

70 YEARS AGO, NFL FIRST TO RETIRE A NUMBER

It is one of the greatest honors in professional sports -- the retirement of your uniform number.

In 1935 -- 70 years ago -- the New York Giants retired the uniform number of receiver **RAY FLAHERTY** (No. 1), thus anointing the first professional athlete to have his name and number etched in eternity by his club. Since then, 122 players, plus the Seattle Seahawks by retiring the No. 12 to recognize their fans as their “12th man,” have had the honor bestowed upon them.

This season, three men will be added to the fraternity -- Green Bay Packers’ great **REGGIE WHITE** (No. 92), San Diego Chargers Hall of Fame wide receiver **LANCE ALWORTH** (No. 19) and the Carolina Panthers’ late linebacker **SAM MILLS** (No. 51).

When Green Bay President **BOB HARLAN** told White last year before the player’s death that his jersey would be retired, White emphasized how important it was to him. “He was thrilled,” says Harlan. “He kept saying what an honor that would be.”

The Packers will conduct a halftime ceremony at their home opener on September 18 in which White will become the fifth Packer to have his number listed in the north end zone of Lambeau Field.

On November 20, Alworth will join quarterback **DAN FOUTS** (No. 14) in having his number retired by the Chargers. “This is about as good as it gets,” says Alworth. “It’s a humbling experience.”

The Carolina Panthers this summer honored Mills by retiring his No. 51 at halftime of their August 13 preseason game. "Sam will always have a special place in the history of the Panthers," says team president **MARK RICHARDSON**. Following are the 123 numbers retired by NFL teams:

TEAM	PLAYER	NUMBER		TEAM	PLAYER	NUMBER
Arizona	Larry Wilson	8		Minnesota	Fran Tarkenton	10
	Pat Tillman	42			Mick Tingelhoff	53
	Steve Mauldin	77			Jim Marshall	70
	J.V. Cain	88			Korey Stringer	77
	Marshall Goldberg	99			Chris Carter	80
Atlanta	Steve Bartkowski	10			Alan Page	88
	William Andrews	31		New England	Buck Armstrong	78
	Jeff Van Note	57			Gino Cappelletti	20
	Tommy Nobis	60			Mike Haynes	40
Buffalo	Jim Kelly	12			Steve Nelson	57
<i>Carolina</i>	<i>Sam Mills</i>	<i>51</i>			John Hannah	73
Chicago	Bronko Nagurski	3			Jim Lee Hunt	79
	George McAfee	5			Bob Dee	89
	George Halas	7		New Orleans	Jim Taylor	31
	Willie Galimore	28			Doug Atkins	81
	Walter Payton	34		New York Giants	Ray Flahertry	1
	Gale Sayers	40			Tuffy Leemnas	4
	Brian Piccolo	41			Mel Hein	7
	Sid Luckman	42			Phil Simms	11
	Dick Butkus	51			Y.A Tittle	14
	Bill Hewitt	56			Frank Gifford	16
	Bill George	61			Al Blozis	32
	Bulldog Turner	66			Joe Morrison	40
	Red Grange	77			Charlie Conerly	42
Cincinnati	Bob Johnson	54			Ken Strong	50
Cleveland	Otto Graham	14			Lawrence Taylor	56
	Jim Brown	32		New York Jets	Joe Namath	12
	Ernie Davis	45			Don Maynard	13
	Don Fleming	46			Joe Klecko	73
	Lou Groza	76		Philadelphia	Steve Van Buren	15
Denver	John Elway	7			Tom Brookshier	40
	Frank Tripucka	18			Pete Retzlaff	44
	Floyd Little	44			Chuck Bednarik	60
Detroit	Dutch Clark	7			Al Wistert	70
	Bobby Layne	22			<i>Reggie White</i>	<i>92</i>
	Doak Walker	37			Jerome Brown	99
	Joe Schmidt	56		Pittsburgh	Ernie Stautner	70
	Chuck Hughes	85		St. Louis	Bob Waterfield	7
Green Bay	Tony Canadeo	3			Eric Dickerson	29
	Don Hutson	14			Merlin Olsen	74
	Bart Starr	15			Jackie Slater	78
	Ray Nitschke	66			Jack Youngblood	85
	<i>Reggie White</i>	<i>92</i>		San Diego	<i>Lance Alworth</i>	<i>19</i>
Indianapolis	Johnny Unitas	19			Dan Fouts	14
	Buddy Young	22		San Francisco	John Brodie	12
	Lenny Moore	24			Joe Montana	16
	Art Donovan	70			Joe Perry	34
	Jim Parker	77			Jimmy Johnson	37
	Raymond Berry	82			Hugh McElhenny	39
	Gino Marchetti	89			Ronnie Lott	42
Kansas City	Jan Stenerud	3			Charlie Krueger	70
	Len Dawson	16			Leo Nomellini	73
	Abner Haynes	28			Bob St. Clair	79
	Stone Johnson	33			Dwight Clark	87
	Mack Lee Hill	36		Seattle	“Fans/the 12 th man”	12
	Willie Lanier	63			Steve Largent	80
	Bobby Bell	78		Tampa Bay	Lee Roy Selmon	63
	Buck Buchanan	86		Tennessee	Earl Campbell	34
Miami	Bob Griese	12			Jim Norton	43
	Dan Marino	13			Mike Munchak	63
					Elvin Bethea	65
					Bruce Matthews	74
				Washington	Sammy Baugh	33

