



Abdul-Jabbar Becomes A City Treasure

(CBS) LOS ANGELES City officials honored basketball legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Wednesday for his efforts on and off the court, coinciding with the release of his sixth book and Black History Month.

Abdul-Jabbar, led UCLA to three national championships in each of his three varsity seasons.

Kareem the 'Dream' also starred for the Lakers from 1975 to 1989 who lead them to five NBA titles and is currently the NBA's all-time leading scorer

The NBA legend recently released "On the Shoulders of Giants: My Journey Through the Harlem Renaissance" where it describes how his hometown served as a literary, artistic and political beacon of hope for the black community from 1920 to 1940, an era when Jim Crow segregation laws were still in effect.

"By having those examples go before me, it made me understand that you have to keep your humility and understand that you can only contribute," Abdul-Jabbar said during a City Hall ceremony. "It's not always going to be about you, it's about what you add to what everyone else has given to the world."

Before he spoke, Abdul-Jabbar, now a special assistant coach with the Lakers, received accolades from Council members Bernard Parks and Jan Perry, Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak and UCLA athletic director Dan Guerrero.

"I think we all agree that he is a role model for generations of Americans, and he continues to inspire young people through his coaching and his words," Perry said.

Abdul-Jabbar who played for UCLA from 1966-69, attributed his success to his coach with the Bruins, John Wooden, who attended the event in a wheelchair.

"I want to thank Coach Wooden for his genius, for his love, for the fact that he wanted us to learn the game," said Abdul-Jabbar, the NBA's career scoring leader. "But he also wanted us to learn how to be good citizens and graduate from UCLA and go on to be good parents and contribute to what makes America great."