

# Military, Law, and more ...

*Thank you to the Memphis Safe Task Force and National Guard!*

## NASCAR San Diego Weekend connects sailors, military families and community for Navy 250

**By Navy Lt. Cmdr. Michelle Tucker, Naval Base Coronado**

June 22, 2026 - Naval Base Coronado welcomed upward of 100,000 visitors, race fans, service members, military families and community partners during the inaugural NASCAR San Diego Weekend, June 19-21. The event marked a historic collaboration between the Navy and NASCAR while celebrating the service's enduring connection to the American people. The multiday event transformed the "birthplace of naval aviation," Naval Base Coronado, into a unique venue where motorsports and military excellence came together. It provided attendees opportunities to engage directly with sailors, explore Navy capabilities and learn about the Navy's role in defending the nation around the globe. "This weekend showcased the extraordinary partnership between our Navy and the communities we serve," said Navy

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Capt. Loren Jacobi, commanding officer of the base. "Working with NASCAR to host the inaugural NASCAR San Diego Weekend allowed us to showcase the amazing dedication and service of our sailors and Marines while celebrating 250 years of Naval strategic deterrence. The enthusiasm and support demonstrated throughout the weekend reinforced the strong bond between our military and the American people." The 3.4-mile track weaved through the base where sailors and Marines typically operate, providing 16 turns for drivers to navigate. Drivers passed military aircraft, the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson and littoral combat

ship USS Cincinnati along the course. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth participated in yesterday's pre-race ceremony and visited sailors on the Vinson. He also served as the honorary starter for the race. Over the weekend, 110 NASCAR drivers competed across three series: the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series, the NASCAR O'Reilly Auto Parts Series and the NASCAR Cup Series. Thirty-nine local Navy units across San Diego partnered with NASCAR Cup Series drivers for the weekend event, providing ship, squadron and facility tours. It was an opportunity for drivers to meet sailors in their work environments and for sailors to share their contributions to the nation's security. Driver Corey Heim, who partnered with Under Sea Rescue Command, took first place in the NASCAR Cup Series race yesterday, winning his first career series race in just his 13th start.

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## Pres. Trump and Sec. Hegseth praise Marine Corps Major James Capers, Jr. ... from sports page 1

of Heroes — a room in the Pentagon that lists the names of all 3,500-plus service members who have received the prestigious award since President Abraham Lincoln signed legislation creating it in the early 1860s. During both the awarding and the induction, Trump, Hegseth and others recounted the courageous acts that ultimately resulted in them receiving the highest military award for valor in action. "James Capers Jr. and John Ripley proved that the breed of patriots who stood [during the Battles of Lexington and Concord] and on the banks of the Delaware River did not die out, and those kinds of patriots still guard us today," Hegseth said. Ripley, who was serving as a senior Marine advisor, destroyed a critical bridge to halt a North Vietnamese advance, April 2, 1972. Despite facing enemy fire and physical exhaustion, he successfully positioned and detonated explosives. His son, Tom, spoke on his late father's behalf. "After the bridge was destroyed and the invasion halted, my

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father was asked to provide an update via radio a few days later. ... He captured the moment perfectly: 'Leatherneck, this is Leatherneck Delta. Report: powder dry, morale high, Semper Fi,'" the younger Ripley said. Capers, 88, sustained multiple injuries while coordinating the evacuation of his men under heavy enemy fire at Phú Lộc, Vietnam, in 1967. Despite being wounded extensively, he refused to leave the battlefield until all of his fellow Marines were safely evacuated. "Your applause reminds me of some dark days, of some brave men — so I'll speak for them," Capers said.

"This is the greatest country in the world. I fought for that flag. I believed in it. ... So, thank you all for being here today, and thank you all for coming here. This is very important to us, to keep our legacy going," he added. Dockery received his medal for confronting a well-armed Taliban force that ambushed his platoon, leading to a lengthy fight. Despite the difficult Afghanistan terrain, Dockery was able to continually engage the enemy, personally risking his life on numerous occasions to protect and evacuate three wounded members of his platoon. "Our nation is filled with great moments of unity every day. There are moments of respect and compassion shared between one another. ... I love my country, and if we all remember this, the best of America is yet to come," Dockery said, following his induction. All three men are now immortalized in the Hall of Heroes with thousands of other courageous service members.

## Memphis Grizzlies select forward Cameron Boozer third overall in the 2026 NBA Draft

MEMPHIS, Tenn., June 23, 2026 – The Memphis Grizzlies today announced the team selected Duke forward Cameron Boozer with the third overall pick in the 2026 NBA Draft. Boozer (6-8 ¼, 253) comes to Memphis following a historic year at Duke in which he became the fifth freshman in NCAA history to sweep men's basketball's highest individual honors as the consensus National Player of the Year. The 18-year-old was named the Associated Press National Player of the Year, Naismith College Player of the Year, NABC

National Player of the Year, USBWA National Player of the Year and Sporting News Player of the Year and was the recipient of the John R. Wooden Award. In addition to his national player of the year accolades, Boozer secured the Wayman Tisdale Award (USBWA National Freshman of the Year), the Kyle Macy Award and the CBS Sports National Freshman of the Year Award. He joined Kevin Durant (2007), Anthony Davis (2012), Zion Williamson (2019) and Cooper Flagg (2025) as the only players to earn consensus National Player of the

Year and Freshman of the Year honors. During his lone season at Duke, Boozer started all 38 games and averaged 22.5 points, 10.2 rebounds, 4.1 assists and 1.4 steals in 33.5 minutes while shooting 55.6 percent from the field and 39.1 percent from 3-point range, becoming the first freshman or sophomore to average at least 20.0 points, 10.0 rebounds and 4.0 assists in a season since Larry Bird (1976-77). Boozer, whose 22 double-doubles tied the national lead, was named ACC Player of the Year,

ACC Rookie of the Year and First-Team All-American after leading the Blue Devils to a 35-win season and an appearance in the NCAA Elite Eight. He also set Duke freshman records for rebounds (389) and free throws made (221). A native of Miami and the son of two-time NBA All-Star Carlos Boozer, Boozer guided Christopher Columbus High School to consecutive state championships in 2024 and 2025 and won gold medals as the MVP of the 2023 FIBA U16 Americas Championship and 2024 FIBA U17 World Cup with Team USA.

## Tennessee Highway Patrol welcomes 23 new State Troopers

NASHVILLE --- On June 18, Governor Bill Lee, Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security Commissioner Jeff Long and Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) Colonel Matt Perry welcomed the newest graduating class of Tennessee State Troopers. The ceremony took place at the Hermitage Hills Baptist Church with Governor Bill Lee serving as the keynote speaker. The class will consist of 23 graduates (21 males, two females). Class 98 completed 17 weeks of intensive training. The class included five troopers with bachelor's degrees and two troopers with associate's degrees. Nine of the graduates have served in the military for a total of 61 years of military service.

*"Today's graduates have earned the privilege of serving the people of Tennessee in one of the most well-respected law enforcement agencies in the nation," said Commissioner Jeff Long. "Their hard work, resilience, professionalism, and commitment to service reflect the high standards of the Tennessee Highway Patrol. Congratulations to each of them on this tremendous accomplishment."*

standards of the Tennessee Highway Patrol. Congratulations to each of them on this tremendous accomplishment." Addressing Tennessee Highway Patrol Class 98, Colonel Matt Perry reminded the graduating class that their achievement marks the beginning of a greater responsibility, stating, "Graduation is not the end of your preparation. It is the beginning of your service." He concluded by charging the new troopers to "Serve with humility. Protect with integrity."

## TN Titans announce a multi-year extension with DT Jeffery Simmons ... from sports page 1

for the Titans. During his first seven campaigns, Simmons appeared in 99 games with 97 starts, accumulating 383 tackles, 42.5 sacks, 27 passes defended, eight forced fumbles and six fumble recoveries. In franchise history, Simmons' 42.5 sacks are 12th overall and fifth in the organization's "Titans era" (1999 to present). Simmons is coming off a career year in 2025 when he was named first team All-Pro and selected to the Pro Bowl after recording a ca-

reer-high 11 sacks. He led all NFL interior defensive linemen in solo tackles (39), tackles for loss (17), sacks (11), sack yards (79.0), quarterback pressures (60), pressure rate (14.5) and forced fumbles (tied 3). Simmons also broke Jurrell Casey's mark (10.5 sacks in 2013) for the most sacks in a season by a Titans defensive tackle in the franchise's "Titans era" (1999 to present). With at least five sacks every season from 2021 to 2025, Simmons joined Ray Childress (nine

consecutive seasons), Casey (seven), William Fuller (six), and Sean Jones (six) as the only players in club history to record five consecutive seasons with at least five sacks since individual sacks became an official statistic in 1982. Prior to reaching the NFL, the Macon, Miss., native played three seasons as a defensive tackle at Mississippi State, where he appeared in 38 contests with 28 starts. Simmons finished his career ranked sixth in school history

with 32.5 tackles for loss. He also tied for sixth in MSU annals with five forced fumbles and tied for fourth with three blocked kicks. His totals also included 163 tackles, seven sacks, seven passes defended and two defensive touchdowns. He was a first-team All-SEC selection as a sophomore and junior and was one of two players in the nation to be named a Bednarik Award Semifinalist in both 2017 and 2018.

