



# NEWS RELEASE

ADVENTHEALTH TRAINING CENTER • ONE BUCCANEER PLACE  
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## **BUCCANEERS TO RECOGNIZE “FUEL UP TO PLAY 60” PARTICIPANTS, HOST YOUTH FOOTBALL SCRIMMAGE AND HONOR LOCAL MILITARY THROUGHOUT 2018 HOME OPENER**

On Sunday, September 16, when the Tampa Bay Buccaneers host the Philadelphia Eagles for the 2018 regular season home opener, the Buccaneers will celebrate youth football during team introductions and halftime. In addition, the Buccaneers will continue the tradition of honoring local heroes throughout gameday with the Hero of the Game and the Salute to Service Suite, presented by Jabil.

### **TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS ACTIVITY BOOKS**

At every Buccaneers home game this season, children entering Raymond James Stadium will receive a brand new **Tampa Bay Buccaneers Activity Book** and a set of colored pencils. An eight-volume series, each book will feature football-themed puzzles, Buccaneers coloring activities and educational word games – providing new fun for kids at every game.



### **TEAM INTRODUCTIONS AND HONORARY GUESTS OF THE GAME**

For team introductions, four **Fuel Up to PLAY 60** participants from **Davenport School of the Arts** will lead the team out of the tunnel. Following the national anthem by **Lumina Youth Choir**, four **Fuel Up to PLAY 60** participants from **Greco Middle School** will serve as the team's Honorary Guests of the Game for the coin toss.

### **HALFTIME: JR. BUCS YOUTH FOOTBALL SCRIMMAGE**

At halftime of Sunday's contest, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers will welcome more than 125 youth football players to the field to participate in a scrimmage. Fans at Raymond James Stadium will enjoy watching the **Polk Phoenix** take on **Pasco** (pee-wee) while **Focus Academy** competes against **Durant High** on the same field as their favorite NFL team.

### **HERO OF THE GAME**

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 will honor **United States Navy Fireman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Vernon Cummings**. In 1944, at the age of 17, Cummings enlisted in the Navy in his hometown of Fort Wayne, Indiana. He attended basic engineering and diesel school and served aboard the *USS Indiana*, including the battle of Iwo Jima. For his duty and commitment to service, Fireman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Cummings received the American campaign medal for World War II and Three-Star Asiatic Pacific Campaign medal. Cummings is currently an active volunteer with the Honor Flight of West Central Florida where he assists other veterans reflect on their commitment and honor their service.

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### **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, Petty Officer **Deanna Froehlich**, Chief Master Sergeant **Chris McBride** and Staff Sergeant **Thomas Wadsworth**
- From the Army, Sergeant First Class **Charles Catob**
- From the Coast Guard, Petty Officer **Jake Manuel Huerta**
- From the Navy, Petty Officer First **Class Andru Stich**
- From the Navy, Chief Warrant Officer **Nicholas Nemeth**

### **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](http://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 **Bevis Elementary, Potter Elementary** and **Lanier Elementary**.

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