



*Until Every One Comes Home.®*

**MANY NFL RELATIVES IN THE MILITARY**

Over the past few years, thousands of Americans around the country have said good-bye and good luck to family members in the armed services who have left the U.S. to serve their country abroad. The NFL community is no different.

There are a number of players and coaches who have relatives who have served or are serving in the military. There are even players and coaches who, themselves, have been part of the U.S. military.

One NFL military relative is 53-year-old **HERMAN MORRIS**, stepfather of Kansas City Chiefs running back **PRIEST HOLMES**. Morris, a master sergeant in the Army reserve, volunteered for a 12-month tour of duty in Iraq.

Holmes knows that as hard as the NFL is, it can't compare with the life of his father or any other soldier. "There's just no rest over there," says Holmes. My father "works 18-hour days. The sun and the sand over there are so harsh that they changed the color of his skin. And the soldiers are constantly on alert. When they sleep, it's with one eye open. They are unbelievable. I know the arena I work in is so different. I'm not sacrificing my life."

Holmes isn't the only player or coach who worries about a relative serving in the military. Baltimore Ravens running back **MUSA SMITH's** brother **JOHN** is a U.S. Marine who was wounded in Iraq. When Musa found out that John had been wounded, "the only thing we could do was pray for him....I just look at him, and to see my position, I'm definitely blessed. It definitely puts things into perspective."

Cincinnati Bengals assistant defensive coach **CHUCK BRESNAHAN** knows about the sacrifice made by those who join our armed forces. Bresnahan attended and played football at the U.S. Naval Academy. He knows the commitment required to be one of the special few who proudly serve our country.

Although the sacrifice is great, Bresnahan stresses that life in the armed services has countless positives. "There were a lot of things I picked up that I still carry to this day," he says. "You have to learn how to handle situations. You have to treat people the right way. Each person, each situation is different, and you have to be able to adjust. I think my years in the Navy helped me to do that."

To honor our troops, NFL players, coaches and alumni have made a number of trips to visit our troops overseas. In May, Atlanta Falcons LB Keith Brooking, RB Warrick Dunn, and Baltimore Ravens TE Todd Heap went on a four-day NFL-USO tour to visit U.S. troops in Germany.

In June, Packers G **MARCO RIVERA** and NFL alumnus and current FOX color analyst **BRIAN BALDINGER** traveled to Kuwait and Qatar to meet with troops. Both were extremely impressed by the attitude and positive outlook of our troops. "I was somewhat surprised by the positive attitude everyone has," says Rivera. "No one complained about being there. They're so young, but they're so mature." Baldinger agreed: "I don't think anybody understands the conditions that these people are fighting in, living in and operating under. It's almost beyond hero status the way these people go about their business to get things done."

NFL personnel who have served in the military or whose family members have served / are serving:

PLAYER	TEAM	MILITARY RELATION
RB Mike Anderson	Denver Broncos	Mike spent four years in the USMC
T Shawn Andrews	Philadelphia Eagles	Brother, Derrick, is in the Army and served in Iraq in 2003
Def Coach Chuck Brenahan	Cincinnati Bengals	Attended US Naval Academy
RB Doug Chapman	San Diego Chargers	Father was in USMC
Def. Co. Gunther Cunningham	Kansas City Chiefs	Father was in the Air Force
LB Donnie Edwards	San Diego Chargers	Grandparents served in WWII
DE Bryce Fisher	St. Louis Rams	Air Force Academy graduate and member of Missouri Air National Guard
CB Drayton Florence	San Diego Chargers	Father was an Army medic
C-G Hank Fraley	Philadelphia Eagles	Brother David is an Army Sergeant
LB Scott Fujita	Kansas City Chiefs	Grandfather fought in WWII
DE Michael Haynes	Chicago Bears	Father is in the Air Force and Mother is in the Army
RB Priest Holmes	Kansas City Chiefs	Father is serving in Iraq
DT Chris Hovan	Minnesota Vikings	Brother was in the Army
S Michael Jameson	Cleveland Browns	Father was in the Army
LB Dhani Jones	Philadelphia Eagles	Father was in the Navy
LB Fred Jones	Kansas City Chiefs	Late Father was in the Navy
TE James Jordan	San Francisco 49ers	Wife, Katasha, is in the Army Reserves
DE Otis Leverette	San Diego Chargers	Father served in Vietnam and was awarded a Bronze Star medal
C Kevin Mawae	New York Jets	Father was in the Army
CB Ray Mickens	New York Jets	Father was in the Army
FB Ben Miller	Cleveland Browns	Served in the Air Force and is now in the Air Force Reserves
RB Tony Richardson	Kansas City Chiefs	Father is in the Army
Cheerleader Kristin Schneider	Cincinnati Bengals	Brother is an Army counter intelligence specialist stationed in Iraq
RB Musa Smith	Baltimore Ravens	Brother John is a corporal in the USMC
CB Charles Tilman	Chicago Bears	Father is in the Army
OL Mike Wahle	Green Bay Packers	Attended the Naval Academy
S Lyle West	Kansas City Chiefs	Brother is in the Air Force