

**Military, Law Enforcement News, and More...**

**NFL and USAA announce New England Patriots long snapper Joe Cardona as recipient of 13th Annual Salute to Service Award**

NEW YORK -- The NFL and USAA, an official NFL Salute to Service Partner, named Joe Cardona, long snapper for the New England Patriots, as the recipient of the 2023 Salute to Service Award presented by USAA. The award recognizes the exceptional efforts by members of the NFL family to honor and support the military community. The announcement was made on Feb. 7. Cardona was recognized at NFL Honors, a primetime awards special that aired nationally on the CBS Television Network and NFL Network, and streamed on Paramount+ and NFL+ on Thursday, Feb. 8 at the Resorts World Theatre in Las Vegas. USAA, a leading provider of insurance, banking and other financial services to U.S. military members, veterans and their families which contributed \$25,000 in Cardona's honor to the official aid societies representing each of the military branches. The NFL Foundation matched USAA's donation of \$25,000, which will be donated to Cardona's military charity of choice. "Joe Cardona represents the epitome of the NFL's Salute to Service Award," said NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. "His commitment to honoring, empowering, and connecting with the military community as an active service member, while also dedicated to his Patriots teammates, truly sets him apart. He is the true embodiment of what it means to be an American hero. The entire NFL family salutes Joe for his service to our country and congratulates him as the recipient of this important

*"Upon his graduation from the Naval Academy, Lieutenant Joe Cardona has continued to serve his country while also playing in the NFL, and we are honored to name him the recipient of this year's Salute to Service Award presented by USAA," said Major General (Ret.) Bob Whittle, USAA Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff. "USAA salutes Lieutenant Cardona for his continued service to our country as well as his exemplary commitment to honoring and supporting his fellow service members, veterans, and their families."*

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Cardona exemplifies a spirit of unwavering dedication in his support for America's military community. His journey began at the United States Naval Academy as a football player, but his aspirations extended far beyond the

field. During his rookie season with the Patriots, Cardona displayed exceptional dedication by balancing a second full-time job in the Navy serving as a staff officer at the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Rhode Island. His hard work and commitment were recognized in 2017 when he was promoted to lieutenant junior grade (LTJG), subsequently serving in US Forces Korea, supporting the on-going effort on the Korean Peninsula. In 2019, Joe's dedication culminated in his promotion to the rank of lieutenant in the Navy. Currently, as a department head of Maritime Security Squadron 8, headquartered in Newport, RI, Joe oversees the logistical needs of 500 sailors across the eastern seaboard.

Throughout his nine seasons in the NFL, Cardona has consistently engaged in initiatives aimed at celebrating and honoring active-duty service members and veterans. He has donated items to help military families impacted by natural disasters and led free football clinics for military children at bases across New England. Cardona recently joined the board of the Military Family Advisory Network, a nonprofit organization that provides vital support to military families facing hardships. Additionally, Joe has partnered with the New England Center and Home for Veterans, an organization that looks to serve our nation's most at risk veterans, providing shelter, medical care, occupational services and much more. In 2018, Joe Cardona was

honored with the Patriots Ron Burton Community Service Award, an accolade given to honor his work in the community.

Cardona's support extends to organizations like the Travis Manion Foundation, dedicated to empowering veterans and families of fallen heroes and events like the Brothers of Life that brings together Americans and Israeli wounded soldiers. As a service member, Joe has presided over more than a dozen re-enlistment and retirement ceremonies at Gillette Stadium, even donning his own uniform to lead some proceedings. In every aspect of his life, Joe Cardona exemplifies what it means to make a meaningful difference both on and off the field, embodying the values of service, sacrifice, and community.

"It is a tremendous honor to receive the NFL Salute to Service Award. I am thankful to the New England Patriots organization for accommodating my military service and I hope to be a model for future players who wish to serve," said Joe Cardona. "I appreciate the partnership between the NFL and our military and the role I have been able to play in it. On the field, I hope to represent the fighting spirit of our veterans, as well as my brothers and sisters in arms whom I serve alongside today. I am proud to be the son of Patrick Cardona, a 24-year Navy veteran, and Margeret Cardona, who embodies the strength and selflessness of a military spouse. I am proud to be an Officer in the

United States Navy and player in the NFL; with or without recognition I will continue to do my job."

Returning this year, fans helped choose the three finalists, determined by a consensus fan vote, an NFL internal committee and USAA. Nominees were evaluated on the positive effect of their efforts on the military community, the type of service conducted, the thoroughness of their support and level of commitment. This year's other finalists included Green Bay Packers running back Aaron Jones and San Francisco 49ers tight end George Kittle.

The panel of judges, consisting of representatives from the U.S. military community, the NFL and USAA, who helped determine the Salute to Service Award recipient this year included Chad Hennings, Air Force Academy graduate and three-time Super Bowl champion; Jim Mora, Sr., Marine Corps veteran and former NFL head coach; Lenny Bandy, U.S. Marine Corps veteran and NFL Vice President of Security; Major General (Ret.) Robert Whittle, USAA Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff; and Ron Rivera, former NFL head coach and 2022 Salute to Service Award recipient.

The Salute to Service Award is part of the NFL and USAA's year-round commitment to recognize and honor the military community. Fans can join the NFL and USAA in honoring the military community by visiting NFL.com/Salute.

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**University of Memphis selects Keith Humphrey as new police chief who brings 34 years of law enforcement to the Bluff City**



University of Memphis Chief Keith Humphrey. (Photo credit University of Memphis, Wendy Adams)

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (February 12, 2024) — The University of Memphis today announced long-time law enforcement professional Keith

Humphrey as its next campus police chief, filling a key public safety position at the University. With a proven track record in law enforcement and community out-

*"I am honored and humbled to have been selected to head the University of Memphis Police Department. My desire and passion for this position exists because I recognize a university as a unique 24/7/365 community," said Humphrey. "As chief, I will honorably utilize my 34 years of law enforcement experience to further strengthen our established and proactive public safety footprint required to keep students, faculty and staff safe."*

reach, Humphrey brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the position.

Throughout an extensive search and interview process, the selection committee's top priority was to identify a candidate with a proven track record of effective leadership, a commitment to diversity and inclusion, and a deep understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities within a

campus environment. With the appointment of the new police chief, the university aims to further strengthen its commitment to ensuring the well-being of all members of the campus community.

"Chief Humphrey comes to the University of Memphis with decades of experience in law enforcement, and it is his dedication to lifelong learning and community engagement that makes him the right person for this essential role on our campuses," said Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer/Chief Financial Officer Rene Bustamante. "He will play a vital role in our campuswide efforts to maintain a safe and supportive environment where everyone can thrive academically, professionally and personally."

Humphrey's 34-year public safety career began in Arlington, Texas, with a population of 392,000 people, where he served as a patrol, training, and internal

affairs sergeant from 2000-2005. He was then promoted to the geographic patrol sector commander and later became the criminal support commander.

From there, Humphrey served as the chief of police for three municipal administrations: first for Lancaster, Texas, population of 40,000, from 2008 to 2011; then in Norman, Oklahoma, population 128,000, from 2011 to 2019; and most recently in Little Rock, Arkansas, population 200,000, in 2019. In 2022, he retired from his position in Little Rock with the support and gratitude from the city's mayor.

"I have always appreciated Chief Humphrey's leadership, vision and commitment to public service," said Little Rock Mayor Frank Scott, a University of Memphis alum. "His focus on best practices and 21st century policing made our police department better and stronger. I am confident he will serve the University of Memphis community well."

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