Redskins Salute: Who We Are

Redskins Salute, the Official Military Appreciation Club of the Washington Redskins, has gained over 72,000 members since its launch in the 2014 season. Redskins Salute is where the Washington Redskins recognize the duty to serve and support those who have courageously fought for our freedom, and an opportunity to thank our military for their continued selfless efforts to serve our country.

A first of its kind in the NFL, Redskins Salute is where service members can connect with the team and with each other, sharing Redskins stories, experiences and the shared passion behind an 85-year tradition with year-round benefits.

Redskins Salute hosts high-end year-round events for its members which allows exclusive inside access to the Washington Redskins team personnel, players and coaches. Signature events include Military Appreciation Day at Training Camp, VIP OTA Day at Redskins Park and the brand new USO-Metro Club presented by Lockheed Martin. The USO-Metro Club is home to every military member and Redskins Salute member prior to kickoff at each Redskins home game throughout the season. Available to all military members with a military ID or Redskins Salute members, the space features complimentary food and beverage, giveaways, music, raffles and more!

Joining Redskins Salute is free for active duty, veterans and their families! Simply fill out the information on our homepage at www.RedskinsSalute.com. Help Redskins Salute continue to show appreciation for the military and their families. Stay up-to-date with us by following @RedskinsSalute on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
Redskins, USAA Hold Salute To Service Game

The Redskins and USAA, The Official Military Appreciation Sponsor of the Washington Redskins, teamed up throughout the 2017 season to honor service members, holding multiple events including the USAA Salute to Service game on Nov. 12 vs. the Vikings.

By: Brandon Hill and Jay Cannon

The Redskins honored the military at the team's Sunday afternoon game against the Vikings, as the matchup inside FedExField was also the USAA Salute to Service game. Members of the military were honored throughout the game with special events and recognition.

The day began with the coining of the referee a little over an hour before game time. USAA's Military Affairs representative, Romney Wright, gave the head official a military challenge coin that was then used in the actual coin toss.

After fans had the opportunity to see the Joint Base Andrews Helicopter Squadron provide a flyover during the National Anthem, they were treated to two more events at halftime.

The Redskins and Redskins Salute welcomed 110 new members of the United States Army, and the soon-to-be members lined up in the West end zone and raised their right hands to take the Oath of Enlistment.

“I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic,” echoed the voices of the enlistees.

“That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same.”

In front of 74,476 roaring fans, the enlistees then exited the field, followed by many of their now commanding officers. Cpt. Robert Fales of the U.S Army said the opportunity to take the oath at a site like FedExField will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that many of the new members won’t soon forget.

“It’s awesome,” Fales said. “It’s a unique experience. It’s an opportunity for each of these future soldiers to get recognized by their community for their decision to join the Army.”

Following the on-field swearing-in, the Redskins honored a couple of Purple Heart award recipients, a military decoration given to those wounded or killed while serving.

Six veterans, including the two Purple Heart recipients, were escorted out to the 50-yard line and recognized for their sacrifices in front of the FedExField crowd.

Among those recognized was Alex Morosky, who served on active duty for seven years for the United States Army, did two tours in Iraq and now serves as the Legislative Director for the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Morosky not only stressed how special the opportunity was to him and the recipients, but also the importance of the NFL reaching out and recognizing the nation’s veterans.

“This event was absolutely fantastic and I know it means a lot to the Purple Heart recipients that were recognized today,” Morosky said. “It was great, I mean anytime you get to stand on an NFL football field, it’s like every kid’s dream.”

Morosky, who grew up in the New England area, has since adopted the Redskins as one of his favorite NFL teams, which only made this event even more special for him.
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USAA is an official insurance sponsor of the NFL.
Reading is fundamental, but as the first part of the word suggests, it can also be fun.

That was the main takeaway Thursday, Nov. 9, at the Joint Base Andrews Youth Center, where the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation hosted a Salute To Redskins Read Bootcamp. More than 100 military children and families participated in reading stations and activities and took home a book for their personal library.

The event continued the week of Salute To Service celebrations the Redskins have hosted, each highlighting different places and people associated with the military.

Thursday’s function was specifically tailored to elementary students living on the base, testing their reading knowledge through a series of stations designed to get their bodies and minds active.

One station involved a three-legged race that included some reading trivia that had to be solved before teammates could sprint back to the beginning of the line. Another exercise station had four groups racing to collect words spread over the floor to be puzzled together to create all the necessary parts of a story.

To calm their excited spirits down, students then got the opportunity to create necklaces stating their reading, academic and life goals before heading over for story time, and more importantly, a listening station, where two Redskins Cheerleaders sat and read from a collection of picture books.

Once that concluded, each student...
had a chance to examine a table of chapter and picture books and select one to take home with them.

For Jason Guadalupe, Commander, 11th Force Support Squadron, who oversees a lot of the activities around the base, these events are inspiring for so many kids that don't get to have interactions with a football organization such as the Redskins.

"[The kids] realize how important it is to continue doing well in school and then also realize what they can achieve by meeting people that they only see on TV, Redskins Cheerleaders and staff, and they're coming to visit them, so it makes them feel valued, it makes them feel like I can achieve the same thing," he said. "And the importance of reading."

For Shawn Gibbs, who works at Walter Reade Hospital and fathers seven-year old Khloe, events at the Youth Center like this show students the value and excitement that reading can provide, especially when it's promoted with a variety of ages in mind.

"I think the whole community interaction, it gives them a sense of goals - 'I can do this' -- it broadens their scope of things that they can do," Gibbs said. "Social growth is what it means to my daughter. [It] lets her know that she can do what she wants to."
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Salute to Service BBQ

As a part of Salute to Service week, Redskins Salute and the USO-Metro visited the Marine Barracks at 8th and I in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Redskins Salute provided lunch for military members. Although the rain pushed everyone inside, the Marines enjoyed Mission BBQ, music, giveaways, a raffle and special appearances by Redskins Cheerleaders. As part of Salute to Service Week, Redskins Salute and the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation continue to honor the men and women who serve our country.

The events during the week included Salute to Play 60, Pros vs. G.I. Joes, presented by Xbox and Madden NFL 18, Salute to Redskins Read and a USO-Metro Redskins Chalk Talk at Redskins Park. The week culminated with the Salute to Service game presented by USAA.
As a part of Salute to Service week, Redskins Salute and the USO-Metro hosted Pros vs. G.I. Joes, presented by Madden NFL 18, at Fort Myer-Henderson Hall.

Active duty military members were welcomed with complimentary food from Mission BBQ, raffles, giveaways and more.

Redskins alumni Fred Smoot and Santana Moss brought their on-field competitiveness with them when they came to play head-to-head with the service members. All tournament participants walked away with a copy of Madden NFL 18, and the grand prize winner received a brand new Xbox One.

Military members who signed up for Redskins Salute on-site received a complimentary pair of tickets to the Redskins vs. Vikings game on Nov. 12.
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If you attended any of the USAA events the Redskins hosted throughout last year, you probably remember a recurring theme: Vernon Davis was there, chatting and signing autographs long after practice and events had finished.

He, like the Redskins, has made a commitment to supporting the U.S. Armed Forces in any way possible.

The extra effort hasn’t gone unnoticed by the team, which awarded Davis with the Redskins Salute Award, presented by GCO Consulting Group, at the Redskins Welcome Home Luncheon, on Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2017, at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, in McLean, Va.

The Redskins Salute Award, this year handed out by Lt. Col. Justin Constantine, is presented annually to the member of the Redskins organization, past or present, that is doing the most to support our men and women in uniform and their families. A brief look at Davis’s resume and you’ll understand why this took place.

Davis sought out service members during events throughout the area, signing countless autographs during a walkthrough at Joint Base Andrews and during military-exclusive events. During USAA’s Salute To Service month last November, Davis got a “taste” of military life when he ate an MRE, better known as a Meal, Ready to Eat.

Davis attended the dinner with Redskins special teams coach Ben Kotwica, who served eight years in the U.S. Army, and got a real taste of military life.

“It’s pretty amazing what they go through and how they live their life,” Davis said. “I just want to give a big thanks to the troops for all the sacrifices they make. I don’t know what life would be like without them.”

Last season, during an on-field campaign in which he collected 44 receptions for 583 yards and two touchdowns, Davis donated a game-worn jersey for a USAA/NFL initiative.

Along with his concentration in helping those who defend our freedom, Davis partook in Redskins’ Charity Golf Classic and the Redskins Runway Show. He also came full circle during the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation’s annual “4th and Life Football Forum,” as he was a speaker at the event 14 years after first participating as a student-athlete at Dunbar High School.

“It is surreal, it is. Just being here in Washington D.C., in general, just being back here as a Redskin,” Davis said. “I’m very familiar with these kids and how they grew up, because I grew up in this environment, even though it’s changed drastically, but there’s still some synergy there with the kids and in so many different ways. So to be here and support these kids and giving back in general is always a plus and is major, it really is.”

Vernon Davis Named Redskins Salute Player Of The Year At Welcome Home Luncheon

Before the season, Redskins tight end Vernon Davis received the Redskins Salute Award at the 56th annual Redskins Welcome Home Luncheon.
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More than 100 kids from military families were present at the Play 60 Combine on Monday, Nov. 6, an event that promotes the NFL's campaign to encourage kids to be healthy and stay active. Activities at the event included a dance station, an autograph section with current and former Redskins players, and various replicas of NFL Combine drills.

Among those present at the Play 60 Combine were Redskins alumni Ken Jenkins and Dion Foxx, as well as defensive lineman Brandon Banks. All three spoke highly of the experience, noting the importance of encouraging kids to lead a healthy lifestyle.

“It’s great, I always love doing events with the kids, because this is our next generation that’s coming up, so you got to teach them to come out and be active and have fun,” Banks said after the event.

On a similar note, Jenkins expressed the importance of staying active and healthy, especially in a society that is technology-oriented like today.

“This is what we used to do, we didn’t have all the [video] games and things and your parents would say go outside and play,” Jenkins said. “This is what corporate sponsors should be doing – NFL, big organizations – getting our kids to stay healthy, think healthily and live a healthy lifestyle.”

As a former NFL player, Foxx noted the importance of being a role model to the kids in attendance, which undoubtedly helps convey the message of staying healthy and active.

“It feels good to let them know that we’re here for them,” Foxx said.

“When I was younger, we didn’t have the ‘x’ guys coming out and we didn’t have Play 60’s, but it’s good that they implemented this.

“It’s empowering to see them out here, having as much fun and enjoying it.”
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