



ATHLETE ALLY ACTION AWARDS 2017

OCTOBER 3, 2017
THE GALLERY AT DREAM DOWNTOWN

#ACTIONAWARDS

THE COLLECTIVE POWER OF SPORT.

THE COLLECTIVE POWER OF SPORT CANNOT BE UNDERSTATED,
AND THE CULTURAL INFLUENCE BESTOWED ON ATHLETES
HAS THE ABILITY TO CHANGE ATTITUDES AND SHAPE SOCIETY
FOR THE BETTER. BUT, ONLY IF THE ATHLETIC COMMUNITY STICKS TOGETHER.

STAND WITH THE ATHLETIC COMMUNITY IN THE PURSUIT OF EQUALITY.



AthleteAlly



ATHLETE ALLY ACTION AWARDS 2017

The Action Awards celebrate the pioneering actions of organizations and individuals in 2017 that helped create LGBT inclusive athletic environments and eliminate anti-LGBT discrimination at large.



HONOREES

EZRA BAELI-WANG

MACK BEGGS

LORI LINDSEY

ESERA TUAOLO

THE STANFORD &
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (USC)
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENTS

EMCEE

TRAVON FREE

MUSIC

DJ LOHRASP KANSARA

EVENT LEADERSHIP

Ward Simmons, *Event Co-Chair*

Rob Smith, *Event Co-Chair*

Frances A. Boller

Joy Bunson

Chris Coffey

Brian Ellner

Lia Parifax

Brian Rice

Robert L. York, Jr.

"SOME PEOPLE WANT IT TO HAPPEN,
SOME WISH IT WOULD HAPPEN,
OTHERS MAKE IT HAPPEN."

— MICHAEL JORDAN

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2017 HONOREES!

And, a huge thank you to the staff, our board, our corporate sponsors, each of the donors and our volunteers who have aligned to make this Action Awards the most successful one yet.

It's an honor and privilege to work with you as we partner to create impact and change through sports and athletes. Our mission and our work has never been more important than it is today.

THANK YOU!

ROB SMITH AND WARD SIMMONS

EVENT CO-CHAIRS

BOARD MEMBERS

NOTE FROM HUDSON TAYLOR

FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WE ARE WITNESSING THE GREATEST EXPANSION OF ATHLETIC ACTIVISM IN MODERN HISTORY — NEVER BEFORE HAVE WE SEEN ATHLETES, TEAMS AND LEAGUES — AT ALL LEVELS — SPEAK OUT SO REGULARLY FOR LGBT EQUALITY.

Athlete Ally is proud to be leading this movement. Since our founding, we've remained steadfast in our commitment to securing a world where athletic activism is expected and protected. We believe in ensuring that everyone — regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity — has equal access, opportunity and experience in sport. Thanks to your unwavering support, we've made tremendous progress over the past year.

But our work isn't done. Across the country, attacks on the LGBT community continue. Over 10 anti-LGBT bills have been introduced in the past year alone; transgender rights continue to be threatened; and a patchwork of protections across sport governing bodies are having drastic consequences on LGBT athletes. In this critical time, Athlete Ally won't stop fighting until full dignity and equality is achieved for the LGBT community.

Tonight, we celebrate the progress we've made in the fight for equality, while also recommitting to the work ahead. We look forward to standing side-by-side with each of you in the times ahead.

Together,

HUDSON TAYLOR
FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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HONOREES

EZRA BAELI-WANG

Ezra Baeli-Wang is a 2017 graduate and student-athlete from the University of North Carolina, and was the driving force behind the ACC's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's representatives speaking out vocally against North Carolina's anti-LGBT law HB2. Ezra was the lead author of an open letter on behalf of these colleges that was published, pushing back against anti-transgender efforts in the state. His allyship is a testament to Athlete Ally's ongoing work at the collegiate level, and to the power of cultivating the next generation of athlete activists.

MACK BEGGS

Earlier this year, Mack's story took the nation by storm — a transgender high school male wrestler was being forced to compete against girls due to outdated and discriminatory Texas policies. Mack's reality continues to highlight the patchwork of protections across sport governing bodies related to transgender participation in sport.

Over the past six months, Mack has become a force in the fight for inclusion and equality. He was selected as the grand marshal of the San Antonio pride parade, an opportunity he hoped would bring greater awareness to the continued fight for transgender visibility. In August, Mack partnered with Athlete Ally to publish a PSA pushing back against the proposed anti-LGBT legislation introduced as part of the Texas Special Session. Thanks to efforts like Mack's — and the thousands of activists on the ground in Texas — the Texas Special Session concluded without the passing of an anti-transgender bill.

HONOREES

LORI LINDSEY

Lori Lindsey is a former member of the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team. She represented the team during the 2011 Women's World Cup and the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Lori bravely came out in 2012, and has continued her staunch advocacy for LGBT equality. She also continues to be a model for the type of intersectional advocacy that's needed in today's political climate. She was part of the team that trekked to the Summit of Mount Kilimanjaro and set the Guinness World Record for the world's highest ever soccer match. This historic event helped bring attention to the need for greater gender equality in sport.

ESERA TUAOLO

Esera Tuaolo was a defensive tackle in the National Football League for nine years. In 2002, having retired from sports, Tuaolo announced to the public that he is gay, coming out on HBO's *Real Sports*. Since coming out, Tuaolo has been a strong advocate for the LGBT community. He has worked with the NFL to combat homophobia in the league and has testified to State Legislatures in opposition to anti-LGBT legislation.

HONOREES

STANFORD ATHLETICS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

The Stanford & University of Southern California (USC) Athletic Departments are honored for their ongoing and best practice leadership in creating inclusive college athletic environments. Stanford and USC were the only two schools to score a perfect 100 in Athlete Ally's Athletic Equality Index, a historic assessment of the LGBT inclusiveness of the Power 5 conferences. The Athletic Equality Index was a first-of-its-kind report providing a comprehensive overview of how all 65 member institutions of the NCAA's Power 5 conferences are supporting, or failing to support, their LGBT players, fans, coaches, officials and administrators.

EMCEE

TRAVON FREE

Emmy Award winning comedian and writer Travon Free currently writes for *Full Frontal with Samantha Bee*, and previously wrote for *The Daily Show* on Comedy Central and *Any Given Wednesday* with Bill Simmons on HBO. Free won an Emmy Award for his work on *The Daily Show* in 2015. In addition, Free is a former collegiate basketball player, having played for the Long Beach State 49ers. In 2012, Free came out as bisexual, one of the few Division I basketball players to have come out.

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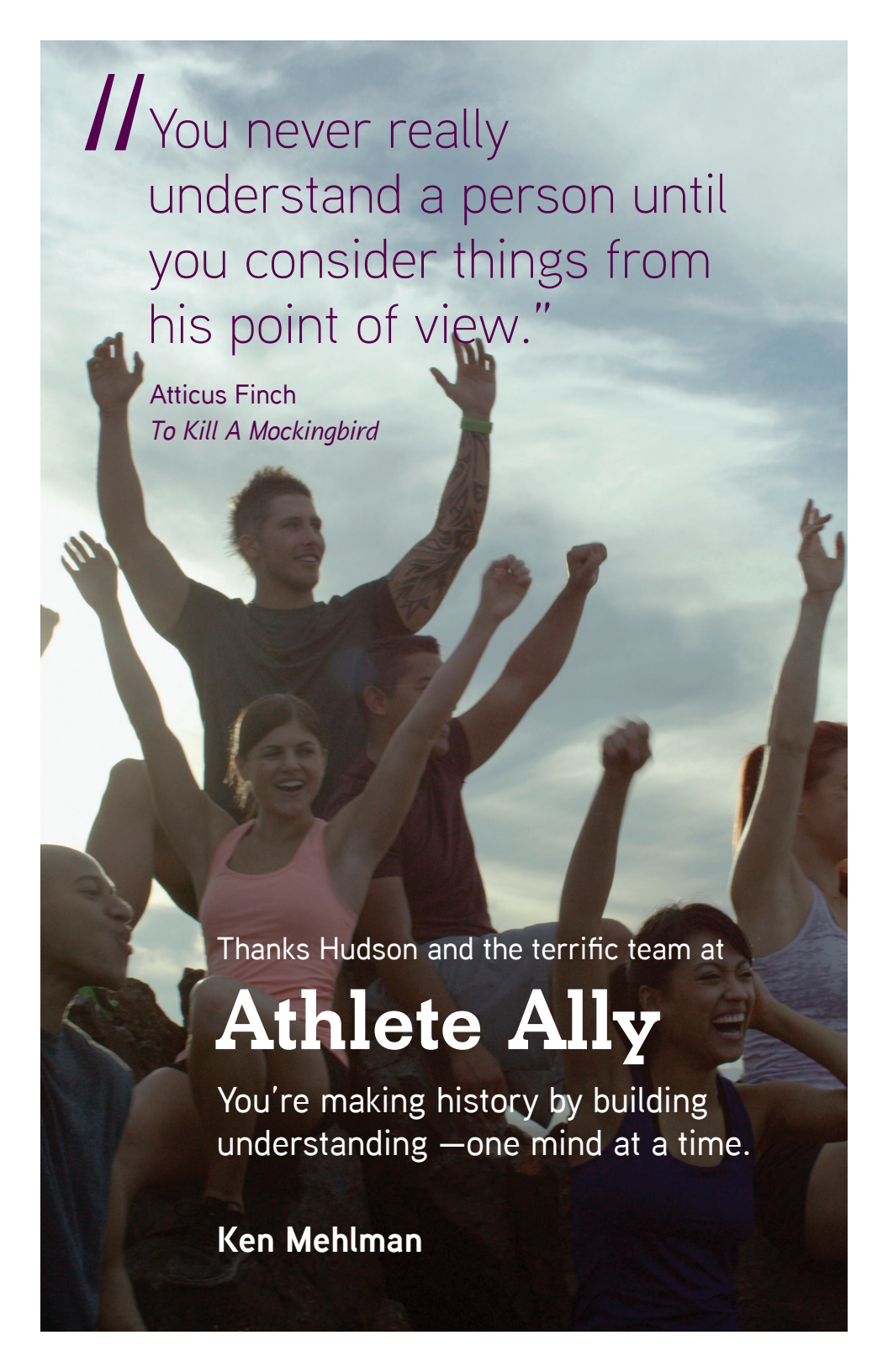
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// You never really
understand a person until
you consider things from
his point of view."

Atticus Finch
To Kill A Mockingbird

Thanks Hudson and the terrific team at

Athlete Ally

You're making history by building
understanding —one mind at a time.

Ken Mehlman

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We join you in celebrating this year's
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eliminating anti-LGBT prejudice

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Our commitment to the community

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congratulate the
recipients of the
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Athlete Ally
Action Awards.**

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“Be the Change
You Want to See
in the World.”

— GHANDI

**THE EHRENBERG FAMILY THANKS ATHLETE ALLY,
ITS AMBASSADORS AND TONIGHT’S HONOREES
FOR THEIR TRAILBLAZING ADVOCACY.**

**WE CHALLENGE MORE SCHOOLS TO START LOCAL
CHAPTERS SO THAT MORE YOUNG ATHLETES CAN
USE THEIR VOICES TO BE THE CHANGE.**

PICTURED HERE:

Poly Prep Country Day School's Baseball, Softball and Girls Lacrosse Varsity Teams
after winning the 2017 Quarterfinals for their league.

Poly Prep's Upper School, Brooklyn NY, has an active Athlete Ally Club.



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We are honored to support your work.

McDermott Will & Emery is proud to sponsor the Fourth Annual Athlete Ally Action Awards. We applaud Athlete Ally's unwavering commitment to standing in solidarity with the LGBT community to further its mission to foster inclusive sports communities. McDermott warmly extends congratulations to the individuals and organizations being honored at this year's awards – your efforts to improve athletic culture are invaluable.



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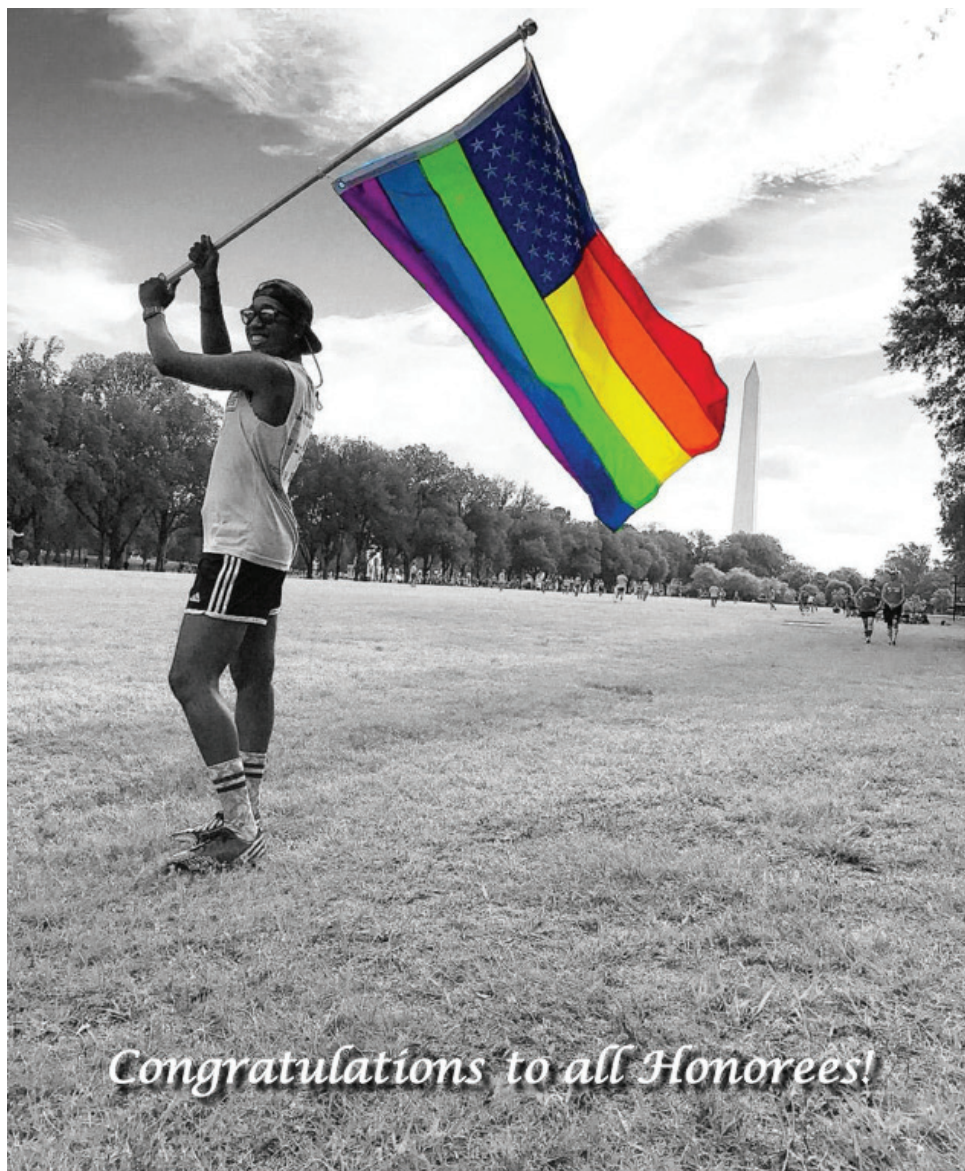
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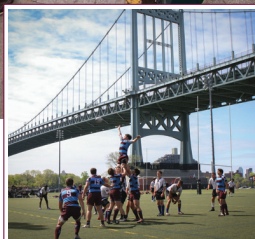
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CONGRATULATIONS, LORI LINDSEY!

Thank you for your activism
in support of LGBT and gender equality.
Your commitment to making sport more inclusive and
accessible for all inspires people around the world.
We're proud to call you our friend!

LAURA CLISE
MARY HARVEY
AMANDA VANDERVORT
Yael Averbuch
MOYA DODD

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HONOREES**



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———— Congratulations to all the honorees! ————
Thank you for your message of love and *inclusiveness*.

A special thanks to Hudson Taylor and the rest of the **Athlete Ally** team. Keep up the good work!

HBO *proudly supports*
ATHLETE ALLY

*and congratulates
all of tonight's honorees*



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Citi is proud to salute Athlete Ally and its crucial commitment to fostering inclusive communities of athletes, coaches and fans where all are greeted with dignity, respect and acceptance.



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Turner lifts up diverse voices both on and off the air. This makes us stronger as a company and a community. Inclusion means empowering individuals and their voices. All of them. We are proud to call ourselves an ally of the Athlete Ally community.



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RBC Capital Markets is pleased to sponsor the 4th Annual Action Awards. We salute Athlete Ally's mission to educate and activate athletic communities to eliminate homophobia and transphobia in sports and to exercise their leadership to champion LGBT equality.

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**Thank you to Athlete Ally
for continuing to stand with
the LGBT sport community!**



**Congratulations to this year's
Action Award Honorees!**



**BRIDGET HARTNETT, CPA, PSA
RON MATAN, CPA, CGMA, PSA
LIZ HARPER, CPA**



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Our Ambassadors are the foundation of Athlete Ally and our mission. Ambassadors serve as visible allies and spokespeople for preserving the integrity of athletics and keeping sport available and safe for everyone — including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) athletes, coaches, administrators and fans. We have 150+ worldwide Ambassadors representing a diverse range of sports.

People like **GREG LOUGANIS, MICHAEL SAM, KENNETH FARIED, LAYSHIA CLARENDON, BRENDON AYANBADEJO, GRANT HILL, MARCEDES LEWIS, AYDIAN DOWLING, ROBBIE ROGERS, JASON COLLINS, ABBY WAMBACH** and **ALI KRIEGER** have already made the commitment to make sports a safer space for everyone.

Check out www.athleteally.org/allies — you're in good company.

A black and white silhouette of a person in a starting crouch, likely a sprinter, against a blurred background of a track and field setting. The person's head is down, and their arms are extended forward, ready to start a race.

84

**PERCENT
OF PEOPLE
HAVE WITNESSED
OR EXPERIENCED
HOMOPHOBIA IN SPORT**

**ATHLETE ALLY BELIEVES THAT
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IN SPORT.**

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environments.**



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