



# MEDIA RELEASE



**Michelle Obama to Present the Arthur Ashe Courage Award for Special Olympics Founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver at *The 25<sup>th</sup> ESPYS*  
LIVE on ESPN 10am Thursday July 13**

ESPN will posthumously honor Eunice Kennedy Shriver with the Arthur Ashe Courage Award at *The 25<sup>th</sup> ESPYS Presented by Capital One*. The company today announced that former First Lady Michelle Obama will present the award to Timothy Shriver who is the Chairman of Special Olympics and will accept the award on his mother's behalf.

"Eunice Kennedy Shriver was a passionate champion for those with developmental challenges, empowering them to fulfill their highest potential," said Mrs. Obama. "Her work to promote inclusion and acceptance transformed the lives of countless young athletes and inspired us all. I am incredibly honored to present this award to her son to celebrate her life's work."

Eunice Kennedy Shriver is being honored with the award for her dedication to using the power of sports to empower individuals with intellectual disabilities to become acknowledged and celebrated members of society. Shriver was a resolute champion

for the rights of people with intellectual disabilities and her legacy lives on through Special Olympics, the global movement she founded in 1968.

Presented annually to individuals whose contributions transcend sports, the award recognizes those individuals who embody the spirit of the trophy's namesake, tennis legend Arthur Ashe, who dedicated his life to human rights advocacy. *The 25<sup>th</sup> ESPYS*, hosted by five-time NFL MVP and two-time Super Bowl champion Peyton Manning, will air live on ESPN Thursday, July 13 at 10am with a sneak peak of the ESPY's Red Carpet from 9am from the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

For additional ESPYS news and information, please follow the official Twitter handle: @ESPYS. More information can be found in the ESPYS media kit.

### **The Arthur Ashe Courage Award**

The Arthur Ashe Courage Award is presented each year to individuals whose contributions transcend sports. Past honorees include: Jim Valvano (1993); Steve Palermo (1994); Howard Cosell (1995); Loretta Claiborne (1996); Muhammad Ali (1997); Dean Smith (1998); Billie Jean King (1999); Dave Sanders (2000); Olympian Cathy Freeman (2001); Todd Beamer, Mark Bingham, Tom Burnett and Jeremy Glick, four passengers who lost their lives September 11 on United Flight 93 (2002); Pat and Kevin Tillman (2003); Liberian-born soccer legend George Weah (2004); disabled athletes Emmanuel Ofose Yeboah and Jim MacLaren (2005); Afghan female athletes (2006); and Trevor Ringland and Dave Cullen for their work with PeacePlayers (2007); U.S. Olympians Tommie Smith and John Carlos (2008); former president Nelson Mandela (2009); the Thomas family of Parkersburg, IA (2010); boxer Dewey Bozella (2011); women's basketball coach Pat Summitt (2012); Robin Roberts (2013), Michael Sam (2014), Caitlyn Jenner (2015), Zaezion Dobson (2016).

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