

Sen. Blackburn pushes for Tennessee servicemembers and their families from sports-military 2

sider them our adversaries and that we intend to hold them to account for their actions is important for the safety and security of this nation.”

What it means for Tennessee service members

Significantly, the bill includes a 2.7% pay increase for military service members and improvements in military health care.

It also provides funding for a pilot program championed by Blackburn to ensure military spouses whose jobs require state-specific licensure, such as those in health care or education careers, secure reciprocal licensure in Tennessee when their spouse’s military service prompts a move. “This would cover individuals that are required by law to have a license in one state for Tennessee to recognize that license when they move to Tennessee,” Blackburn said. “This has been a very successful pilot project that I had started by working with the secretary of the Army. We’re continuing that.”

A significant reform is included regarding how accusations of sexual harassment are handled under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. For the first time, the bill designates sexual harassment as a crime and requires allegations of sexual harassment to be handled by an independent investigator outside the chain of command.

In 2018, a Pentagon survey on sexual assault in the military found an estimated 20,500 instances of unwanted sexual contact, a more than 25% increase over the last major survey in 2016.

Funding for Tennessee military installments

Funding is included for military facilities, research and equipment in Tennessee.

The bill includes \$436 million for nuclear modernization projects and decontamination projects at the Y-12 National Security Complex and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Several nuclear modernization programs are authorized, including the reestablishment of domestic uranium enrichment in Tennessee. The bill includes funding for materials, uranium and lithium, and nonproliferation expertise for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

“The Oak Ridge National Lab and Y-12 Complex is being utilized more — whether it comes to quantum computing, our uranium enrichment and lithium processing ... these are all going to be important,” Blackburn said. Nearly \$20 million is authorized for military construction projects at Memphis International Airport and Arnold Air Force Base, expanding Arnold Air Force Base’s ability to execute test programs for technology including hypersonic munitions and future strike aircraft.

“You’re going to see more attention there for hypersonics,” Blackburn said. “You’ve got the Space Force going in at Huntsville, which is just a stone’s throw away from Tullahoma. So we feel very good about the research work that’s going to take place there.”

The bill includes funding to provide additional UH-60 helicopters for the Tennessee Army National Guard, and it prohibits reduction of KC-135 aircraft for the Air National Guard.

“Not only does this legislation include a pay raise for our men and women in uniform, invest in their families, and strengthen our national defense, but it includes significant investments in the Volunteer State that I strongly advocated for in order to keep Tennessee a leader in protecting our homeland,” Hagerty said in a statement.

Detering US adversaries

The bill establishes a commission to examine the 20-year conflict in Afghanistan. Blackburn says that provision is aimed at bringing accountability for the botched withdrawal from Afghanistan in August.

“How is it that our intel did not pick up that Taliban had positioned people in different agencies and that Kabul would fall so quickly? Why did we leave those billions of dollars of equipment there? Why did we not get Americans out before we turned over the keys to the Taliban?” Blackburn said. “So we are going to have a commission that will look at that.”

The bill also includes a requirement that the Department of Defense assess how respiratory diseases are being weaponized, and it requires the department to increase reporting to Congress on plant-directed research and biological weapons production labs.

NFL announces eight finalists for Art Rooney Sportsmanship Award from sports page 1

GERALD, CURTIS MARTIN and LEONARD WHEELER. The eight finalists were listed on the Pro Bowl ballot under the NFL Sportsmanship Award category.

“I’ve had the honor of competing with many of the nominees on the list,” said FITZGERALD. “More importantly, I’ve had the blessing of knowing and building relationships with several of them off the field. The legacy of Mr. Rooney lives on through these men. They represent teamwork, competitiveness, hard work, optimism, and integrity. Congratulations to each of the nominees for this year’s Art Rooney Sportsmanship Award.” The award was created in 2014 in honor of the late founder

of the Pittsburgh Steelers and Pro Football Hall of Famer ART ROONEY, SR.

Slater is a finalist for the third consecutive year and fourth time overall while this marks Juszczak’s second-straight season as a finalist. David has been nominated for the award in each of the past four seasons. Allen, Cooks, McCourty, Jordan and Thielen are all first-time nominees in 2021.

The winner of the NFL Sportsmanship Award is determined by a vote of current NFL players. From the eight finalists, each team’s players submitted a consensus vote of their choice for the winner. As in Pro Bowl voting, a team cannot vote for its own player.

After back-to-back AFC South titles, Tennessee Titans take on Texans ... from sports page 1

WTVF NewsChannel 5. The broadcast team will be announced later in the week.

Fans can livestream the broadcast on their mobile devices from the Titans Mobile App (iOS and Android), as well as on desktop computers and mobile web at TennesseeTitans.com. Restrictions apply. For information and more streaming options visit TennesseeTitans.com or NFL.com/ways-to-watch.

The Titans Radio Network and Nashville flagship 104.5 The Zone will carry the game across the Mid-South with the “Voice of the Titans” Mike Keith, analyst Dave McGinnis, sideline reporter Amie Wells and gameday host Rhett Bryan.

Additionally, Sports USA will broadcast the game to a national radio audience. Play-by-play announcer Larry Kahn and analyst Doug Plank will have the call.

TITANS WIN BACK-TO-BACK AFC SOUTH TITLES
The Titans never trailed in last

The Titans won the organization’s first back-to-back division championships since the Oilers took the first three AFL Eastern division titles from 1960 to 1962. The last time the team went to the postseason in three consecutive years was during a franchise-record seven consecutive playoff appearances from 1987 to 1993.

week’s victory over the Dolphins at Nissan Stadium. On a 36-degree, rainy afternoon, Ryan Tannehill passed for a pair of touchdowns and was accompanied by a 132-yard rushing effort by D’Onta Foreman. Meanwhile, the Titans defense never allowed the Dolphins inside the Tennessee 20-yard line, totaling four sacks and a pair of takeaways in a 34-3 win.

Foreman, who had a 21-yard touchdown run, has three 100-yard performances in his last five

games. During that span, his 413 rushing yards rank fifth in the NFL.

The Titans defense, which has allowed 39 total points in the last four games, improved its 2021 rankings to sixth in scoring defense (20.6 points allowed per game), second in rushing defense (85.9 yards per game), tied for ninth in sacks (41), and tied for ninth in interceptions (17).

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THE TEXANS

The Texans are 4-12 after last week’s 23-7 loss at San Francisco. They had won the previous

two games prior to falling to the 49ers.

Houston is concluding its first season under head coach David Culley, a Middle Tennessee native who was hired by the Texans after two seasons with the Baltimore Ravens as assistant head coach/pass coordinator/wide receivers coach. Culley grew up in Sparta, Tenn., and then played quarterback at Vanderbilt University. He has coached at Vanderbilt, Western Kentucky, Chattanooga, Middle Tennessee State and Austin Peay.

At quarterback, rookie Davis Mills has started 10 games for the Texans this season, including each of the past four contests. The third-round pick out of Stanford University has passed for 2,363 yards, 13 touchdowns and 10 interceptions. He did not play at Tennessee on Nov. 21, when Tyrod Taylor quarterbacked the Texans to a 22-13 victory against the Titans.

Coach Silverfield names Matt Barnes defensive coordinator of UofM football ... from sports page 1

Prior to Ohio State, Barnes coached at Maryland for three seasons. Barnes brings 13 years of collegiate coaching experience to Memphis.

“My family and I are so excited to be joining the Memphis football family,” Barnes said. “We are so impressed with the culture that Coach Silverfield has built and what the city has to offer.”

During his three seasons in Columbus, Barnes helped the Buckeyes post an overall record of 31-4 and a winning percentage of .882 – the third-best mark in the nation. Barnes role increased each year at OSU, with him calling the plays for the Buckeyes’ defense for the last 11 games of 2021. Over that stretch, the Buckeyes’ defense allowed just 20.3 points per game after surrendering 33 per game in the first two contests of the year.

In 2019 Ohio State’s defense led the nation in fewest passing yards allowed (156.0 per game) and also led the nation in pass-efficiency defense with a rating of 97.50.

Barnes served as linebacker coach and specials team’s coordinator while at Maryland. Under his guidance, the Terrapins

“Matt Barnes is one of the brightest young defensive minds in college football,” Silverfield remarked. “He has served as an interim defensive coordinator at two Big 10 programs with great success. Matt is a fantastic teacher and we are excited for his family to join us here in Memphis.”

ranked 18th nationally and third in the Big Ten with a 23.9 yard average on kickoff returns. Maryland had two players – Ty Johnson and Tavion Jacobs – who averaged better than 25 yards per kick return and ranked in the top five in the conference in yards per return. Johnson and Jacobs also returned kicks of 97 and 98 yards, respectively, for touchdowns during the 2018 season. Additionally, Maryland tied for 11th nationally in blocked punts (two) and was 39th in net punting (38.8 yards).

During his three-year stay in College Park, Barnes also mentored second-team All-American and first-team all-Big Ten linebacker Tre Watson this year and another pair of Terp linebackers who garnered All-Big Ten recognition:

Jermaine Carter and Shane Cocke-erille. Carter went on to be a fifth-round draft choice of the Carolina Panthers while Cocke-erille signed as a free agent with the New York Jets.

Barnes arrived at Maryland after spending the 2015 season at Michigan as a defensive analyst. During his one season in Ann Arbor, the Wolverines ranked first nationally in defensive pass efficiency, third in passing yards allowed, fourth in total defense and 11th in scoring defense.

From 2012 to 2014, Barnes was a defensive and special team’s graduate assistant at Florida. Over his three-year stay, the Gators’ special teams was eighth nationally in punt return average and No. 24 in kick return average (22.6 yards/kick). Florida was also No. 11 in net punting average (43.2 yards). On defense, the Gators ranked 15th nationally in total defense and 10th in defensive pass efficiency during the 2014 season. In two of his three seasons, Florida boasted a top 15-ranked scoring defense.

Barnes spent the 2011 season as the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at West Virginia Wesleyan College, where

he helped coach Adam Neugebauer to Division II Quarterback of the Year honors and a fifth-place finish in the Harlon Hill voting, which goes to the top player in Division II. Barnes’ offense led the conference in total offense, passing offense, passing efficiency and first downs.

Barnes began his coaching career in 2009 as the running backs coach at Delaware Valley College, before moving on to West Virginia Wesleyan in 2010 as running backs coach.

Barnes is a 2008 graduate of Salisbury University on Maryland’s eastern shore, where he was a team captain and helped the Sea Gulls win three ECAC bowl games and compete in the NCAA Division III tournament in 2007. A fine student, he was a candidate for the academic Draddy Award as a senior. The award is now named the William V. Campbell Trophy and is given to the outstanding student-athlete across all four divisions in college football. His degree is in business.

Barnes is married to Christina Holowinsky, who is from Annandale, Va. The couple has a son, Henry.

Crappie USA travels to Crescent Lake from sports page 3

master Rod Holders, Ego Nets, Brushpile Crappie, Charlie Brewer Slider, Crappie Now Magazine, Jenko Fishing, Crappie Magnet, EFX Graphics, Fin n’ Frames, Crown Trophy, Richland Environmental Solutions, Yeti, Catch Some Relief, Cut Throat Jigs, Bass Tank, Brushpile Fishing, Everhart Outdoors, Cumberland Crappie, JR Madd Breeding, Freaky Franks Tackle, Bubba Blade,

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For more information on the Classic and other CUSA events visit the website at crappieusa.com and Crappie USA Tournament Trail Facebook Page.

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Minott, Nolley II secure AAC Weekly honors

MEMPHIS, Tenn. January 3, 2022 – Memphis Tigers freshman Josh Minott was named the American Athletic Conference Freshman of the Week and red-shirt-junior Landers Nolley II was named to the weekly Honor Roll for their performances last week, the conference announced Monday. In a win at Wichita State and a loss at Tulane, Minott averaged 11.5 points and 5.5 rebounds per game in an average of 17.7 minutes per outing. He shot 55.6 percent from the floor (10-18), and six of his 11 rebounds on the week came on the offensive end. The Boca Raton, Fla., native also had five steals, and he scored

a career-high 15 points in Memphis’ 82-64 win at Wichita State. Nolley II led the Tigers in scoring last week, contributing 15.0 points and 5.0 rebounds per game along with eight total assists. He shot 45.5 percent from 3-point range (5-11) and made seven of his eight free throw attempts (.875). Nolley II started the week with 19 points at Tulane and then had 11 at Wichita State.

This is Minott’s first-career AAC weekly award, and Nolley II was on the Honor Roll twice last season. Tickets and mini plans for 2021-22 are available online at www.GoTigersGoTix.com or by phone at (901) 678-2331.

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