

WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

Welcome to the Command Post!

ICYMI: Coach Rivera Receives 12th Annual Salute to Service Award at NFL Honors, Doug Williams Makes Appearance at Historic Super Bowl LVII + Major Tuddy Takes Part in Mardi Gras Celebration at the Wharf

In Case You Missed It: Leading up to Super Bowl LVII, Washington Commanders Head Coach Ron Rivera was awarded the 2022 Salute to Service Award presented by USAA for his exceptional efforts to honor and support members of the military. Later in the week, Doug Williams was on site in Glendale, Arizona, for a historic Super Bowl matchup featuring two Black starting quarterbacks. Throughout the week leading up to Super Bowl LVII, Doug was featured on [ABC News Nightline](#), [CNN](#), [ESPN](#), [MSNBC](#), [NFL Network](#), among others. Finally, Major Tuddy made an appearance at the Wharf's Mardi Gras Celebration.

Coach Ron Rivera Recognized for Commitment to Military Community

On February 9, Washington Commanders Head Coach Ron Rivera was recognized by the NFL as the recipient of the 2022 Salute to Service Award presented by USAA. “During his time as an NFL head coach, Ron Rivera has set the standard for military appreciation, helping educate an entire generation of NFL community members on the importance of supporting our military, veterans, and their families,” said Vice Admiral (Ret.) John Bird, USAA Senior Vice President of Military Affairs.

This past season, Coach Rivera was instrumental to the team's efforts to support and engage the military community. Coach Rivera and the team were on site last April to wish departing troops safe travels at Baltimore Washington International Airport. The team also welcomed active-duty members and veterans to various practices and game-day activations, including partnerships with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and USO.



Rivera attributes his success in the face of adversity to his military upbringing and values instilled in him growing up: strength, resilience, and dedication. When accepting this year's award, Rivera shared, “Having grown up in a military household,



I experienced the sacrifices that military members and their families must make firsthand, and I have always wanted to use my platform to raise awareness and assist the great men and women of our armed forces and their families.” **Read more about Coach Rivera's recognition [HERE](#).**

Doug Williams Attends Historic Super Bowl LVII

Nearly four decades ago, Washington’s Doug Williams became the first Black quarterback to start in a Super Bowl matchup, posting a 42-10 victory and MVP performance over the Denver Broncos. On February 12, Williams attended Super Bowl LVII, where he witnessed another piece of history: the first Super Bowl to feature two Black starting quarterbacks. Williams also had the distinct honor of carrying the Vince Lombardi Trophy pregame during this historic Super Bowl.

In an interview with CBS News, Williams said, “I know there's a lot of young guys across the country, realize that if it's a dream, it could happen. Because it happened for these guys.” In addition to serving as Senior Advisor to Washington Commanders President Jason Wright, Doug Williams has championed diverse representation in the NFL, calling on the league to work to open more doors for Black coaches. **Read Doug’s full interview with CBS News [HERE](#).**



Major Tuddy Attends The Wharf's Mardi Gras Celebration

This past Saturday, Major Tuddy attended the “[Mardi Gras at The Wharf](#)” celebration, which featured a parade, live music and fireworks. Major Tuddy met up with fellow DC team mascots including the Nationals Presidents, G-Whiz, and Slapshot.

Click [HERE](#) for photos of Major Tuddy at The Wharf Mardi Gras celebration.

