



WASHINGTON COMMANDERS ANNOUNCE “COMMANDERS KICKOFF” FESTIVITIES FOR THE TEAM’S HOME OPENER ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 AT 1 P.M., PRESENTED BY BANK OF AMERICA

The game will mark the regular season debut of the new Commanders name and brand identity

Headlining the day as part of the team’s season long 90th Anniversary celebrations, Washington Legend Mike Bass will be inducted into the franchise’s Ring of Fame during a pregame ceremony in Legends Plaza from 12:00-12:30 p.m.

LANDOVER, Md., September 8, 2022 – The Washington Commanders announced festivities and programming for Sunday’s “Commanders Kickoff,” the team’s inaugural regular season game under the Commanders name and brand identity. Sunday’s game is presented by Bank of America and will kick off at 1 p.m. EST.

With the game falling on the 21st anniversary of 9/11, the team will host a series of tributes to pay remembrance to the day. The 121st Fighter Squadron, 113th Wing, D.C. Air National Guard “Capital Guardians,” the unit that protected the National Capital Region on September 11, 2001, will conduct a flyover. During the national anthem to follow, members of Tuesday’s Children, a nonprofit dedicated to providing healing for families who have been forever changed by terrorism, military conflict, or mass violence, will hold the American flag on the field. The 27th Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Linda Fagan, will serve as the game’s honorary captain. Admiral Linda Fagan is the first female service chief of any service. To commemorate our country’s first responders, Prince George’s County Fire/EMS Department will stage one firetruck over Sean Taylor Road.

Special fan engagement opportunities include a commemorative ticket NFT with any mobile ticket purchase, photo opportunities with the team’s three Lombardi trophies in Legends Plaza, and a “Take Command” Rollabanna giveaway opportunity, presented by Bank of America.

Headlining the day, the team will induct legendary cornerback Mike Bass into its Ring of Fame. Bass played with Washington from 1969-1975 and will be recognized in a pregame ceremony that will take place in the newly-named Legends Plaza on the main concourse at FedExField from 12:00-12:30 p.m. The ceremony will include members of Bass’ family and teammates and will be open to ticketed fans. Bass also will be honored during halftime on the field as part of a tribute ceremony honoring Washington Legends from the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s rosters. Washington Legends from those eras will be in attendance and honored for their impact on the franchise’s legacy.

New at the stadium this season is Legends Plaza, a revamped space outside the main concourse between sections 130-134 that pays homage to the team's 90-year history and all the Washington Legends that previously played for the franchise. Legends Plaza will be a hub for all Legends ceremonies and programming including tributes and recognitions of the five championship teams, meet and greets, photo opportunities, and more. Fans can enjoy tailgate games, interact with team partner activations, watch the Command Center: Gameday Live show, and get an early look at team warm-ups through the Legends Plaza west end zone space. Gates open at 10 a.m., one hour before regular gates, with a variety of beverages, including domestic beers starting at \$6.75 available until kickoff, and rotating local food trucks operating throughout the game. This week, in honor of the inaugural regular season game as the Commanders, fans also will have the special opportunity to take pictures with the team's Lombardi trophies through the fourth quarter.

While at the stadium, fans also can experience the "Command the Canvas" art installation project, which includes a variety of artwork ranging from canvas, mixed media, acrylic, graphic design, graffiti, and 3D printing produced by 16 local DMV artists. The artwork on display includes famous elements of the region's culture and life, such as cherry blossoms, the city's music icons, as well as depictions of Washington Legends, fans, current players, and renowned moments in team history. Additionally, fans can enjoy performances by Command Force, Hype Squad, and the Marching Band. Making its regular season gameday return after a two-year hiatus, the Marching Band will play the team's revamped Fight Song after each Commanders score. The marching band also will have the honor to perform the National Anthem leading up to kickoff.

During the first half, the Commanders new team dog, Mando, will be introduced on field. Named by the team's players, Mando is in training with "K9s For Warriors", an organization that provides highly trained service dogs to military veterans suffering from PTSD, traumatic brain injury, and/or military sexual trauma. Support from the Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation this season will help ensure Mando goes on to be a successful, difference-making companion for a veteran in need.

Fans can purchase tickets for this game and all 2022 regular season home games at [Commanders.com/tickets](https://www.commanders.com/tickets). Attending fans are encouraged to review the gameday guide at [Commanders.com/kickoff](https://www.commanders.com/kickoff).

– Washington Commanders est. 1932 –