



For Immediate Release

November 9, 2011

**Mr. James A. Worthy**  
**“Words of Encouragement to Naval Warfighters”**  
**Carrier Classic – 2011**

USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70)  
United States Naval Base San Diego California

It is great to be here at the Carrier Classic on the USS Carl Vinson. According to the USS Carl Vinson Command History for CY 2002, “2002 began with the home coming of all homecomings. USS Carl Vinson returned home from Operation Enduring Freedom to a hero's welcome in Bremerton, Washington. The success of WESTPAC 2001-2002 could not have happened without the help of our SeaOpDet personnel from NAS Lemoore California, NAS North Island California, NAS Point Mugu California, NAS Oceana Virginia, and NAS Whidbey Island Washington”.

Therefore, let me start by saying this is an honor and humbling experience for me to be in the presence of so many strong and proud Americans and Naval Warfighters who have selected the defense of our country as their mission in life and I want to say thank you for your sacrifices that ensure all Americans can enjoy the promises of America.

During your tenure in naval service, you and your families have paid a high price for America's freedoms. As sons and daughters, husbands and wives, and mothers and fathers were deployed, you and your families endured with exceptional resilience and courage. I strongly believe that, as the beneficiary of your brave and unselfish service, all Americans have a commitment and moral obligation to show you and your families that the strength of our nation is not only measured by your strength and commitment while in uniform, but also by our country's ability to support you and your families as you transition from sailor-citizen to community champions.

**Transitional Powers**

Throughout your naval careers, you have always served in the unique role of sailor-citizen. Whether single or with a family, you constantly transitioned between being a sailor and community member and, through your community outreach, you and your families were interwoven into the fabric of the local communities. As members of the navy, you have acquired the unique ability to interweave the sum knowledge of your navy training and experiences into a leadership and management skill-set that allows you to dynamically handle the constant shift back-and-forth from personal power to positional power.

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As naval leaders, you were elevated to a position of “positional power” which carries the enormous responsibility of leading your team through difficult and dangerous situations while delivering on your commitment to being a warfighter and champion for America.

Also, during your tenure in the navy, you have had interactions with a wide variety of navy team members and civilian populations from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Therefore, a major part of your success has been driven by your demonstrated ability to leverage the “personal power” of your life experiences.

Now, as you continue with your career in the navy or achieve that noble and eventual status of navy veteran, I am confident that you will continue to strive to be a value-added and mutually re-enforceable member of your civilian and career communities and that you will always seek to further your career through an earned pathway to success. The Earned Pathway to Success philosophy is a merit-based 360 degree mentor protégé program designed to support the participant through side-by-side hands-on completion of the documentation and applications required for their successful transition.

Therefore, as a veteran of the NBA and a student of life, I challenge you to always balance the synergy between your positional power and personal power and leverage their combined strengths as you navigate the trails of your earned pathway to success.

**Women Veterans:**

Few issues evoke more passionate conversation than the ongoing issue of women veterans’ holistic quality of life.

They, along with their families, serve daily with courage and dignity and during their tenure in the military. Our women veterans and their families pay an even higher price for our freedom. Therefore, this “Pillar of Success” is designed to show these loyal and brave women that the strength of our Nation is measured, not only, by their strength and commitment while in uniform, but by our ability to support them and their families as they transition from soldier-citizen to community-champions.

The James Worthy Foundation is passionate about improving the holistic quality of life and health of women veterans and their “at-risk” families and we are committed to working in collaboration with a wide spectrum of community based organizations to provide the essential infrastructure and support tools required to empower these struggling women veterans and their “at-risk” families.

**Deliver on Your Vision**

In closing, I would like to say, over my years in the NBA and my Post-NBA career path, the best information I can give you is, every day starts the rest of your life and at the start of each day you need to look in the mirror and ask yourself “What does passion means to you?” and “Do you have the passion needed to achieve your earned pathway to success?”.

Ultimately, leaders are judged by whether they deliver on their vision.



# JAMES WORTHY

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## A BIOGRAPHY

James Worthy defines the term “**most valuable player**” – not just in his career as a superstar athlete but as an entrepreneur, sports broadcast analyst, and commercial spokesman. James believes that the most admirable trait in a person is that one “**takes responsibility for honoring his or her commitments**” and that philosophy guides his role as a devoted father to two young daughters, Sable and Sierra.

James Ager Worthy (born February 27, 1961 in Gastonia, North Carolina), is a former college and professional basketball player, who was enshrined in **2003 into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame**.

Under the tutelage of famed University of North Carolina coach, Dean Smith, Worthy teamed with dream teammate, Michael Jordan and was named to virtually every All American team following his junior year as a Tar Heel. After being named MVP of the Final Four in 1982, he was the #1 overall pick in the 1982 draft, joining the reigning NBA Champion, Los Angeles Lakers while continuing his college education and finally graduating with a BA degree from U.N.C. at Chapel Hill.

While with the Lakers for 12 consecutive years, Worthy earned the name, “**Big Game James**”, for his dazzling performance in championship playoffs. On December 10, 1995, James Worthy became only the sixth player in Laker history to have his jersey retired. His #42 joined the jerseys of teammates, Gail Goodrich, Jerry West, Elgin Baylor, Wilt Chamberlin, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Magic Johnson.

Topping a long list of noteworthy statistics:

- Seven-time NBA All Star
- Member of three NBA Championship teams, NBA Finals
- NBA Finals Most Valuable Player; 1988
- Rated by NBA, one of the 50 all-time best pro players
- College Player of the Year; 1982
- MVP OF NCAA Championships; 1982
- Gaston Gazette “2010 Person of the Year”
- North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame; 1997 – other alumni, Michael Jordan, Bobby Jones, and Bob McAdoo
- Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame – other alumni, Denzel Washington, General Wesley Clark, and Shaquille O’Neal
- North Carolina “*Order of the Longleaf Pine*” – other alumni, Maya Angelou, Rev. William Franklin “Billy” Graham, Jr., and Coretta Scott King



James Worthy’s trademark goggles, along with a championship uniform, were inducted into the Smithsonian Institute in early 1996. In addition, Worthy launched the Smithsonian’s National Sports Oral History Project, a career retrospective providing insight into historical changes in the sport.

# James Worthy Foundation



The James Worthy Foundation is a nonpartisan not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation with a primary mission of being a mutually re-enforceable and value-added alliance partner to the full spectrum of charitable organizations and community support organizations that have synergies with its “**Pillars of Success**”.

## Earned Pathway to Success

The James Worthy Foundation strongly believes people, places, and prosperity are inextricably linked, and we work with our community support partners to develop projects that bring benefits to all three areas.

We have made a commitment to working with other organizations that have shared and value-added community support services synergies in areas such as: holistic quality of life support services, assistance to “at-risk” youth and their families, upward mobility solutions for military veterans (especially homeless women veterans) and their families, and a commitment to assisting these unique clients in the development and execution of their tailored, “**Earned Pathways to Success**”.

*“We have a commitment to the delivery of high quality, holistic, and specifically targeted support services for “at-risk” youth and military veterans. This commitment is pervasive in every aspect of the James Worthy Empowerment Center and we are committed to bringing these (direct) support services to realization with a sense of urgency.”*

**James A. Worthy**

Founder and Chairman of the James Worthy Foundation

## President’s Call To Service



President Obama, with Congress' strongest bipartisan support, signed the late Senator Kennedy's Serve America Act into law, boosted the budget for AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National and Community Service, funded social innovation and volunteer infrastructure initiatives, launched the United We Serve campaign, and made civic engagement central to his presidency.



The James Worthy Foundation has embraced this spirit of community service and is fully committed to working with all of the many points of light in North Carolina and serving as a focusing entity to synchronize their efforts into a “Laser of Realization”.

We are passionate about improving the quality of life and health of people and communities throughout Gaston County and the foundation's philanthropy reflects that passion. We focus our grants and community involvement in the areas where we can make unique and positive contributions.



**John Levi Maddox**  
Executive Director

Tax ID: 27-1548045

[John.Maddox@JamesWorthyFoundation.Org](mailto:John.Maddox@JamesWorthyFoundation.Org)

*“Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry.”*

**Mark Twain**