



NEWS RELEASE

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BUCCANEERS TO CELEBRATE WALTER PAYTON MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD THROUGHOUT GAMEDAY

*Former Buccaneers Man of the Year Ryan Nece to Serve as Honorary Guest of the Game;
Gameday Entertainment to Feature Junior Cheerleaders Performance at Halftime*

On Thursday, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers announced **Gerald McCoy** as the team's nominee for the **Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award**, presented by Nationwide. Considered one of the league's most prestigious honors, the *Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award* recognizes an NFL player for outstanding community service activities off the field, as well as excellence on the field.



"I want to know that somebody's life was changed because I was drafted to the Bucs," said **McCoy**. "Not just because they were able to watch me play football, but because something positive happened in their life because I was in that locker room, because I was in the cafeteria or in the community. That, for me, is more important than any sack or ring I can get."

This fall, McCoy launched *Gerald McCoy's Patricia Diane Foundation*. The year-round program, in honor of his late mother, is focused on supporting single-parent households, a cause that has remained central to McCoy's charitable efforts over the years. Through hosting youth football camps in Tampa and his hometown of Oklahoma City, OK, to spearheading the team's annual "D-Line Delivers Christmas" event, to sponsoring a special gameday experience for thousands of local community members, McCoy has remained passionate about giving back to underprivileged families and children in need of support.

"Gerald is not only a leader of this franchise, he is a fixture in our community," said **Darcie Glazer Kassewitz**, Owner / President, Tampa Bay Buccaneers Foundation and Glazer Family Foundation. "His passion is to serve others, and his commitment to his family, his faith and the greater good is unwavering. Whether he's initiating productive discussions about social justice, raising awareness for childhood cancer research, or coordinating life-changing surprises for single-parent families, he tackles each initiative the same way: with a gracious smile and a generous heart."

As this year's nominee for the award, McCoy will wear a *Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year* **helmet decal** through the end of the season in recognition of his accomplishments on and off the field. For more information on the award, visit Buccaneers.com.

On Sunday, when the Buccaneers host the New Orleans Saints, the team will continue to celebrate the NFL Man of the Year Award throughout the game, including a former Buccaneers Man of the Year assisting with the coin toss. In addition, young fans will bring cheer with a holiday-themed Junior Tampa Bay Buccaneers Cheerleaders halftime performance and the team will continue the tradition of honoring local heroes with the Hero of the Game and the Salute to Service Suite supported by Jabil, amongst other recognition activities.

TEAM INTRODUCTIONS AND HONORARY GUEST OF THE GAME

For team introductions, Buccaneers' Season Pass Member **Dr. Derek Busciglio** will lead the team out of the tunnel. Following the national anthem performed by the **Exciting Central Tampa Ensemble**, Buccaneers Legend and 2005

Walter Payton Man of the Year Nominee **Ryan Nece** will serve as the team's Honorary Guest of the Game and will join the Buccaneers team captains at midfield for the coin toss

HALFTIME: JUNIOR TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS CHEERLEADERS PERFORMANCE

At halftime, fans will welcome the **Junior Tampa Bay Buccaneers Cheerleaders** back to Raymond James Stadium for their second performance of the season. Now in its 21st year, the Junior Tampa Bay Buccaneers Cheerleaders program is comprised of more than 175 youth cheerleaders ages 6-14 who perform routines alongside the 2018 Tampa Bay Buccaneers Cheerleaders. The longstanding program, which also includes a unique meet and greet event with the Buccaneers Cheerleaders and cheerleading workshops is designed specifically to promote self-esteem, commitment, and fun among youth of all ages and ability levels.

HERO OF THE GAME: US NAVY YEOMAN 3RD CLASS FLORENCE McCANN

Before kickoff, the Buccaneers will continue a tradition with the team's military *Hero of the Game*. At every Buccaneers home game, a select military member will be stationed on the Pirate Ship in Buccaneer Cove to ready the team for action. This week, the Buccaneers and Central Florida USO are proud to honor from the United States Navy, **Yeoman 3rd Class Florence McCann**. McCann joined the *Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service*, also known as the WAVES program, in 1943 at the age of 19 in her hometown of Donora, Pennsylvania. During World War II, McCann was assigned to the U.S. Navy Bureau of Ships in Washington, D.C. at the Anacostia Receiving Station and from 1943-1946 proudly served in intelligence data gathering, clerical and mechanic operations. For her bravery and commitment to service, Yeoman 3rd Class McCann was awarded the World War II Victory Medal and the American Campaign Medal.

SALUTE TO SERVICE SUITE, SUPPORTED BY JABIL

At every Buccaneers home game, the team honors a distinguished group of military members with an exclusive gameday experience in the **Salute to Service Suite, supported by Jabil**. During a break in play, fans are encouraged to direct their attention to the pirate ship and join players and coaches in thanking local servicemen and servicewomen for their sacrifices, including:

- From the Air Force, Senior Technical Sergeant Jessica Payne and Senior Airman Nicholas Argo
- From the Army, Senior First-Class **Paul R. Deguzman** and Staff Sergeant **Alexander Wilson**
- From the Coast Guard, AMT 3 **Bradley Jones**
- From the Marines, Corporal **Joy Christian**
- From the Navy, OS2 **Charles Merryman**

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS FOUNDATION 50/50 RAFFLE

On gameday, fans have the opportunity to participate in the **Tampa Bay Buccaneers Foundation 50/50 Raffle** while supporting a worthwhile cause. Each raffle ticket purchased will go towards a huge cash prize in which 50 percent of the net proceeds help support the team's mission to uplift the Tampa Bay community, inspire youth, and drive social change through programs that enrich the lives of families in the region. The other 50 percent will go to one lucky winner. Tickets are available at kiosks located in sections 106, 115, 131, 140 and each club level as well as mobile sellers throughout the stadium. For a complete list of rules and regulations, locate a kiosk or mobile seller on game day. To learn more, visit www.buccaneers.com/5050.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS FOUNDATION'S 'GAMEDAY FOR KIDS' GUESTS

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers Foundation hosts 100 "Gameday for Kids" to promote academic achievement and positive behavior in children. Selected groups receive game tickets, t-shirts, food vouchers and Buccaneers flags by achieving goals set by their teachers. More than 17,000 youths and community members representing over 100 organizations from Tampa Bay have been rewarded through the annual program. This game's attendees will represent **Egypt Lake Elementary, Lavoy Exceptional Center and Twin Lakes Elementary**.

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