



LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA  
Empowerment • Awareness • Community

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## **LPA Media Statement for TMZ, in response to comments made by Bill Walton**

Midget is a term that has widely been known to be derogatory for years and should be common knowledge to anyone in the public arena, such as Bill Walton. Ignorance at this point is simply not an excuse.

Any use of this disparaging slur along with suggestions or insinuations that our stature exists for amusement is deplorable and inexcusable. The millions of individuals with dwarfism around the globe already face unfair disadvantages in their daily life due to their disability including discrimination, harassment, and assault.

Little People of America, the world's oldest and largest support organization for individuals with dwarfism, is continually disappointed when those in positions of power, who have a wide influence within the general population, continue to perpetuate harmful stereotypes. Those who use the term midget or any terminology that further stigmatizes people born with dwarfism are asked to educate themselves to eradicate this word. Little People of America is asking Bill Walton to issue an apology and vow to use appropriate terminology rooted in respect and dignity going forward.

It is also important to acknowledge that silence can be complicit in perpetuating discrimination and prejudice. By speaking out against discriminatory comments or behavior, individuals can demonstrate their commitment to creating a more equitable and just society. We hope that in the future Dave Pasch will speak up against disparaging language in solidarity with our organization fighting for disability equity and justice.