



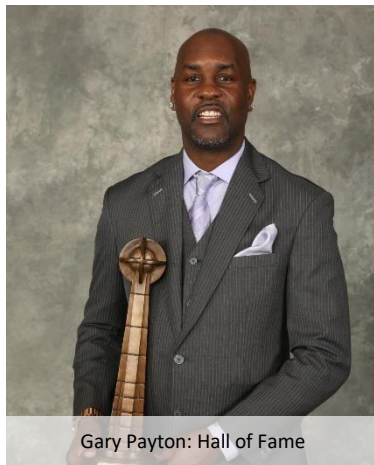
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gary Payton Selected as Horizon Award Recipient

NBA Hall of Famer to be recognized for community engagement

Washington, DC (September 17, 2019) — Congress will honor former NBA player Gary Payton with the Horizon Award at The Congressional Award Foundation's 25th Annual Golf Classic on September 23, 2019.



Gary Payton: Hall of Fame

Embraced as one of the most prolific point guards of all time, Gary Payton played 17 seasons in the NBA for the Seattle Super Sonics, Milwaukee Bucks, Los Angeles Lakers, Boston Celtics, and Miami Heat. Nicknamed "The Glove," Payton remains the only point guard to win the NBA Defensive Player of the Year award.

Payton is a two-time Olympic Gold Medalist (1996, 2000), NBA Champion (2006), nine-time NBA All-Star, NBA Defensive Player of the Year (1996), and was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in 2013.

While his accolades on the court are enough to cement a storied legacy, Payton believes his biggest accomplishment is yet to come.

A passion and responsibility for helping at-risk youth reach their potential is what now drives Payton. Through several charitable contributions, Gary has become a force for good for the people in the very streets where his humble beginnings began. He has made it his mission to help every child receive the equal access to education and opportunity.

Much of Gary's humanitarian efforts have been rooted in his native Oakland, California.

He set up The Gary Payton Foundation in 1996 to provide safe places for recreational activity, and to help underprivileged youth stay in school. In 2001, Mr. Payton made a personal commitment to renovate the gym of the East Oakland Youth Development Center (EOYDC), a youth center he attended as a child. And most recently he has given back to his high school alma mater's basketball program.

As an active player, Gary made an impact in each community where he resided. He has volunteered and offered financial support to important youth service organizations like the **Ronald McDonald House**, **Boys & Girls Club of America** and the **Make-a-Wish Foundation**.

He authored **Confidence Counts** in 1999, an autobiographical children's book illustrating the importance of self-confidence through events in his own life.

“Gary will forever be known as one of the most complete guards the game of basketball has ever seen. After hanging up his jersey he has since made the case that he is an even more complete man – one of character, integrity, and altruism. On behalf of The Congressional Award Foundation, I am proud to recognize Mr. Payton’s community involvement and creation of opportunities for our nation’s youth to thrive,” said **Paxton Baker**, Chairman of The Congressional Award National Board of Directors.

The Horizon Award

A special recognition from the Joint Leadership Commission of The Congressional Award Foundation and its Board of Directors, the Horizon Award recognizes individuals from the private sector who have worked to expand opportunities for all Americans through their own personal contributions.

Previous recipients include personalities like Drew Brees, America Ferrera, Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, Bob Lanier, Wynton Marsalis, Cal Ripken, Jr., Pat and Emmitt Smith, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Gail Miller.

About

The Congressional Award is the United States Congress’ only charity and the highest honor bestowed upon a youth civilian through the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Established by Congress as a public-private partnership in 1979 under Public Law 96-114, the program recognizes initiative, service, and achievement in youth ages 13 ½ - 23. Learn more at www.congressionalaward.org.

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