

30TH GRADUATION CELEBRATION: A NEW STANDARD

The 30th Graduation Ceremony was held in the Mobile Civic Auditorium Theater on the 26th of July 2002. The US Marine Corps Band entertained a capacity crowd for an hour before the procession and the theatre was staged with Mina Valyraki's art, both on the stage and throughout the building.

There were almost 200 masters students that came for comprehensive examinations, the majority marching in the ceremony. They were joined by 17 doctoral students.

Also honored in the graduation ceremony were:

Mina Papatheodorou-Valyraki, Sport Artist of the Year 2002, Athens Greece

Dr. Zhenliang He, Honorary Doctorate, Honorary President Chinese Olympic Committee and Chairman of the IOC Cultural and



Pictured above from left to right: Rear Admiral Raymond Smith, Dwight D. Eisenhower Fitness Award; Mina Papatheodorou-Valyraki, 2002 Sport Artist of the Year; Ambassador Alexandros Rondos, received the Jackie Robinson Humanitarian Award on behalf of the Greek Foreign Minister George Papandreou; Dr. Zhenliang He, Chairman IOC Cultural and Education Commission; Robert Campbell, III, Esquire, Chairman, USSA Board of Trustees; Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich, President and CEO, United States Sports Academy.

Olympic Education Commission, Beijing, China

Ambassador Alexandros Rondos, Chief of Staff, Greek Foreign Ministry, Athens, Greece accepted the Jackie Robinson Humanitarian Award on behalf of the Greek Foreign Minister, George Papandreou.

Admiral Raymond Smith, Dwight D. Eisenhower Fitness Award, Los

Angeles, CA

Milton Brown, Distinguished Service Award, Bama Boys, Writer of the Academy's Theme Song "Heart of a Champion", Mobile, AL

Herman Frazier, Distinguished Service Award, University of Hawaii Athletic Director and Vice President of the USOC.

Ivan Maisel, Distinguished Service Award, Senior Writer for Sports Illustrated and Co-Author of "A War In Dixie: Alabama vs. Auburn."

Bruce O'Neil, Distinguished Service Award, President, US Basketball Academy, Eugene, Oregon

C. Vivian Stringer, Distinguished Service Award, Women's Basketball Coach, Rutgers University. (A medallion has been struck in honor of coach Stringer, which honors the outstanding Women's Coach of the Year. The first

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Dr. Zhenliang He
International Honorary
Doctorate, See Page 1

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C. Vivian Stringer
unveils new Medallion Award
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Ambassador Alexandros Rondos delivers a message on behalf of George Papandreou, Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs, during Graduation Ceremonies.

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recipient was Amy Ruley, Head Women's Basketball Coach, North Dakota State University, Fargo ND. This award is the Academy's tribute to the 30th Anniversary of Title IX.

Joseph Valyraki, Distinguished Service Award, Congressman, Greek Parliament and former Minister of Home Security and Sport, who negotiated the Athens 2004 Olympic Bid, Athens, Greece

Dr. Fred Cromartie, Distinguished Alumnus of the Year, Chair of Sport Medicine and Executive Director of the Alumni Association, Daphne, AL.

Robert Steiskal, Student of the Year Master's Degree Program, Gulf Shores, AL

Dr. Soonhwan Lee, Student of the Year Doctoral Program, Seoul, Korea.

George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, was scheduled to receive an honorary doctorate, along with Dr. Zhenliang He. Once again September 11th came into play, as it has throughout the year in America; President Bush was unable to attend the ceremony, given the close vote on Homeland Security. He sent a congratulatory letter to the graduating class of 2002 (See right). George Papandreou, Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs, was also unable to

attend due to his leadership in the breakup of the notorious 17 November Group the day before he was to travel here for graduation. Accepting the honor on his behalf was his Chief of Staff, Ambassador Alexandros Rondos and Mr. Papandreou has been invited back next year to participate in our International Sport Summit.

Commencement was followed by the Trustee Reception at the Mobile Civic Center and later, The Alumni Association reception held poolside under the direction of Alumni President Marc Riker (MSS 1997). The President's Reception was held in the Governor's Suite. The Honorees Dinner was held in the Cove Room all at the Admiral Semmes Hotel.

In Memoriam



John R. Tindle

The Academy's extended family was deeply saddened by the passing of long-time employee John Tindle, after succumbing to cancer in May 2002.

John served the Academy in many ways, most notably as the special assistant to President Thomas P. Rosandich for 25 years, in addition to serving as both the executive director of the annual Awards of Sport program and as institutional archivist. Tindle was the first Mobilian to work full-time at the Academy beginning in 1977. He is truly missed by all who knew him.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 26, 2002

To the Graduating Class of 2002:

I am pleased to send greetings and congratulations on your graduation from the United States Sports Academy (USSA).

Our Nation faces no greater challenge than to make sure that all Americans -- regardless of where they live, how they are raised, or the income level of their family -- receive a first-class education. A quality education can prepare you for incredible opportunities to succeed and contribute to society.

I commend you for your hard work in reaching this milestone and in developing your knowledge and skills. As the United States confronts the challenges of a new era, I also encourage you to always pursue excellence in your professional and personal endeavors and to remain committed to the highest standards of citizenship. Your service and leadership can help build a brighter future for our Nation and the world.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for your continued success and our special congratulations to the USSA on its 30th anniversary.

Message from President George W. Bush to the graduating class of 2002.