melendez. "We hope that the Urban Invitational Baseball Tournament continues to grow and more people notice what Major League Baseball is doing for college baseball and Historically Black Colleges."

"Our program is very excited to represent UCLA in the tournament at the MLB Academy," said UCLA coach John Savage. "We are honored to be able to play in the inaugural event. Our players are looking forward to the exciting weekend of baseball."

Major League Baseball is committed to addressing the issue of African American participation in professional baseball. Through Reviving Baseball in the Hinder Cities presented by KPMG and the establishment of the Major League Baseball Urban Youth Academy in Compton, California, MLB has pledged its resources to bringing urban youth back to America's pastime. The inaugural Civil Rights Game in 2007 also reinforced the League's dedication by paying tribute to legendary African-American players who broke barriers and made important contributions to American society.

HBCUs have long offered quality education and athletic programs and have a proud tradition of outstanding baseball players. Hall of Famer Lou Brock, former most valuable player Andre Dawson and current Milwaukee Brewers star Rickie Weeks, all rose from HBCUs. Twelve HCU players were selected in the MLB 2007 First-Year Player Draft. Through the annual Urban Invitational Baseball Tournament, MLB hopes to help these programs revitalize baseball in the African American community.

The MLB Urban Youth Baseball Academy encompasses more than 15 acres on the campus of El Camino College, Compton Center, the Academy is a state-of-the-art facility featuring four fields including a show field, batting cages and other training facilities. The Academy operates on a year-round basis, offering free baseball and softball instruction, as well as clinics to youth throughout Southern California.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL J. HARE

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Michael J. Hare, deputy director of the Riverfront Development Corporation of Delaware. Mike has been an important figure there since April 1996, but has decided to take a new direction and join the Bucchini Pollin Group. Mike will be working on the new soccer stadium in Chester, Pennsylvania.

Mike started working for the Delaware Economic Development office in 1989. After 6

years, he became a senior development specialist under Governor Thomas R. Carper. Throughout the past 12 years, Mike has been an integral part of the Riverfront Development Corporation. He assisted in the construction of the Amtrak Consolidated National Operations Center, the Chase Center on the Riverfront, Tubman-Garrett Riverfront Park, the Riverwalk, Christina Landing, and the Justison Landing. Mike also worked to bring AAA Mid-Atlantic's headquarters to the Wilmington riverfront.

Mike was born and raised in Wilmington, Delaware. He attended Archmere Academy, where he currently serves on the board of directors. He graduated from the University of St. Joseph's, where he earned his bachelor's degree in public administration. Mike serves on the National Alumni Board for St. Joseph's and was honored with the Ignatius Award in 1995 for outstanding alumni involvement and service. Mike also attended the Fels Center of Government at the University of Pennsylvania.

Being a Delaware native, Mike has contributed many years of service to the State of Delaware. He currently sits on the board of directors for the Latin American Community Center, the Delaware Stadium Corporation, the Friends of the Woodlawn Library, the Riverfront Wilmington Improvement District, and the Rivers Edge Community Development Corporation. Not only has he been an active board member for numerous organizations, but Mike has also been a member of the Barbelin Society and the Hawk Hoop Club.

I acknowledge Mr. Michael J. Hare for his many years of service and numerous contributions to his community and the State of Delaware. I am confident that Mike will be successful and prosperous at his new job with the Bucchini Pollin Group. It is inspiring to see such an active and influential member of our community remain committed to the betterment of Delaware.

TRIBUTE TO PORTLAND STATE
UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL
TEAM

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Portland State University men's basketball team on achieving their first-ever birth to the NCAA Division I Championship Tournament. The Vikings capped off their historic season with a 67-51 win in the Big Sky Conference Championship game over Northern Arizona University at the Rose Garden in Portland. PSU finished their regular season with a 23-9 record, and were undefeated in the Big Sky Conference Tournament. On Sunday, the Vikings will learn who they will play in the first round of the "Big Dance."

The NCAA Tournament is one of the great institutions in all of collegiate sports. It brings together the best college teams from across our Nation to compete for basketball's greatest prize. Oregon is proud of every one of these outstanding young men and their coaches.

It is also fitting that we should take this opportunity to recognize the entire Portland State community. As Oregon's largest university,

PSU is a source of pride for our State. The Viking's athletic achievements reflect the spirit and work ethic of their university, and I am proud to honor their achievement today.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize each member of the PSU men's basketball team individually, beginning with Head Coach Ken Bone, Assistant Head Coach Tyler Geving, Assistant Coaches Curtis Allen and Eric Harper, and Director of Basketball Operations Tyler Coston. Furthermore, I congratulate the 2007-2008 PSU Vikings: Kyle Coston, Brian Curtis, Jeremiah Dominguez, Justynn Hammond, Deonte Huff, Jaime Jones, Lucas Dupree, Tyrell Mara, J.R. Moore, Scott Morison, Andre Murray, Phil Nelson, Mickey Polis, Julius Thomas, Alex Tiefenthaler and Dominic Waters.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating these outstanding young men. On behalf of the entire State of Oregon, congratulations and good luck. Go Vikings.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF
MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the city of Middleburg Heights, Ohio on the occasion of the twentieth Anniversary Salute to the City event at the award-winning Middleburg Heights community center. Evolving from the Inaugural Ball, the Salute to the City event has paid tribute to individuals, groups, and organizations that collectively work to make Middleburg Heights the pride of Ohio and its residents.

Since years before even the Salute to the City began, Middleburg Heights would not have been the incredible city that it is today without the leadership, service, and vision of Mayor Gary Starr. In his work as mayor since 1981 and councilman for several years prior, Gary has paved the way for present and future community and economic enhancements to the City of Middleburg Heights. I applaud his dedication and strong commitment of the people of Middleburg Heights.

I stand with the Salute to the City committee, including founding committee members Darlene Kobask and Lona Gruber, to honor Mayor Gary Starr, all members of the Middleburg Heights City Council—including Council President Alan C. Budney, Councilman at Large James F. Sheppard, Councilman at Large Tim Ali, Ward 1 Councilman David Bortolotto, and Ward 4 Councilman Raymond G. Guttman—and the employees of all city departments.

Together with the Salute to the City committee, I also honor the contributions of other groups and organizations serving residents of Middleburg Heights, including the American Association of Retired Persons, the Berea City School District, the Middleburg Heights Women's Club, the Friends of the Library, the Middleburg Heights Kiwanis Club, the Middleburg Heights Community Council, the Tri-City Senior Center, Southwest Adult Day Care, the Middleburg Heights Chamber of Commerce, the Middleburg Heights Historical Society, the Middleburg Heights Veterans Memorial Committee, the Rotary Club of Middleburg Heights,