Redskins Honor our Nation's Heroes
During Month of November
EVER WANTED TO INTERVIEW AN NFL PLAYER?

NFL PLAYERS ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

SaluteToService.com
By Alec LaCorazza

For the second consecutive year, RecruitMilitary welcomed hundreds of recently transitioned service members and veterans to FedExField for a Job Fair featuring Washington, D.C.'s marquee corporations seeking to hire service members and veterans. RecruitMilitary Job Fairs are featured in cities all over the United States, and Washington, D.C. alone has hosted 29 events drawing 8,978 attendees and 1,622 exhibitors in the past fifteen years.

With hope to ease the eagerness and inevitable pre-interview nerves, Redskins Salute hosted their second annual Chalk Talk to open the Job Fair from 10-11 a.m. The featured speakers, Gary Clark and the two FedEx Football Fellows Emily & Charnecia, opened the dialogue by introducing themselves and giving their professional backgrounds.

At first glance, you'd wonder what they were doing on the same stage. Gary Clark is a two-time Super Bowl Champion, a Washington Redskins legend, a hometown hero recognized by D.C. natives as the four-time Pro Bowl selection Wide Receiver that brought two championships to the Nation’s Capitol. FedEx Football Fellow, Emily Arnseberg recently transitioning out of a seven year career in analytics with the United States Air Force, and Charnecia McGee, also recently transitioned service member, closed an eight year chapter managing Human Capital and Program Management with the United States Navy. Both fellows now pursuing a career in sports with various departments in the Redskins Organization.

Though they may have completely different backgrounds, Gary and the two fellows have one inevitable thing in common that they carry with them. They've each experienced a point in their lives where they've needed to transition from a world they'd become very familiar with, into a civilian lifestyle that was not familiar at all.

"Moving on to another chapter in your life or career will always be a challenge," Gary explained "What I found important after hanging my gear up was revisiting the mindset and traits that made me the player I was: a refusal to quit, an eagerness to learn, maintaining the mindset that I can be successful in any endeavor with my work ethic." He described the initial struggles, and his eventual success as an entrepreneur starting his own B2B driven corporation, Gary Clark Incorporated.

The FedEx Football Fellows, although still experiencing their transition into civilian positions, provided feedback about the struggles they'd experienced thus far working in sports. "Working in the NFL is similar to the military from a cultural standpoint... one team, one mission... always fits the script, yet there are still challenges we face everyday." Emily Arnseberg explained. "The more you accept the new culture and the little things, such as calling a superior by their first name and learning different dress lingo for specific events and occasions, the easier the transition becomes. The key to being adaptable is maintaining an open mind to all aspects of the position you accept."

The two Fellows agreed that people (generally) despise change, but more often than not change is the key to growth in all facets of life. Charnecia McGee concluded her thoughts on transition with her day-to-day approach to her fellowship "Our positions as Fellows allow us to observe the Sports world from a unique standpoint. My goal this season is to continue pressing areas of work that make me uncomfortable and challenge what I’ve know as a Sailor for eight years. That's how I take advantage of my time here."

At the conclusion of the Chalk Talk, it wasn’t as difficult to understand why the three were on the same stage. They know how each applicant attending the Job Fair felt and what they were going to experience over the next six to twelve months.

On behalf of Redskins Salute, we challenge all Military Appreciation Club members to continue assisting transitioning service members and sharing their experiences leaving the military and entering civilian jobs. You never know who you can impact.
In partnership with the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), the Washington Redskins and Redskins Salute welcomed former and current service members and their families to join them Sunday at FedExField in packing 2,000 care packages for troops deployed overseas.

The event -- which came in support of the USO-Metro's Pack4Troops initiative that aims to deliver thousands of care packages to deploying service members at BWI Airport this holiday season -- kicked off at noon, with attendees lining up single-file to stock bags with chips, granola bars and other snacks. Items that were included have been identified by military officials as essential items that deploying service members find beneficial, as the process of deploying can take anywhere from 36 to 48 hours at once.

Among those present were former players Ravin Caldwell and Clarence Vaughn, both of whom played for the Redskins during their Super Bowl runs in 1987 and 1991.

"I'm just glad to be able to help these guys," said Vaughn, the son of a former Navy officer. "We couldn't do this without people like that sacrificing their lives for us. They're on the front line doing everything, keeping our country in a great democracy that it's supposed to be."

Vaughn, who has traveled to places like Kuwait, Iraq, and Spain in support of the military, said his sense of duty stems from the potential impact he knows he can have as a one-time Redskin.

"Some of the soldiers when they see players, or former players, it really helps them take away from the things that they have to deal with in their daily lives with what they're doing for our country," he said.

That is also true for Rhonda Killmon, a retired Coast Guard officer who's been a fan of the team for more than 40 years.

"We couldn't do this without people like that sacrificing their lives for us. They're on the front line doing everything, keeping our country in a great democracy that it's supposed to be."
"Anything I [can] do with the Redskins, I definitely will," she stated.

Besides getting to work with some of those players she's watched, Killmon enjoyed meeting some of her fellow service members, too.

"In the line here, talking with other service members, we swap stories of where we were stationed and our experiences," she said. "I got to talk to a Navy guy and an Army guy. There's a girl here that was in the Air Force. I think Marines is the only one that we didn't hit. It was just good to interact with that military community again."

Those interactions continued even after all of the bags were packed and ready for shipping, as players and volunteers alike had the opportunity to enjoy some lunch and watch the Redskins-Bills game on a projector.

Jonathan McCoy was one of those volunteers who chose to stick around and root on the Burgundy and Gold.

"Overall, I think it's been a great experience," McCoy stated, touching on his day at the facility, which started with his reenlistment back into the U.S. Army that morning. "While I was on range, I would always look forward to care packages. Just knowing his efforts would make an impact for others currently on assignment meant everything.

"To be a part of this -- to do this for others -- is definitely humbling," he added.
In partnership with a military veterans group located in Annapolis, the Washington Redskins welcomed World War II veteran Jack Goldstein and Korean War veteran Frank Richter to Redskins Park on Friday, highlighted by a behind-the-scenes tour of the Redskins’ facility.

The day began with an all-access tour around the park, including visits to the equipment room and media room.

His first time at a professional sports complex, Goldstein was blown away by the beauty of Redskins Park.

“It just fascinates me,” he said. “I’ve never been in anything like this so it’s really beautiful out here. I’ve never seen anything like it. I never knew the facility was out here, or that it was this big.”

After mingling in the media room with local reporters, the veterans then had the chance to meet Redskins interim head coach Bill Callahan, who thanked them for their incredible tenure of service.

Richter and Goldstein paused at the Hall of Fame wall near the Redskins locker room while touring the lower level to gaze upon the heralded tradition stitched within the burgundy and gold.

When asked who his favorite Redskins team was, Richter didn’t hesitate, exclaiming it was “that bunch from 1987,” hinting to the Redskins roster that went on to win Super Bowl XXII, the franchise’s second title in a span of five seasons.

“But back in the old days I loved all the teams in the 1940s when I was a kid and starry-eyed… they were my heroes,” Richter said. “Sammy Baugh, Andy Farkas, Bob Masterson, some of them even lived in the neighborhood. And I delivered newspapers to them because that’s the way they did it in the old days.”
Richter’s favorite part of the day, however, came when he took his turn on the bench in the Redskins’ weight room. “Trying to lift that 300-pound weight,” he said. “They took the weights off then I could lift the bar. That was a lot of fun.”

Richter, 90, then continued on to describe his unique encounters with many former Redskins as a paperboy growing up.

“There was a player named Bob Masterson who lived there and he came out and played softball with us and was a really nice guy,” Richter said. “Andy Farkas was a great running back in the 1940s and Sammy Baugh was on my route. He was on my route, his house was there, I delivered the paper faithfully every day and every Sunday but I never saw him or anybody at the house. The paper would be gone when I went the next day, but there was never anybody there. I would go to collect, there was never anybody there. ...Sam still owes me money.”
We salute those who serve! Thank you!

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The Mid-Atlantic’s John Deere Golf Course & Sports Turf Equipment Dealer
Well over 175 Marines filtered in and out of Truman Crawford Hall of Marine Barracks Washington for free food and a Madden 20 tournament Nov. 5.

By Zach Selby

The tournament, a collaborative effort of the Washington Redskins, Redskins Salute and USO-Metro, was presented by EA Sports Madden NFL 20.

“I think it’s great what we do,” said Redskins alumnus Ravin Caldwell. “As football players, we call ourselves warriors, but these guys are the true warriors. Anytime you can come out and thank them for their service is remarkable.”

Marines who attended the event, which was a continuation of the Redskins Salute to Service month, participated in a Madden 20 tournament on XboxONE video game consoles. About 30 consoles connected to mobile screens lined one end of the hall while music played in the background.

The other end of the hall had free food from Mission BBQ and USO-Metro raffles for memorabilia.
including pictures, helmets and footballs. Other tournament prizes and rewards included an XboxONE console and 30 copies of Madden 20.

Each marine in attendance also received a Redskins visor and a “Salute” rally towel, which were donated by USO-Metro.

“Everyone seems to be liking it,” said Brian Bumgarner, one of the marines in attendance who won a football autographed by quarterback Alex Smith. “Just trying to come in and have a little bit of a good time with all the people they work with.”

As marines were playing and eating, Caldwell and fellow Redskins alum Clarence Vaughn made their way around the hall singing autographs, chatting and taking photos. Both Caldwell and Vaughn played for the Redskins during the 1987 and 1992 Super Bowl runs.

“It’s just good to talk with these guys and just see how respectful and humble they are,” Caldwell said.

Nick Neeley, another marine in attendance, isn’t really into video games, but he said it’s fun to be around professional players.

“It’s super cool to hang out with them,” Neeley said. “Their job is such high caliber. Marines are always held to high standards, so being around NFL players who have that same high standard is pretty cool.”

Bumgarner said having NFL players spending time at the barracks is “good morale” for all the younger marines.

“That’s true especially for those who haven’t actually had the chance to get out and do anything on their own,” he said.

The Redskins’ Salute to Service month will continue throughout the following weeks with plenty of events left to honor members of the military. For Caldwell, who had participated in three other events last week, just spending time around high-character individuals makes it all worth it.

“Just to come out and have some camaraderie, sitting there eating dinner and lunch with these guys, talking about the military and their particular background,” Caldwell said. “I just can’t thank them enough for their service and the things they do. They’re the real warriors.”

“The Redskins would like to thank Marine Barracks Washington for allowing USO-Metro to facilitate the event and recognize all of the young Marines during Salute to Service Month. Special thanks to Microsoft for your continued support providing the XBoxOne Game Console to this year’s tournament winner”
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As the Official Salute To Service Partner Of The Washington Redskins, the United Services Automobile Association (USAA) aims to engage local military with exclusive experiences, educate the Redskins on aspects of military life and encourage acts of military appreciation.

On Nov. 12, USAA accomplished all three objectives with a unit interaction between four Redskins players and military members at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Arlington, Virginia.

“My version of it, being retired military for 31 years, the Redskins are professionals, but they’re entertainers,” said Ronney Wright, a senior military affairs representative for USAA. “The folks that they saw today and were able to work with and communicate with were true professionals that are willing to give it all if need be. So just the interaction between the two; there’s a lot of happy soldiers, and I’m pretty sure there’s four happy Redskins.”

The Redskins players in attendance -- Darvin Kidsy, Cassanova McKinzy, Wes Martin and Michael Burton -- began their time on the joint base by visiting the 947th Military Working Dog Kennels. There they learned about the dogs who help protect our country and the laborious training they must go through to do so. Martin even had a chance to put on a protective body suit and demonstrate what it’d be like to be attacked by a few of these military dogs -- an experience he described as “exhilarating.”

From there, the Redskins players went on a caisson barn tour, where they interacted with the horses and met the riders responsible for transporting caissons, which are carts that hold the caskets of fallen or ranked soldiers.
The horses are cared for by the U.S. 3rd Infantry’s Army Old Guard Caisson Platoon at the John C. McKinney Memorial Stables.

“Honestly, coming in to it I didn't know what to expect,” McKinzy said. “When I got here, it was amazing, especially the fact of how disciplined those [animals] are -- how the dogs obey every command and how with the horses they take care of them and groom them. And then coming down to the cemetery, the respect part is just out of the world. It’s hard to just pick one thing, because there’s so much work that goes into all of it.”

The day ended at Arlington National Cemetery for the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Redskins received a behind-the-scenes look at the planning and preparation that goes into the half-hourly gesture, as well as a detailed history of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which is a monument dedicated to deceased U.S. service members whose remains have not been identified. The players were then able to watch everything come to fruition in front of the tomb.

“We were able to bring four players out today and let them experience something they probably would not have had an opportunity to do,” Wright said. “That's what it's all about; you want to be able to give back and pass on that education.”

McKinzy described the day as a “one-of-a-kind” experience, while Martin said this was a place he's wanted to visit for a long time. To be able to do so with the Redskins was a blessing, both players acknowledged, and something they'll take with them as they continue their NFL careers.

“It’s about showing [the military] that we do appreciate their service and all the great things that they’re doing for this country, their selfless actions,” Martin said. “It was the least we could do to come out here and interact with them and show them that we're in their corner.”
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