

## Houston Texans, PTSD join forces in “Salute to the Military”

Written by Yolande Lezine

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The Houston Texans and PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) Foundation of America-Houston Chapter, joined forces in a “Salute to the Military” with a series of week-long events capped off by a special presentation at the Texans vs. Cleveland Browns football game at Reliant Stadium.

The duo, along with several other sponsors and volunteers rolled out the red carpet to honor and thank military members and veterans for their service.

On Monday evening, the Texans hosted a Salute to the Military Field Day at the Methodist Training Center. Veterans who were wounded in combat had the opportunity to take part in a variety of football drills led by Texans players LB Brian Cushing, C Chris Myers, TE Joel Dreessen and long snapper Jon Weeks. Guests had a Q&A session with the players and then they went on a tour of Reliant Stadium.

Thursday afternoon, the Lady Texans, comprised of the wives and significant others of Texans players and coaches and female staffers invited 150 members of the armed services to Reliant Stadium for a barbecue lunch in Budweiser Plaza. After lunch the group traveled across the

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street to watch the Texans practice. Players took photos and signed autographs for their guest.

Sunday afternoon marked the culmination of the week’s events that were held both prior and throughout the Cleveland Browns/Houston Texans football game. This was a day that featured a full set of events to honor and celebrate the contributions that the men and women of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard make to our country. Each branch of the military had vehicles stationed near the Coca-Cola Zero/Kroger Kids Zone prior to the game.

Inside the stadium, military members helped hold the Texas and American flags on the field for the national anthem, which was performed by Army Staff Sergeant Tracy Labrecque. Challenger, a bald eagle soared above the crowd during the anthem. Afterwards former President George Bush was carted on field to do the coin toss at midfield.

The Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon performed on the field at halftime in what has become one of the most anticipated Texans game day events each year. The team also provided tickets to veterans and active-duty soldiers, sailors and airmen through a number of military-affiliated organizations. Texans center Chris Myers and his wife bought most of the tickets donated.

“Mrs. Myers just had a new baby and she kept calling to make sure that we have enough tickets for the troops,” stated Susie Barlow, Director of the PTSD and the Support Our Troops Organization. “All of our sponsors have generously given from their hearts, which is a true testament of why we love to serve the United States of America.”

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