

REDSKINS SALUTE:

Who we are

edskins Salute, the Official Military Appreciation Club of the Washington Redskins, has gained more than 57,000 members since its launch in the 2014 season last year. 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 80+ year tradition with year-round benefits. Redskins Salute honors the real heroes in uniform through Support, Education, and Services.

Redskins Salute supports the U.S. Armed forces, and their families from a local, national and global perspective. The club provides learning experiences for the troops as well as educating the team fan base on the military community. Redskins Salute delivers a variety of year-long initiatives for troops from marquee events to VIP experiences.

As the season may end for the team, Redskins Salute's season never ends. 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. Along with the club's events, programs and VIP experiences, RedskinsSalute.com features team news, social media updates and photo sharing – all highlighted in Redskins Salute's monthly newsletter. Additional features include contests and sweepstakes, game day hospitality,



educational programs such as veteran job fairs and supporting troops from a far with the Washington Redskins Cheerleader military tours.

Joining is free and easy: 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. Don't forget to follow us @RedskinsSalute on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.









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Redskins, USAA Host Honor Flight WWII Veterans

By Jake Kring-Schreifels

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n partnership with USAA, the
Redskins hosted 12 World War II
veterans, courtesy of Honor Flight
DFW, in Washington, D.C. – a trip
that concluded Monday at FedExField for the Redskins' Salute
to Service game, presented by
USAA, the Official Military Appreciation
Sponsor of the Washington Redskins.

The honored veterans visited Arlington National Cemetery, the Navy Memorial and participated in the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day ceremony at the World War II Memorial, held on the anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor 74 years ago. Later, 80,000 fans showed their appreciation as the veterans were honored on-field at FedExField during Monday Night Football against the Dallas Cowboys.

Before the start of the Redskins-Cowboys game, the group of veterans were welcomed to the field during the singing of the National Anthem, next to the field-sized American flag held by uniformed military. The veterans then took center stage as they were honored during the first break of the first quarter – a moment when all in attendance gave a hearty ovation to representatives of "America's greatest generation."

"They've been smiling all weekend. I've been doing the same," said Ronney Wright, USAA's Military Affairs representative for the Capitol Region. "And you think about what they represent, the war that everyone came together to support. The smile just keeps getting bigger and bigger because they are having a great time. It's just an honor to be around them."

The 12 veterans arrived Saturday at Reagan International Airport and were greeted by Redskins Cheerleaders and team alumni Brig Owens and Carl Kammerer. Honor Flight, a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing veterans to Washington, D.C., to view memorials built in their honor, was responsible for organizing the trip.

Sunday, the veterans participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. Redskins Super Bowl XVII champions Mark Moseley and Rick "Doc" Walker attended the event – both former players who come from military families, giving the ceremony extra significance for them

"My father was a Marine, and you understand the significance of what the military represents – what it means," said Walker, a former tight end-turned-radio host who lived on a military base with his family for 10 years. "Having been on base for so long and seen the terrific sacrifice, it's an





honor to be here and see how we represent those who gave their life for our country. It's touching."

While Moseley and Walker boast some impressive accolades between them — including their Super Bowl rings and Moseley's league MVP honor — it was clear who the two former players consider to be their heroes.

"This is the final stop. This is where all the gladiators rest who gave up their life so a guy like myself could play a sport," Walker said. "Those are true heroes. We're talking about people how we anoint Super Bowl champions — these are world champions, and I mean world champions."

For Moseley, who has family that served in World War II, the ceremony was particularly touching. "It's emotional, it really is," he said. "It makes you sit down and take thought about our freedoms and our liberties that we have, that we take for granted every day. It's a real pleasure for me to have an opportunity to do something — it's a small thing, but to them it's big — and I'm just glad to have an opportunity to do it."

Among the veterans that took part in Sunday's wreath laying was Dale "Doc" Nelsen, who served as a Senior Chief Hospitalman in the U.S. Navy. Nelson's time in the service saw him participate in the North African Campaign, the invasion of Sicily and the invasion Omaha Beach on D-Day. Nelsen, a recipient of the Bronze Star and nine campaign ribbons, was thrilled to be taking part in the Honor Flight.

"The receptions we've had going and

coming have been out of this world. We feel so honored, it's absolutely fabulous, I don't have any other word for it other than fabulous," Nelson said.

He added: "In all the years I've lived, I never thought that I would be honored and have such experiences" that include having the chance to take part in the sacred act of placing the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

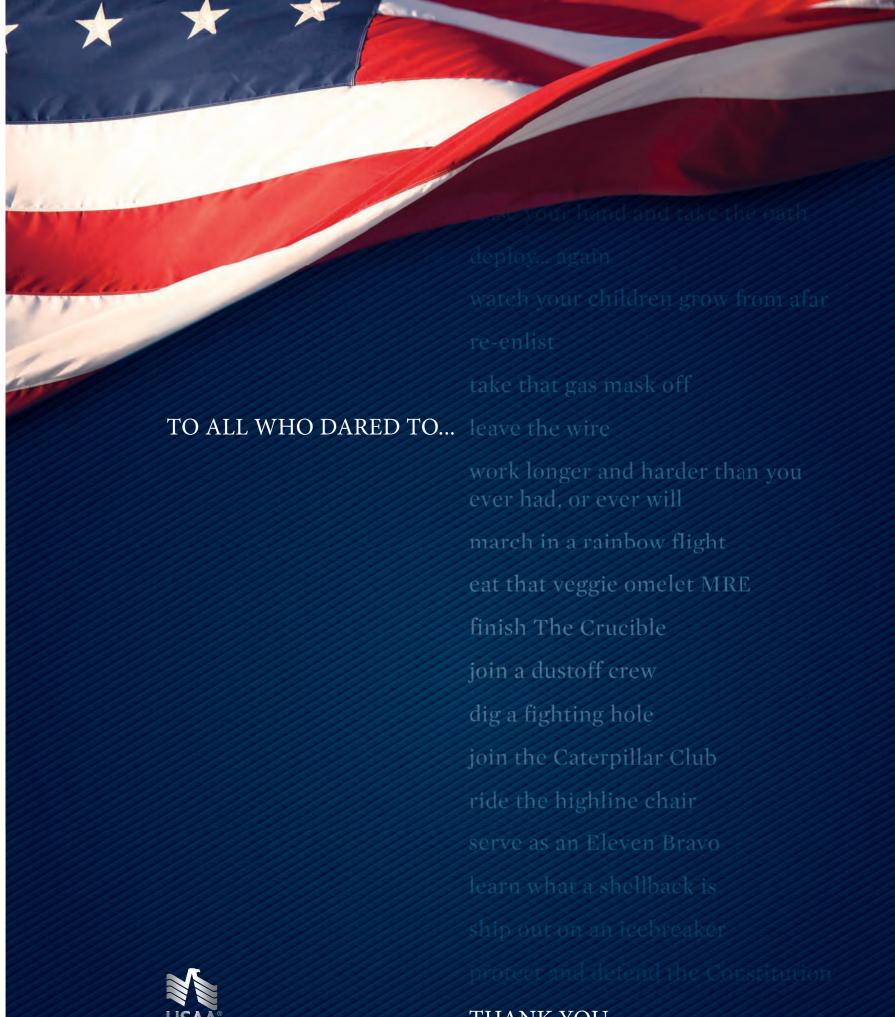
Also taking part in the ceremony was Esther Spring, who served in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in the Pacific. Spring, the only woman on the Honor Flight, was overwhelmed with gratitude as she took in Arlington National Cemetery.

"I was born in a small town, and never thought I'd get this far," she said. "I feel blessed. Lucky."

Before Monday's game, the group finished their tour of Washington, D.C., at the World War II Memorial where they participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the memorial's annual Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance ceremony.

"If we don't take care of history, we're in trouble – we're in big trouble," stated Ronney Wright, a Navy veteran of 31 years. "I'm proud of those folks' service, I'm proud of my service, proud of what we're doing here with USAA, being the Official Military Appreciation Sponsor of the NFL and the Washington Redskins. It doesn't get any better than this. These are the true veterans."

Bryan Van Balen and Elizabeth Harley contributed to this article. Photos by Garrett Campbell





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Lt. Colonel surprises family at Redskins game

By Jake Kring-Schreifels

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t was just supposed to be a message on the video board.

At least, that's what Michelle Grab and her daughter, Samantha, had prepared for as they walked into FedExField and stood in the south end zone while the Redskins and Rams paused between the first and second quarters on Sept. 20.

Fans quickly hushed to hear what Lt. Col. Richard A. Grab of the United States Air Force, stationed in Afghanistan for the past six months, had recorded to say to his wife, daughter and son, Nicholas, who was watching it all from the stands. Just as soon, the fans were erupting again.

It took a couple seconds for Elizabeth to realize why until she turned to her left. Richard, dressed in his camouflage uniform, not due back home until a couple weeks from that date, was springing towards them, arms spread wide, hands clenched with flowers, rushing to wipe the joyous tears from his wife's face.

With a deafening, sustained outburst of fan support, the three hugged again and again for several seconds, which seemed like several minutes. Posing for photos and then racing back to the tunnel, the trio ran past Redskins fans, who couldn't help but start chants of "USA! USA!"

"I was floating," Richard said. "I was at least three feet off the ground and the whole way out I was just... this has been building with anticipation since the beginning of



Lt. Col. Richard A. Grab of the United States Air Force, who had been stationed in Afghanistan for six months, surprised his family on the field in a special ceremony at the Redskins-Rams game Sept. 20. Photos by Garrett Campbell, Washington Redskins

the week."

Richard knew he wanted to surprise his family, he just wasn't sure how. He reached out to Redskins Salute and asked if they could facilitate something. He was able to get them to the stadium and filmed a message that week to keep the secret safe, to make sure they didn't suspect his presence.

"We've had this in the plans and I've

been trying to keep it a secret," Richard said. "My wife is very difficult to keep secrets on, so she was really on me. But man, when it all came together it couldn't have come any better today. That was a picture perfect moment, and to have the support of the crowd like that sends chills almost through your entire body."

"I'm very grateful and just overwhelmed,"



Michelle said, holding back more tears. "I'm

Having this moment happen during a Redskins game only made it all sweeter. Richard has been a fan since he was a boy, remembering Dave Butz coming to his school, and has continued to follow the

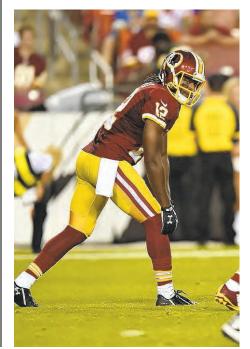
He and his family, which also consists of their eldest daughter, Elizabeth, unable to come to FedExField, live in Burke, Va., and Richard will continue his work at the Pentagon in the Air Force budget department.

"I'll never forget this moment," Michelle

Her husband didn't need a plane for this particular mission. He had already lifted his family above the clouds.

ANDRE ROBERTS:

Redskins Salute to Service Award



Washington Redskins wide receiver Andre Roberts was recently nominated for the Salute to Service Award by the NFL. The award, which is presented annually by USAA and the NFL, recognizes a league member "who demonstrates an exemplary commitment to honoring and supporting the military community."

Roberts, who attended The Citadel and grew up with two parents in the Army, was chosen as the Redskins' nominee for the Salute to Service Award, and is now a nominee for the league-wide

The sixth-year receiver uses his experiences growing up in a military family to help kids in similar situations now, hosting various camps and events throughout

'It was an easy avenue for me to get into, especially coming from The Citadel, going to a military school," Roberts said. "It's just a blessing to be able to work

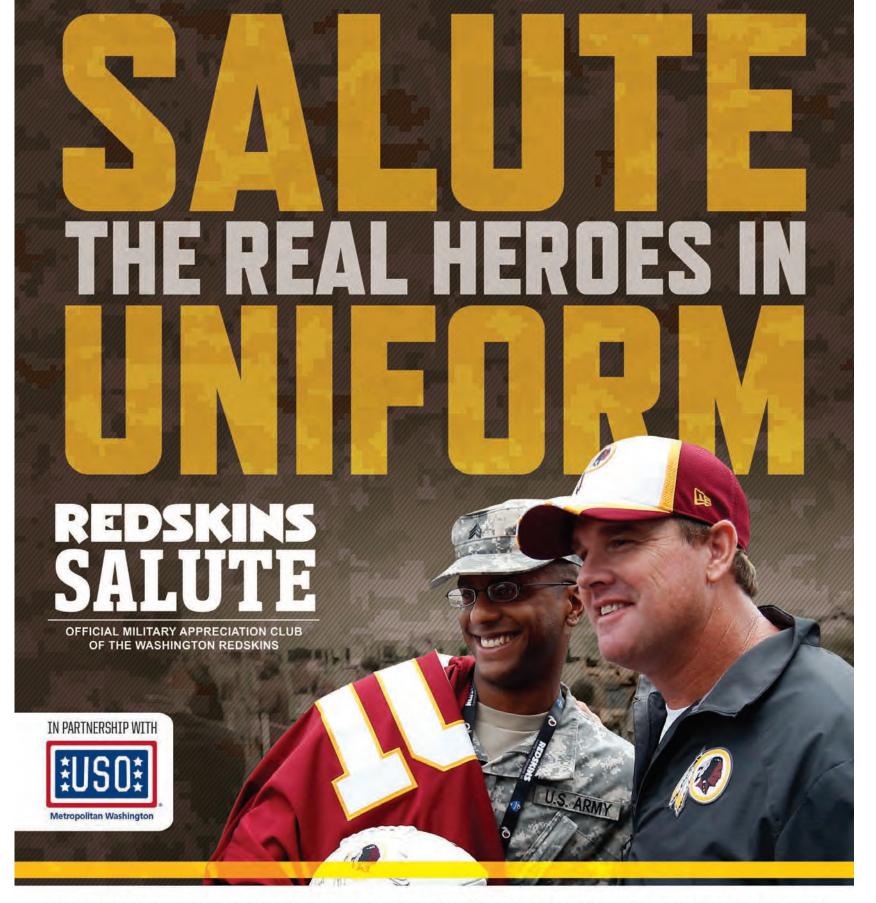


Washington Redskins wide receiver Andre Roberts (12). Photos by Garrett Campbell, Washington Redskins

with the kids. I love working with kids. It doesn't matter if they're military or not, but being a part of that family and understanding what some of these kids have to go through with the military aspect of moving and things of that nature, losing parents, it's just a blessing to be

able to work with them."

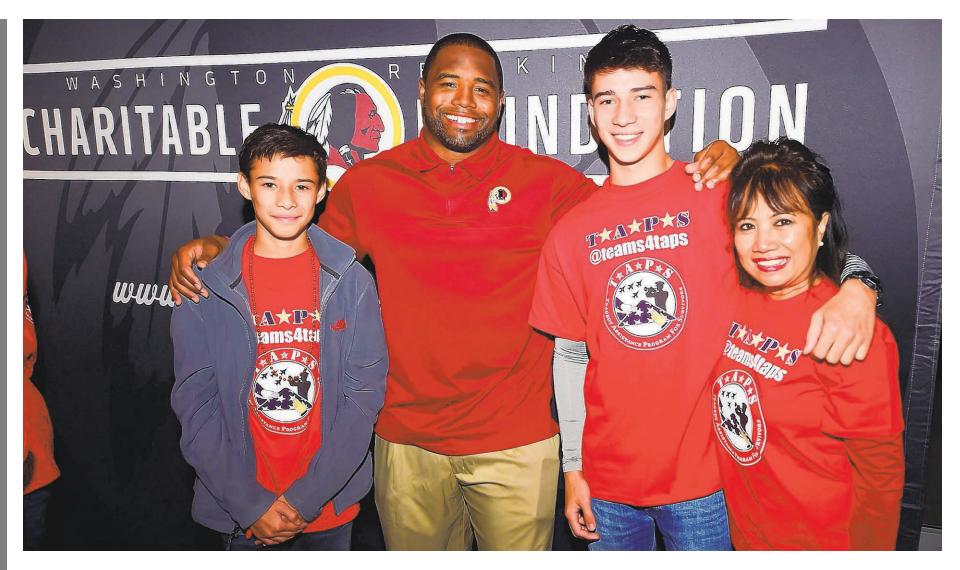
The league winner of the Salute to Service Award will be recognized at the league's annual NFL Honors awards presentation Feb. 6, on the eve of Super Bowl 50 in Santa Clara, Calif.



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Redskins host TAPS military appreciation event

By Andrew Walker

eteran's Day will never be easy for Tina Mengel-Vickery. On Nov. 9, 2013, her husband, Cory, so affected by the post-traumatic stress disorder and depression that came with two tours in Afghanistan as a U.S. Marine, took his

And in the two years since Cory's passing, Mengel-Vickery has made it her mission to help other families going through similar tough times - and to help prevent the epidemic of PTSD from taking more veterans' lives.

On Nov. 11 - on Veteran's Day - Mengel-Vickery, with the couple's beautiful 3-year-old daughter, McKenzie, at her side, represented one of seven military families selected to take part in the TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors) Military Appreciation Event hosted by the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation and Redskins Salute at Top Golf in Ashburn, Va.

"It means a lot," Mengel-Vickery said of the event. "This day especially is one that's hard for every family, especially if you have somebody that's in the service

The Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation and Redskins Salute on Nov. 11 hosted seven TAPS families for a military appreciation event at Top Golf in Ashburn, Va.



or that sacrificed their time or their life. It's something to look forward to other than the sadness of the day."

For Mengel-Vickery, the TAPS event

had extra meaning. A huge Redskins fan herself, she said watching games with Cory became one of their favorite activities together.

So having five Redskins players in attendance at the event - quarterback Colt McCoy, wide receiver Andre Roberts, long snapper Nick Sundberg, punter Tress Way and fullback Darrel Young - was icing on

"It's so much fun," Mengel-Vickery said with a big smile on her face. "And to be doing this with TAPS, an organization I've known for a couple of years now, to be doing this with the Redskins especially, it's a fun experience to have them honor our families and fallen heroes - especially on Veteran's Day."

But for the Redskins players at the event, the pleasure of attending the event was all theirs.

Roberts, whose parents both served in the Army, knows all about the military family lifestyle. Recently selected as the Redskins' Salute to Service Award nominee, presented by USAA, The Citadel product has spent much of his NFL career doing what he can to make an impact on those who have served and their families.

'Being a part of the military family, I've had friends in that same situation," Roberts said. "I do get what they're going through. But, at the same time, like you said, I just want to be there to brighten them up if they have any questions, if they want to talk to me about anything, any of their experiences, I'm there."

This year's TAPS Military Appreciation Event was the perfect opportunity for the TAPS families and the Redskins players to have a personal experience together – all while having fun.

The evening started with dinner and games – virtual dancing and bowling – and transitioned into several rounds of Top Golf at their new Ashburn facility.

With smiles all around, it was an ideal way to honor the fallen military members and their families represented at the event.

"These families made the ultimate sacrifice, and there's no greater feeling than to be able to give back to a group of people that have given something so dear," said Jane Rodgers, executive director of the WRCF. "So on this Veteran's Day, to spend the day with them, it does more, I think, for us, than it does for them,

"These families made the ultimate sacrifice, and there's no greater feeling than to be able to give back to a group of people that have given something so dear," said Jane Rodgers, executive director of the WRCF. "So on this Veteran's Day, to spend the day with them, it does more, I think, for us, than it does for them...

and we're just pleased that we're able to do something to hopefully make this day a little brighter for them."

Diana Hosford, director of teams4taps – which establishes and maintains relationships between sports teams and professional athletes with families of America's Fallen Heroes – said the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation has "been incredibly supportive of TAPS," and the Veteran's Day event was just the latest example of this partnership.

"They did an incredible event last year and are continuing to do special things for our fallen heroes this year," Hosford said. "It's a tremendous honor for all of us with military charities, especially charities like TAPS that cares for families of the fallen, to have the heroes recognized and remembered and to have their families honored."

Those interested in helping support TAPS – either through volunteering or donations – can do so by visiting www.

(TAPS Photos by Garrett Campbell, Washington Redskins)







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Players encourage exercise at Salute To Play 60 Military Challenge

Led by Tanya Snyder, President Bruce Allen and several players, the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation hosted a Salute To Play 60 Military Challenge on Sept. 14 at Fort Belvoir, Va.

By Jake Kring-Schreifels

REDSKINS.COM

ased on the amount of diverse, sometimes rigorous drills and outdoor activities the nearly 400 children at Fort Belvoir, Va., participated in Sept. 14, their task of repeating all that exercise, 60 minutes each day for a month, seemed more lofty than conquerable.

But this was the Salute to Play 60 Military Challenge kick-off, and the beginning of any test, especially involving kids, a football field and members of the Redskins, came with some necessary pageantry to promote the third annual event. After all, the message to those in attendance — both the kids on the field and the parents watching — was about staying healthy by doing the little things.

"When you're beyond today, make sure you keep it up to your favorite song, grab a friend, grab your mom and dad, do it on a daily basis, take your animal, walk with a group," Tanya Snyder, wife of Redskins owner Dan Snyder, said when addressing the group. "Whatever you do, have some fun every day for at least 60 minutes and you'll see a huge difference in your health and you'll be much happier in your life."

The kids in attendance all came from II military installations in the Washington, D.C., region and the initiative, part of the NFI's larger Play 60 program, aims to fight childhood obesity by encouraging activity, and in this case, logging it down to win Redskins-related prized as an incentive.

Along with Snyder, team President Bruce Allen helped fire up the crowd before the Redskins cheerleaders and several players – Alfred Morris, Darrel Young, Niles Paul, Silas Redd Jr., Shawn Lauvao, Kyshoen Jarrett and a surprise visit from Robert Griffin III – posed for photos, signed autographs and split up into groups to start the festivities.

Hosted by the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation, and partnering with Mid-Atlantic Dairy and USO Metro, the kick-off delivered a large dose running, jumping and dancing, a sampler of ideas, really, for the kids to try each day.

"I'm enjoying myself," Jarrett said. "I feel like a kid myself just being out here, just encouraging these guys to stay active and continue to work and stay healthy... I don't have a military background, but to be able to come and do this for the kids, it's great to see the smiles on their faces, see them enjoying themselves."

Rotating every 10 minutes to different









stations, kids received instruction about eating healthy as they jumped rope, released excess energy in bouncy castles, calmed down with some yoga and then sped up again with some games of tag. Morris, even after a gameday, took the games seriously with a smile on his face

"I'm a little stiff right now. I started out at the hip-hop station. I don't think I did too good. I probably hop-hipped," Morris said. "Those kids did a great job. They got me out pretty fast. Maybe Sunday if they would have tried to do that it wouldn't be so easy."

Morris understands the importance of afternoons like this. His brothers and cousins are members of the military and his grandfather and aunt served before them. Opportunities to play around with kids impacted by their parents' professions are cherished.

"I know it can be hard for them going from base to base or city to city sometimes, and depending on where their parents have been stationed it can be very hard on them," Morris said. "So just to come out here and hang with some professional athletes means the world, to take their minds off what they're going through for just a split second."

For Paul and Redd, at the time still in the early stages of their recovery from season-ending surgeries, attending events like the Salute To Play 60 Military Challenge gave them a sense of normalcy – signing autographs and answering questions from big-eyed fans.

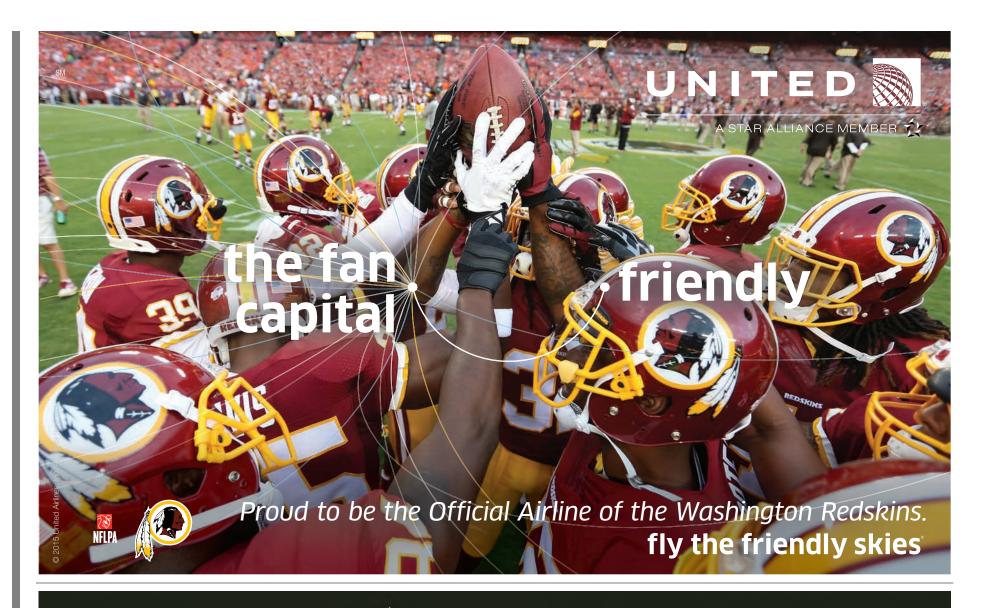
"It means everything to me, because especially this year being hurt, you come out here and these kids don't care who you are," Paul said. "They just know that you're a Redskin and they make you feel a part of the team. Being out here signing autographs, I feel good, like it's my normal routine."

And ideally, for the kids roaming from station to station, sweating and laughing and slurping down chocolate milk after a hard day of play will feel like normal routine, too.

That, according to Col. Michelle Mitchell, a Garrison Commander at Fort Belvoir, is what makes this enterprise rewarding, especially when she looks at all the kids enamored by the players around them, inspiring them to continue staying active.

"They know that an organization like the Redskins will care enough to come out and be interested in their health and futures," she said. "I think it's a big difference for the kids."

(SALUTE TO PLAY 60 PHOTOS BY Garrett Campbell, Washington Redskins)





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