



# HOOP HISTORIANS NEWS

Committed to promoting goodwill for basketball

Volume # 66 – September, 2011

## VETS GET TO VISIT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

Those that served our country during World War II are being recognized through the Honor Flight program which takes veterans to the World War II Memorial in Washington DC. Friend of the Hoop Historians, **John McCann**, went on the trip to the nation's capitol. John, who served in the Navy in World War II, is the father of Hoop Historian **Kevin McCann**. Some additional Hoop Historians were also present at the homecoming for the veterans at Chicago's Midway Airport, which featured a color guard, bagpipers and a special ceremony. The National World War II Memorial commemorates the 16 million who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, the more than 400,000 who died, and the millions who supported the war effort at home. Honor Flight facilitates the all expenses paid trip for veterans in their appreciation for their patriotism and service to our country. In addition to his service to his country, John also served DePaul University as its Sports Information Director from 1958 to 1973 and was the recipient of the school's Dr. Robert Hamilton Special Service Award in 2004.



## RAIL BIRDS IN ACTION



Several Hoop Historians and Friends of the Hoop Historians attended the group's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual "Day at The Races" at Arlington International Racecourse in August.

## KNOW YOUR HOOP HISTORIANS: DOUG FOLEY

One of the newest members of the Hoop Historians, **Doug Foley**, has long basketball ties that have brought him to the group. Growing up in South Bend, Foley was a frequent visitor to the University of Notre Dame, as his family has had season football tickets for over 40 years, and are basketball season ticket holders since 1976. Doug was in attendance for the infamous 1974 UCLA basketball game, in which the Irish snapped the Bruins 88-game winning streak. Without a doubt, that game got him hooked on college basketball – and Doug still has the ticket stub from that contest. He continued to follow Notre Dame through their 1978 Final Four run. Another Final Four followed in 1979 and Doug managed to get his championship game ticket signed by Larry Bird. In 1980 Doug got a ticket from Coach Frank McGuire, and in 1982 Foley and enjoyed a Final Four breakfast conversation with the entertaining John Wooden, where Coach told stories for about 45 minutes. Of course, besides growing up in the basketball country of Indiana, Doug attended the University of Kentucky – another basketball powerhouse – and worked the Wildcats basketball camp from 1980-83. Doug always enjoys when his alma mater is in the title game. Currently Foley is employed in the aviation field and sells charter and fractional shares of aircraft. He resides in suburban Indianapolis and, of course, has rooted for local hometown team Butler in the last two national championship games. In April of this past year Doug was inducted into the Hoop Historians as a full member.



## CITY OF NEW ORLEANS: BACK ON THE REBOUND

Most of the Hoop Historians haven't been back to the Crescent City since the Final Four last played there in 2003. New Orleans has managed to rebuild their arenas, their city and most importantly their spirit after Hurricane Katrina devastated the city in 2005. The Final Four is coming back in March and the Superdome is finishing its \$85 million dollar makeover, including adding 25,000 more seats from the 2003 seating layout, increasing concourse space at the facility, and improving many spectator amenities. In addition to the upcoming Final Four, the city has hosted the 2007 NBA All-Star Weekend and will host the Super Bowl and Women's Final Four both in 2013. The city continues to rebuild and rebound, as its unemployment rate is now lower than the national average. And of course, the hospitality of New Orleans remains second to none as it continues to be one of the most fun places to party on the planet. The economic impact of hosting major events certainly will help the city, but its media attention of having "The Big Easy" being back as major player in hospitality to hundreds of thousands of people will help it fully regain its image.

## WE'RE COMING BACK



MARCH 31 & APRIL 2

