

NEWS RELEASE

CHICAGO BEARS HOLDING SALUTE TO SERVICE WEEK

The Chicago Bears are holding Salute to Service Week leading into their Salute to Service game on Sunday, Nov. 21, when they host the Baltimore Ravens; both are brought to you by Cigna.

Salute to Service Game:

On Sunday, the national anthem will be performed by United States Air Force Veteran Mark J. Lindquist alongside a joint service presentation of colors on behalf of the United States Transportation Command out of Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. The 144th Army Band will perform on the Dr Pepper Patio and Staff Sergeant Johnathan Zuchristian from the United States Marine Corps will run out the American Flag for player introductions. Shoutouts from active military members and veterans stationed in Africa, Iraq, Japan, Ukraine and stateside will air on the scoreboard wishing the Bears good luck.



Cigna's Veteran Resources:

Throughout the week, Cigna will provide veterans with information about their mindfulness and veteran resources, including their free, 24-hour Veteran Support Line (855-244-6211) for all veterans and their families to help them cope with military deployment, find assistance, and support post-deployment. Salute to Service week is brought to you by Cigna.

"We're proud to once again join forces with the Bears on the Salute to Service initiatives to support veterans," said Cigna Midwest market president Brian Marsella. "Cigna is committed to improving the health, well-being, and peace of mind for the people and communities we serve, and it's an honor to support the men and women who have served our nation."



Salute to Service Award Nominee:

The Bears have nominated Jimmy Graham for the Salute to Service Award presented by USAA, whose foundation, [The Jimmy Graham Foundation](#), aims to provide life-changing and impactful experiences through the freedom of flight to veterans; they also provide flights for unfamiliar or underprivileged youth as an introduction to aviation. Graham takes veterans on flights in his two recent US Army aircraft restorations: a 1957 de Havilland Beaver and 1967 UH1 Iroquois "Huey" helicopter. This past year Jimmy and his foundation provided over 50 rides to veterans. For the past two seasons, Graham has donated tickets to each Bears home game for the Boeing Military Salute honoree.



Topgolf with Wounded Warriors Project and Merging Vets and Players:

On Nov. 15, Bears alumni will be paired with veterans from the [Wounded Warrior Project](#) and [Merging Vets and Players](#) to play at Topgolf. The WWP aims to honor and empower Wounded Warriors who incurred a physical or mental injury, illnesses or wound during military service on or after Sept. 11, 2001. MVP brings combat veterans and former professional athletes together to tackle the transition together.



Vietnam War Commemoration Breakfast at Halas Hall:

On Nov. 16, Vietnam War veterans and their guests will be welcomed to Halas Hall for a breakfast with Bears alumni and special welcome home pinning ceremony. Bears Reporter Lauren Screeden will host a Q&A with Bears staff members who have also served in the military. To learn more, visit vietnamwar50th.com.

Player Virtual Q&A with Naval Station Great Lakes:

A current Bears player will virtually join service members stationed at Naval Station Great Lakes for a Q&A panel hosted by the USO of Illinois on Nov. 16. Opened in 1911, Naval Station Great Lakes is the Navy's largest training installation and the home of the Navy's only Boot Camp.



The Road Home Program:

On Nov. 17, Bears Care will host veterans served by [The Road Home Program](#) for a tour of Soldier Field with alumni, followed by lunch provided by veteran-owned Chicago Bears Small Business All-Pro Peppo's Subs. The Road Home Program provides mental health care and wellness to veterans of all eras, service members and their families at no cost and regardless of discharge status with the goal of helping them heal the invisible wounds of war. Bears Care has supported the Road Home Program annually since it opened its doors in 2014, having donated nearly \$700,000 to date.



Thanksgiving Dinner Giveaway:

The Bears, Jewel-Osco and Molson Coors will hold a turkey giveaway for military families from The Road Home Program: The Center for Veterans and their families at Jewel-Osco (1340 S. Canal St., Chicago) on Nov. 18. Bears alumni will be on-site for photo opportunities with service members and their families.

Women in Service Dinner:

On Nov. 18, the Chicago Bears alongside Cigna are thrilled to host a private dinner for Women In Service at The Dearborn, a woman-owned business. Veteran women as well as active-duty service members from [Blue Star Families](#), [VOA Illinois](#) and [Chicago Veterans](#) will join together for an evening of celebrating the accomplishments and sacrifices of women in the military community. Chicago Bears reporter Lauren Screeden will host a special Q&A with three veteran women; Karen Hernandez (Chicago Veterans), Demi Palecek (National Guard) and Akya Gossit (U.S. Army combat veteran, VOA Illinois).

Midwest Veterans Closet Turkey Giveaway:

Alongside Cigna, the Bears will support a turkey giveaway on Nov. 19 for veterans hosted by Midwest Veterans Closet in North Chicago. [Midwest Veterans Closet](#) provides food, goods, and dignity for the military, many of whom are experienced or are at-risk of homelessness. Staley Da Bear, Chicago Bears Drumline brought to you by The Pride Stores, Monster Squad and Chicago Bears partner organizations will be on-site.