

Who is Jim House and why is he here today?

The following was presented to the Richland City Council on Feb. 20, 2018, when Jim House made his donation to the City of Richland.

Recently, I asked a friend to bring me to Richland so I could see where I spent my formative years, most notably, “on the courts below Richland High School”. What she saw was a basketball court in serious disrepair. What I saw was the opportunity to pay back the community of coaches, teachers, parents, mentors and friends. It represents the chance for youngsters to act out their dreams and for old gladiators to face off one more time.

One of my most memorable moments at this site occurred in the summer of 1961 after my sophomore year at Col-Hi. My High School teammate, Theartis Wallace and I were shooting baskets at one end of the court when Bomber stars Bob Frick and Mike McKeown joined in. I had not met them before. I knew Bob was a great scorer and a State Champion and Mike was a tenacious competitor. So without introductions and very little chatter, we played 2 on 2. I don’t recall who won the games, but I thought Thea and I passed the test and were worthy Bombers. A few years later, roles were reversed when Rod Brewer stepped on the court to face his new mentor. The skills I honed on these courts led to a collegiate career with modest achievements. I was able to play at the highest level, competing against highly ranked teams, hall of fame coaches and in legendary arenas – highlighted by playing in Madison Square Garden, the “Mecca of basketball”.

Jim House, 1963 Richland Bomber Captain, BYU 1965-1967
1st team All-League 1962-1963, 2nd team All-State 1963
Marine Corps Captain 1970, Awarded Bronze Star Medal in Viet Nam 1970

Comments from Jim Mattis, US Secretary of Defense Richland High School Graduate, Class of 1968

"... Those courts achieved near religious status, and it was like entry into a sacred realm for coming of age to even attend phys ed class on them. The entire school seemed to show up for the basketball games, as well as most of the adults in town seemed to be there. Richland didn't always win State, but to win State any town/school had to beat Richland to get there."

Dedication

Columbia Playfield Basketball Courts

*Made possible by a donation
from Jim House*



September 8, 2018

4 PM

Master of Ceremonies
Joe Schiessl, Parks & Public Facilities Director

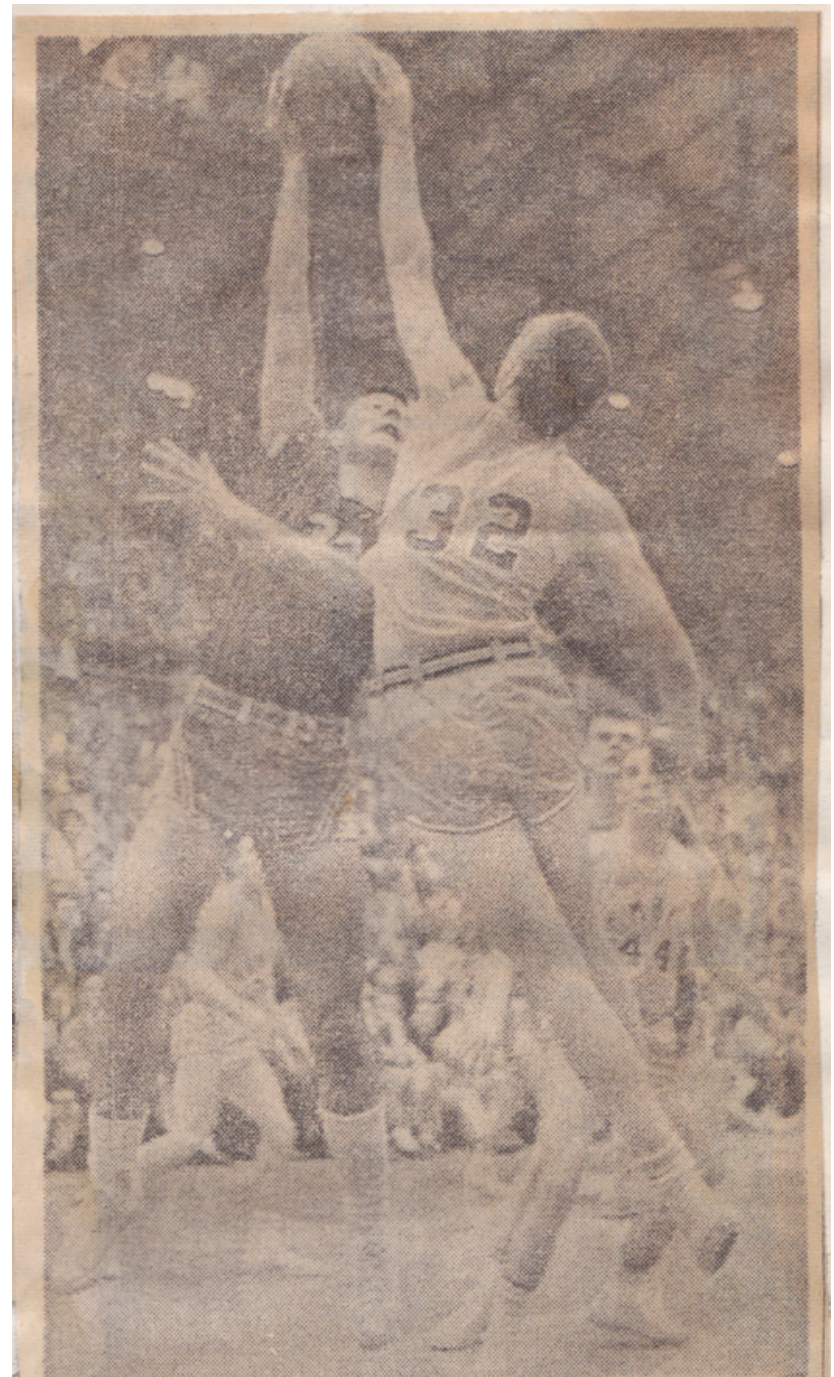
Opening Remarks
Aaron White, Parks & Recreation Commissioner
Terry Christensen, Richland Mayor Pro-Tem

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Jim House, 1963 Richland Bomber Captain
Escorted by cheerleaders Kippy Brinkman ('62)
and Ellen Weihermiller ('63)

Plans for new Basketball Courts
Earl Streufert, Richland Basketball Coach

“PLAY BALL”
First Baskets
C. W. Brown, Member 1958 State Champions

First Pickup Games
2018-19 Richland Bomber Basketball Team
Everyone else is invited to shoot baskets on the
other open courts



Jim House (32), forward for the Richland Bombers, put a perfect check on a shot by Tim Sherry of Franklin Pierce in yesterday's State Class AA High School Basketball Tournament at Seattle. At right was Bomber center, Dave Simpson (44). Richland defeated the Tacoma entry, 52-37. (AP)