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Presidential Medal of Freedom Honoree Pat Summitt

Posted by Xtreme Dream Team on Jun 1, 2012 in Blog | 1 comment



13 Medals of Freedom were issued this week by President Obama. Honorees included the likes of my generation's poet-without-rival [Bob Dylan](#).

Also given the medal that signifies "incredible impact over a lifetime" is legendary U of Tennessee basketball coach [Pat Summitt](#). In the male-dominated, male-associated world of college hoops, Coach Summitt has commanded respect from the elite men of her sport.....and in fact reigns among them as the leader in wins among ALL NCAA basketball coaches.

Coach Summitt has also [courageously admitted to her early \(age 59\) Alzheimer's diagnosis](#) and has stepped down from her illustrious career as the disease has begun its course.

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- The 24 hour swim has begun!
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Galchen <http://t.co/PaxMqZha> What
fuels diananyad's quest 2 make the
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[HootSuite](#)
- [@kikicontessa](#) Xtreme Dream 2012 T-
shirts are hopefully coming soon. I will

I have known Coach Summitt over these many years. With millions of admirers of her strength and spirit, I stand in awe of what she has accomplished on the hard courts.....and now equally in awe of how she plans to manage her disease.....and manage it in public, with the hopes of showing all of us who know Alzheimer's that there can be grace and maybe even victory once the diagnosis has been

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definitely keep you posted. Thank you for all your support. [about 2 hours ago](#) from [HootSuite](#) [reply to kikicontessa](#)

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Congratulations, Coach, on all you have done, on all you are.

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One Comment



Anne

June 7, 2012

Thank you for this wonderful post on Coach Pat Summitt. Her approach to the Alzheimer's diagnosis is no less super-impressive than her achievements on the courts. The greatest opportunities are disguised as the greatest obstacles—she told her players. I have been loving my mother in her dementia for the past 8 years. It's true: this disease is a huge obstacle and I also find it true that I've found strength in myself I never knew I had and I think I've even learned about grace.

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that we can dream big, live life large, and look back at all of it with no regrets whatsoever."

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- With my friend Sanjay Gupta at ACSM Conference in San Francisco

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Xtreme Dream. For Diana Nyad's representation please contact Pam Derderian