



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:

Emily Victor, 404-214-2124, evictor@jacksonspalding.com

Traci Messier, 404-214-3596, tmessier@jacksonspalding.com

**Atlanta Sports Council to Honor Dikembe Mutombo
with 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award Presented by Coca-Cola**

ATLANTA (March 19, 2019) – Former NBA star and Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame inductee Dikembe Mutombo will receive the Atlanta Sports Council's Lifetime Achievement Award Presented by Coca-Cola at the 2019 Atlanta Sports Awards on June 20 at The Foundry at Puritan Mill. Tickets to the event are now available for purchase [here](#).

From 1991 to 2009, Mutombo spent his days on the court, where he became known as one of the greatest shot blockers and defensive players of all time. He led the NBA in blocked shots for five consecutive seasons and blocks per game for a record three consecutive seasons. Throughout his career, Mutombo was named NBA Defensive Player of the Year four times and was an eight-time NBA All Star.

During his five seasons with the Atlanta Hawks (1996-2001), Mutombo led the team to the playoffs three times, made three All-Star Game appearances, and was twice named the league's Defensive Player of the Year. He is one of only three players to record over 1,000 blocks as a Hawk and ranks third in franchise history for rebounds per game.

"Known not only here in Atlanta but around the world for his talent and success on the basketball court, Dikembe made an unforgettable impact on the NBA," said Dan Corso, president of the Atlanta Sports Council. "As one of the world's foremost philanthropists and a NBA legend, Dikembe embodies all that the Lifetime Achievement Award stands for, and we look forward to honoring him on June 20."

Mutombo played 18 professional seasons and retired second on the NBA's career blocked shots list in 2009. In September 2015, he was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Off the court, Mutombo is well-known for his notable humanitarian efforts throughout the world. In 1997, Mutombo founded the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation – an organization dedicated to improving the health, education and quality of life for the people of Mutombo's native Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Mutombo Foundation announced a plan in 1997 to open a new hospital in the Congolese capital of Kinshasa. Ten years later in 2007, the \$29 million Biamba Marie Mutombo Hospital, named for Dikembe's late mother, opened its doors. It was the first modern medical facility in the region in nearly

40 years. Mutombo donated \$23 million of the \$29 million for the hospital, and to date, the facility and has treated nearly 500,000 patients.

Mutombo is the first Youth Emissary for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and also served on the Advisory Board for the Fogarty International Center at the National Institutes of Health.

Known for being a longtime supporter of Special Olympics, Mutombo serves as a member of the Special Olympics International Board of Directors. He also presently serves on the boards of the National Constitution Center, Opportunity International and on the National Board for UNICEF.

Mutombo has received numerous awards for his humanitarian efforts. In 1999, he was elected as one of 20 winners of the President's Volunteer Service Award, the nation's highest honor for volunteer service bestowed by the President of the United States. Mutombo is also the only NBA player to win the J. Walter Kennedy Citizenship Award twice.

Upon his retirement in 2009, Mutombo was named the NBA's first Global Ambassador for his philanthropic work. Former NBA Commissioner David Stern created the position of global ambassador for Mutombo where he reports to Executive Vice President, Social Responsibility & Player Programs, Kathy Behrens. In this role, Mutombo works to grow and celebrate the game of basketball through numerous international NBA events, including Basketball without Borders.

In addition, Mutombo works closely on NBA Cares outreach efforts with Hall of Famer Bob Lanier, who serves as special assistant to the commissioner. Mutombo helps to establish basketball centers around the world, including in South Sudan, Senegal, India, Japan, China and most recently in Israel.

On January 19, 2019, Dikembe Mutombo was awarded the Yolanda H. King, Higher Ground award by Dr. Bernice King, daughter of the late civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I am incredibly humbled to be given this prestigious recognition by the Atlanta Sports Council," said Mutombo. "Atlanta has been my home for more than 20 years, and it is because of the support of this community and this city that I am able to give back and help make today's world a better place. I will always be a proud Atlantan, and it is with the utmost gratitude that I accept this award."

Mutombo will join some of Atlanta's best in receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award, including most recently John Shuerholz (2018), Arthur Blank (2017), John Smoltz (2016), Tom Glavine (2015), the late Tommy Nobis (2014), Chipper Jones (2013), Dominique Wilkins (2012) and Bobby Cox (2011).

The Atlanta Sports Awards will be held at The Foundry at Puritan Mill on June 20, 2019. The awards, created by the Atlanta Sports Council in 2006, highlight the high school, collegiate and professional sports community in Atlanta. Tickets to the 2019 Atlanta Sports Awards can be purchased by completing [this form](#) no later than June 7, 2019.

Atlanta Sports Awards

Created in 2006 by the Atlanta Sports Council, the Atlanta Sports Awards has become a way to rally the Atlanta sports community to recognize athletic excellence on a yearly basis. The Atlanta Sports Awards honors those who distinguish themselves from among the five million people living in Atlanta. That includes all professional sports teams, universities, junior colleges and more than 250 public and private high schools in Atlanta. For more information and tickets, visit www.AtlantaSportsAwards.com.

Atlanta Sports Council

The **Atlanta Sports Council** (ASC), a division of the Metro Atlanta Chamber, facilitates the growth and development of sports in metro Atlanta by serving as a recruiter for major regional, national and international sports events. The organization plays an important role in improving the quality of life for

residents in the region through sports, working to drive economic growth and visibility and acting as an advocate for the area teams and annual sports events. For more information, visit www.AtlantaSportsCouncil.com.

###