



**Los Angeles
Sports Council**

350 South Bixel Street
Suite 250
Los Angeles, CA 90017
USA
213-482-6333
FAX 213-482-6340

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CONTACT: JON LEE, 213/765-6357
MARK MEYERS, 213/482-6333

JOHN ARGUE TO BE COMMEMORATED AT LOS ANGELES MEMORIAL COLISEUM

Plaque Ceremony to Be Held Monday, June 28

Los Angeles, CA – In a posthumous ceremony to honor his tireless efforts to bring the 1984 Olympics to Los Angeles, as well as his legacy of successful stewardship of the Southern California Committee for the Olympic Games (SCCOG), the Los Angeles Sports Council and the Amateur Athletic Foundation (AAF), the John C. Argue Memorial Plaque will be unveiled at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Peristyle on Monday, June 28th at 4pm.

The bronze plaque will be installed in the Memorial Court of Honor in the famed Peristyle of the Coliseum. The Court commemorates persons or events, athletic or otherwise, that have had a definite impact upon the history and growth of the Coliseum. The Memorial Court of Honor was started in 1949. In all, 45 people or events have been commemorated, including Jesse Owens, John F. Kennedy, John McKay, Pope John Paul II and the Dodgers' 1959 World Series title.

As president of the SCCOG, Argue led the successful bid that would ultimately bring the Olympic Games to Los Angeles. The Coliseum hosted the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of those Games, as well as track and field events.

Scheduled to speak at the ceremony are Anita DeFrantz, president of the AAF of Los Angeles; David Simon, president of the Los Angeles Sports Council; and Barry Sanders, president of the SCCOG. Olympic gold medalist (swimming) John Naber will serve as emcee of the program.

Argue's championing of a private sector approach to the funding of the Games led to the most fiscally successful Olympic Games in history, with the resulting \$230 million operating surplus setting a benchmark that has not even been approached in subsequent Olympiads.

In addition to an involvement with the Olympic movement in Los Angeles that spanned six decades, Argue was pivotal in the creation of the AAF and the Sports Council.

The AAF is endowed with Southern California's share of the surplus from the '84 Games, and awards grants to youth sports organizations, initiates its own youth sports programs and manages the world's premier sports library. The Sports Council is a private, nonprofit corporation dedicated to bringing major sporting events to Southern California. Argue chaired both organizations at the time of his death in August, 2002.

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