

At 6 feet 10 inches tall, George Mikan was the first big man to display the agility, touch and skill to dominate basketball games. He was called the trunk of the NBA family tree and he helped the fledgling league draw record crowds in every city. Mikan's mere presence changed the rules of the game because he was so dominant. In fact, in an effort to stop George Mikan, the Mikan rule was invented which widened the lane underneath the basket.

With Mikan in the middle, the Minneapolis Lakers won six NBA championships in the late 1940s and early 1950s, including five of the first eight titles in the history of the NBA. On five separate occasions, George Mikan led the NBA in scoring. George Mikan is a charter member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and the Professional Basketball Hall of Fame. He was chosen one of the NBA's 50 greatest players.

But, Mr. Speaker, George Mikan's accomplishments outside basketball are just as impressive and reflect perhaps even greater determination. A successful attorney, business owner and civic leader, George Mikan was the first commissioner of the American Basketball Association. In that position, he once again helped revolutionize the game of basketball by implementing the three-point shot and other exciting changes. George Mikan has also overcome a great deal of difficulty in his lifetime. Today, George is taking on a very imposing opponent, the disease of diabetes. Again, George Mikan is showing great courage and determination and is a true inspiration to us all.

The original Mr. Basketball continues to make us proud. Today we salute him for his public service, leadership, inspiration and courage. Mr. Speaker, George Mikan is a great American and a legendary basketball player. Please join me in honoring this outstanding Minnesotan for his many contributions to the game of basketball and his many accomplishments off the court as well. George Mikan is truly deserving of this special congressional recognition.

TRIBUTE TO LU PALMER, CELEBRATED RADIO AND PRINT JOURNALIST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would just add my voice to the accolades being given to George Mikan. He did his college basketball playing and attended DePaul University, which is in my congressional district. I can tell my friends from Minnesota that all of Chicago and Illinois are indeed proud of the accomplishments of George Mikan and the people at DePaul University salivate every time they hear his name. I join your comments.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this evening to pay tribute to one of our

country's most celebrated and most effective print and radio journalists, Mr. Latrell "Lu" Palmer who is retiring and will be featured at a retirement celebration on April 14 at the Reverend Johnnie Coleman Complex, 119th and Loomis in Chicago.

Lu Palmer was born in 1922 in Newport News, Virginia, and attended its schools there. He then went on to Virginia University and earned a bachelor's degree in 1942. Later on, in 1947, he earned a master's degree from Syracuse University and later on went to Iowa State University in 1955 where he completed the course work for a doctorate's degree. Lu never wrote his dissertation so he ended up with what people called an ABCD, that is, all but the dissertation degree.

Lu Palmer then went on to have an outstanding career at the Chicago Daily Defender newspaper, the Chicago Courier, the Chicago American, the Chicago Daily News, and then established his own paper, the Black X Express, which he ran for several years. He also taught for 20 years, from 1970 to 1990 for the Association of American Colleges and Universities of the Midwest where he trained a large number of students to really understand urban life. Of course, Lu also worked at WBEE Radio and WVON Radio, was the editorial director for Congressman Ralph Metcalfe's communication vehicles and served as a public relations person for Michael Reese Hospital. He established the Black Business Network, Chicago Black United Communities, CBUC, which he operated for several years, and BIPO, the Black Independent Political Organization. He established Menhelco, a mental health program for boys who were suffering from mental retardation which continues to operate.

As much of a journalist as Lu was, he was really noted more for his community action, community involvement, and was called upon to speak in colleges and universities and banquets all over the country, as a matter of fact. He generally could not keep up. Plus he was very selective and did not just accept any speaking engagement. It had to be something that he called relevant and meaningful if he was to go. Lu was very actively involved in generating outrage when Mark Clark and Fred Hampton were killed by the Chicago police, and later on was probably the single most effective voice in the election of Harold Washington for mayor of the city of Chicago because Lu had a slogan and the slogan sort of said, "We shall see in '83," meaning that that is when the election was going to take place. Lu was called the drumbeat of the African American community. Everybody listened to his radio and everybody pretty much waited for WVON to come on in the evenings from 10 to 12 so that they could listen to "On Target" and Lu Palmer.

Lu finally decided that it was time to hang them up. He is about 80 years old with diabetes and all the other things

that would afflict one. But we would hope that he would put his memoirs together and that he would spend the rest of his life writing and putting in voice some renditions of that "We shall see in '83."

ON BEHALF OF THE 24 CREW MEMBERS HELD BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the 24 crew members held by the Chinese government. These brave men and women are based at the Naval Air Station Whidbey on Whidbey Island in Oak Harbor in my district in Washington State.

I first want to call on Beijing to return our honorable service men and women home. Four days is long enough. No, 4 days is too long. Our service members need to be released immediately.

Second, I want to honor the families of these crew members, both around the country and in the Whidbey Island community of Oak Harbor where the Naval Air Station is based. Their concern over the crew members is matched only by their strength and their bravery.

So not for my sake and not for the sake of anyone in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, but for the sake of the mothers and the fathers, the sisters and the brothers, the sons and the daughters and the wives, it is time for the Chinese government to return the crew members to their families. It is time for the Chinese government to return the plane to the United States.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA WILDCATS ON THEIR OUTSTANDING BASKETBALL SEASON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend and pay tribute to the University of Arizona Wildcats on their outstanding basketball season. This is truly a special team which should be lauded for their courage and for their effort in the face of very, very difficult circumstances, both on and off the court.

As a U of A alum, I closely followed their amazing story. The Wildcats' victory in entering the Final Four perfectly captured their great season. In a rough and tumble fight, in a contest that the Wall Street Journal described as "equal parts rugby and hoops, with a little WWF thrown in," the Wildcats triumphed over a physically gifted University of Illinois squad. After the game, Illinois point guard Frank Williams said, "We gave them our best punch and they survived it."

Indeed, the University of Arizona Wildcat basketball team this year suffered a lot of punches, many thrown in their direction. Toughest of all, head coach Lute Olson suffered a blow on New Year's Day, losing his beloved wife Bobbi to ovarian cancer. Known affectionately by players and coaches and students at the U of A alike as Mrs. O, Bobbi Olson was a special person. In fact, many considered her to be the Wildcats' sixth player. Famous for her efforts on behalf of the team and the university, her efforts in recruiting and her famous apple pancakes, Bobbi Olson provided encouragement to the players and perspective to her husband. She will be dearly missed by the Olson family and by all fans of U of A basketball. I would like to express my personal condolences to Coach Olson.

Cancer is a terrible disease that affects thousands of families each year. In fact, Mr. Speaker, cancer has reared its ugly head in my family. It took the life of my mother, and my oldest sister is today thankfully a breast cancer survivor. I share Coach Olson's grief and greatly admire his strength to overcome this tragedy as he did this year and lead his team to such a wonderful and stunning season.

The individual members of the Wildcats basketball team also deserve mention. Arizona arrived in Minneapolis this past weekend with a star-studded line-up that boasted five preseason nominees for the John Wooden Award which goes to the sport's top individual collegian. Led by junior forwards Richard Jefferson and Michael Wright, center Loren Woods and a back court of Jason Gardner and Gilbert Arenas, the Cats overcame a disappointing 8-5 start to finish the season with a 20-2 run into the final game this past Monday night. Individually, these men are exceptional athletes but, more importantly, under the coaching of Lute Olson, when they played together, they formed an exceptional team. It was this unselfish teamwork that led this talented squad to the Final Four and indeed to the final game.

In an era where the best prospects see college basketball as a 1- or 2-year stopover on their way to the next level, the NBA, I would be remiss if I did not mention a rare exception, an athlete that recognizes that an education and a contribution to society are noble pursuits. The University of Arizona had such an individual in the person of Eugene Edgerson. As a freshman reserve, he played on Arizona's 1997 national championship team. However, he was also a member of this year's gifted Wildcat team because he took a break last year to complete the student teaching requirement in a kindergarten for his degree in elementary education. Then he stayed to take graduate courses when he finished his fourth year of eligibility. Eugene says he came to school both for the books and for the hoops and could not see leaving without getting the most out of both of them. Mr. Edgerson serves as a model on and off the court.

Unfortunately on Monday night, the Wildcats came up short in their quest for a second national championship. But even in defeat, they displayed the talent and grace of a championship team.

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I want to congratulate Lute Olson. I want to congratulate all of the assistant coaches. I want to congratulate the team for its great season, for its unselfish play. You have made University of Arizona alumni like me, the student body of the U of A, the State of Arizona and fans of basketball, particularly college basketball, all across the country extremely proud. Thank you very much for a great year. I commend you all.

Our hearts and sympathies go with you, Lute. And to the team, bear down.

ARIZONA WILDCATS 2000 BASKETBALL ROSTER

No—Name, Position, Ht., Wt., Class, Hometown:

- 0—Gilbert Arenas, G, 6-3, 188, So, North Hollywood, CA.
- 2—Michael Wright, F, 6-7, 238, Jr, Chicago, IL.
- 3—Loren Woods, C, 7-1, 244, Sr, St. Louis, MO.
- 4—Luke Walton, F, 6-8, 233, So, San Diego, CA.
- 5—Travis Hanour, G, 6-6, 189, Fr, Laguna Beach, CA.
- 11—Jason Ranne, G, 6-4, 200, Fr, Tulsa, OK.
- 13—Andrew Zahn, F, 6-9, 254, Fr, Redondo Beach, CA.
- 14—Mike Schwertley, F, 6-5, 224, Fr, Phoenix, AZ.
- 15—John Ash, G, 5-11, 179, Sr, Tucson, AZ.
- 22—Jason Gardner, G, 5-10, 181, So, Indianapolis, IN.
- 23—Lamont Frazier, G, 6-3, 182, Sr, Los Angeles, CA.
- 24—Russell Harris, G, 5-11, 165, So, Mundelein, IL.
- 30—Justin Wessel, F, 6-8, 240, Sr, Cedar Rapids, IA.
- 33—Eugene Edgerson, F, 6-6, 237, Sr, New Orleans, LA.
- 35—Rich Anderson, F, 6-9, 213, Jr, Long Beach, CA.
- 44—Richard Jefferson, F, 6-7, 222, Jr, Phoenix, AZ.

Head Coach: Lute Olson.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 93. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-554, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST) to the Board of Trustees for the Center for Russian Leadership Development.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 100-458, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, reappoints William F. Winter, of Mississippi, to the Board of Trustees of the John C. Stennis Center for Pub-

lic Service Training and Development, effective October 11, 2000.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 194(a) of title 14, United States Code, as amended by Public Law 101-595, and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the United States Coast Guard Academy—

the Senator from Arizona (Mr. McCRAIN), ex officio, as Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and

the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD), Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 1295(b) of title 46, United States Code, as amended by Public Law 101-595, and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the United States Merchant Marine Academy—

the Senator from Arizona (Mr. McCRAIN), ex officio, as Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and

the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-310, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission on Indian and Native Alaskan Health Care:

Sara DeCoteau, of South Dakota.

Carole Anne Heart, of South Dakota.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-533, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of the following Senators to serve as members of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Awards Board:

The Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA).

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON).

OVERALL TAX RELIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRUCCI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues to express my tremendous support for providing America's working families with much needed, reasonable and equitable tax relief. This legislative body needed to act comprehensively and quickly to implement a reasonable and fair tax relief package that will benefit our middle-class families, small businesses, and farmers.