

Kevin Durant, Sheila Johnson, Christine Brennan, and John Thompson Jr. to be honored at the Inaugural Fight For Children Honors

– The stars shine as athletes and celebrities come together in the nation’s capital for a Celebration of Sports for Positive Social Impact

WASHINGTON, DC March 3, 2022 – Fight For Children announced today that NBA superstar and philanthropist **Kevin Durant**, celebrated entrepreneur and humanitarian **Sheila Johnson**, trailblazer for women in sports media **Christine Brennan** and the late legendary Georgetown men’s basketball coach **John Thompson Jr.** will be recognized for their social impact and inspiring actions during the star-studded [Fight For Children Honors](#) gala at the Anthem on Thursday, May 19.

Best described as “Fight Night meets The Kennedy Center Honors,” business and community leaders as well as athletes and celebrities will come together in the nation’s capital to celebrate those who have leveraged the power of sports for positive social impact in an evening of superstar entertainment, camaraderie and fun.

After 30 years and more than \$70 million raised, Fight For Children retired Fight Night, in November 2019. Fight For Children Honors is the new hallmark event for the organization. This star-studded gala will draw thousands of the most influential names from the DC area, and 100% of proceeds from Fight For Children Honors will support programming to benefit youth in underserved communities throughout the region

More on the individuals being honored at the inaugural Fight For Children Honors:

With roots in Prince George’s County, two-time NBA Champion **Kevin Durant** is regarded as one of the greatest players of all time and is a member of the NBA’s 75th Anniversary Team. But his work off the court is equally as inspiring. Through the Kevin Durant Foundation, lives of at-risk youth from low-income backgrounds continue to be improved through educational, athletics and social programs. Moreover, the foundation has allocated grants to support programs addressing homelessness, youth athletics, girls’ empowerment, social justice, and disaster relief. In 2018, Mr. Durant was named one of Time’s 100 Most Influential People for his many positive endeavors in the community including helping disadvantaged kids receive higher education through the Durant Center in his home town of Suitland, Maryland, as well as building and renovating basketball courts around the world so at-risk youth have a safe place to learn and play.

Sheila Johnson is one of America’s most distinguished entrepreneurs and philanthropists whose accomplishments span hospitality, sports, entertainment, the arts, and humanitarian causes. As Vice Chair of Monumental Sports & Entertainment, she is the first Black woman to have a principal shareholder stake in three professional sports teams: the Washington Wizards, Capitals and Mystics, for which she serves as

President and Governor. She also serves as CEO of Salamander Hotels & Resorts, overseeing a growing portfolio of luxury properties and lifestyle businesses. As a founding partner of BET (Black Entertainment Television), she pioneered modern television programming and created the award-winning program Teen Summit, an issues-oriented talk show for the network's youth viewers. Among her many community roles, she serves on the board of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

CNN sports analyst **Christine Brennan** is an award-winning national sports columnist for USA Today, a commentator for ABC News, PBS, and NPR, a best-selling author, and a renowned speaker. Twice named one of the country's top 10 sports columnists by the AP Sports Editors, Brennan was the first woman sportswriter at The Miami Herald in 1981 and the first woman to cover the NFL as a staff writer at The Washington Post in 1985. She was the first president of the Association for Women in Sports Media and started a scholarship-internship program that has supported more than 130 female students over the past two decades. Both the NCAA and the Women's Sports Foundation honored Brennan in celebrations for the 40th anniversary of Title IX in 2012.

Legendary Georgetown University coach **John Thompson Jr.**, who passed away on August 30, 2020, built the men's basketball program into a national powerhouse, leading the school to the 1984 national championship and taking the Hoyas to three Final Fours. Coaching the Hoyas to 20 appearances in the NCAA tournament, Mr. Thompson built teams around Patrick Ewing, Dikembe Mutombo, Alonzo Mourning and Allen Iverson. But his most sustaining impact came as a role model for the young men he coached and how much he cared about his players becoming responsible citizens above all else. Inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1999, "Big John" was also a pioneer credited with opening the door for a generation of minority coaches. His survivors include his sons, John Thompson III and Ronny Thompson, and daughter Tiffany Thompson.

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About Fight For Children

Fight For Children (FFC) was founded in 1990 by the late Joseph E. Robert Jr. to improve the lives of children in the nation's capital. FFC has impacted the lives of more than 400,000 children through improvements in healthcare, education and policy. FFC's mission is to help individuals, organizations, and communities leverage the power of sports to improve the lives of underserved youth. FFC achieves this through the [Fight For Children Youth Development Institute](#), the region's first and only sports-based youth development collaborative, and the [Fight For Children Sports Medicine Center at Children's National](#), the region's first and only pediatric sports medicine facility. For information visit www.fightforchildren.org.