

NEWS



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HURRICANE RELIEF WEEKEND

MONDAY NIGHT EVENT DETAILS ANNOUNCED FOR SAINTS-GIANTS GAME AT GIANTS STADIUM

FORMER PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH TO PARTICIPATE IN COIN TOSS;
HARRY CONNICK JR. AND BRANFORD MARSALIS
TO PERFORM NATIONAL ANTHEM

TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

The NFL today announced details of its activities to focus on the Gulf Coast recovery and rebuilding effort as part of the New Orleans Saints-New York Giants game on Monday night, September 19.

Under the theme "Recover and Rebuild," special guests and entertainers from New Orleans and décor changes at Giants Stadium will reflect the special character of what was scheduled to be the Saints' home opener in New Orleans against the New York Giants. The game was originally scheduled for the Louisiana Superdome on Sunday but moved to Giants Stadium at 7:30 p.m. ET Monday due to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

The NFL will host New Orleans Police Chief **EDDIE COMPASS** and other members of the New Orleans Police and Fire Department who will participate in the coin toss along with former **PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH**, who leads, along with former **PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON**, the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund. In addition, the NFL has arranged through several relief agencies for more than 600 residents of New Orleans who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina to the northeast to attend the game.

There will be several performances at Giants Stadium by artists with Gulf Coast ties.

New Orleans natives and music superstars **HARRY CONNICK, JR** and **BRANFORD MARSALIS** will perform the national anthem on piano and saxophone. **IRVIN MAYFIELD**, the famed New Orleans jazz trumpeter and cultural ambassador for the city, will perform "America the Beautiful." The band **3 DOORS DOWN** from Escatawpa, Mississippi will perform during halftime.

The west endzone will say "Saints" and feature the team's helmet logo. Team banners will be placed on the sideline walls. In addition, banners with the website address and phone number for the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund will be on the walls and the fund's logo will be screened onto the field on the sidelines near the bench areas.

The New Orleans Saints cheerleaders, the "Saintsations," also will be on hand.

Tickets for the game are still available through Ticketmaster by phone, (201-507-8900 or 212-307-7171), online (www.ticketmaster.com) or by visiting a Ticketmaster outlet.

Every NFL game on September 18 and 19 will include elements that will highlight and contribute to the national relief effort. The NFL's network television partners (ABC, ESPN, CBS and FOX) and national radio partner, Westwood One/CBS Radio Sports, will promote the relief effort during their pregame shows and game telecasts.

ABC, ESPN and the NFL are teaming on an unprecedented telethon to raise funds and bring attention to the massive needs of the Gulf Coast region. The Monday night telethon will emanate from ABC's Times Square studio in New York City. The telethon will raise money for the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund (www.bushclintonkatrinafund.com). Former Presidents Bush and Clinton lead the fund, which serves as an umbrella organization for three special funds established by the governors of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi to assist in the long-term recovery plan for those states.

Current and former NFL players, including Hall of Famers **MARCUS ALLEN, ERIC DICKERSON, MIKE HAYNES, STEVE LARGENT, RONNIE LOTT, ART SHELL** and **BART STARR**, will be on hand at the studio to answer calls and accept pledges.

The Saints-New York Giants game will begin at 7:30 p.m. ET. ABC will televise the Saints-Giants game until the 9:00 pm ET start of the Washington at Dallas game. At that time, the Saints-Giants telecast will switch to ESPN in most markets. New York, Louisiana and selected hurricane-affected areas will see the Giants-Saints game to its conclusion on ABC. The Cowboys-Redskins game will begin on ESPN in those markets and switch to ABC following the conclusion of the Giants-Saints game.

The NFL, its owners, clubs and players have contributed nearly **\$10 million** so far to Hurricane Katrina relief. Saints owner Tom Benson donated the first \$100,000 to a special relief fund created by the team – the New Orleans Saints Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund (www.saintshurricane.org), which will provide assistance to people in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region.

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