



# PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ALL FIVE LIVING U.S. PRESIDENTS TO APPEAR IN SPECIAL VIDEO PRIOR TO MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ALL-STAR GAME ON FOX**

**First Time All of the Living U.S. Presidents Will Participate in a Ceremony at a Sporting Event**

**U.S. Presidents to Salute 30 People Being Celebrated for Their Outstanding Community Service & Advocating for All Americans to Volunteer**

United States President Barack Obama along with former U.S. Presidents George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush and Jimmy Carter will appear in an unprecedented video address as part of a special ceremony prior to the 80<sup>th</sup> Major League Baseball All-Star Game on FOX, Tuesday, July 14 at 8 p.m. ET. The video will mark the first time all of the living U.S. Presidents will participate in a ceremony at a sporting event. Following the video, President Obama will throw out the ceremonial first pitch.

The Presidential video address, which will run approximately seven minutes, will be part of a pre-game celebration honoring the 30 "All-Stars Among Us," men and women who are being recognized by Major League Baseball and PEOPLE magazine for their selfless acts of giving and service to their communities.

The 30 honorees, one representing each MLB Club, were selected by fans online at [www.peopleallstars.com](http://www.peopleallstars.com) as part of a joint initiative between Major League Baseball and PEOPLE magazine, with nearly three quarters of a million votes cast.

"The importance of community service is personified by the 30 'All-Stars Among Us' and reinforced by the willingness of the five living Presidents to come together in support of this important theme during the Midsummer Classic," said Baseball Commissioner Allan H. (Bud) Selig. "In addition to celebrating baseball's best on the field, Major League Baseball wants to shine a light on stars in the community whose work improves the lives of those who are less fortunate."



The "All-Stars Among Us" program is central to the 2009 MLB All-Star Game and its surrounding events which are dedicated to the recognition of the important role of community service and to charitable initiatives. The charity and community service initiatives, which are themed "Going Beyond," will be the most extensive in Major League Baseball All-Star history. Major League Baseball will raise and donate millions of dollars for numerous organizations.

In addition to talking about the importance of giving back to the community, each President will highlight the accomplishments of one of the "All-Stars Among Us," who will be saluted on the field by the Major League Baseball All-Stars and the fans at Busch Stadium.

President Obama highlights Richard Nares (San Diego, CA – Padres) whose Emilio Nares Foundation, which he began after his young son died of cancer, includes a program called Ride With Emilio that transports sick children who lack access to transportation to their cancer treatments and medical appointments.

Former President George W. Bush comments on Rob Dixon (Brockton, MA – Red Sox), who founded Project RISE, a non-profit organization that transforms at-risk youth into serious students.

Former President Bill Clinton highlights Christine Shively (Newport Beach, CA – Angels), who crochets and knits cancer caps and sends them to 140 cancer centers in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico through her organization, "Knots of Love."

Former President George H.W. Bush honors Gary Lynn (Houston, TX – Astros), a 17-year old with cerebral palsy who started his own foundation and has raised more \$12,000 for cerebral palsy research.

Former President Jimmy Carter talks about Ryan Housley (Tyrone, GA – Braves), who started HeroBox, a nonprofit that supplies specialized packages for soldiers based on their individual needs.

Major League Baseball is supporting President Obama's call for community service through "United We Serve," a program which encourages Americans to engage in sustained and meaningful community service. President Obama is encouraging all Americans to visit [www.serve.gov](http://www.serve.gov) to find service opportunities in their area.

The 80<sup>th</sup> Major League Baseball All-Star Game will be televised nationally by FOX Sports, with pre-game ceremonies beginning at 8:00 p.m. ET, in Canada by Rogers Sportsnet and Sportsnet HD and televised in more than 200 countries and territories by Major League Baseball International. ESPN Radio will provide exclusive national radio coverage, while MLB.com will provide extensive online coverage.

The 30 "All-Stars Among Us" will also participate in the MLB All-Star Red Carpet Show presented by Chevy airing nationally on MLB Network on Tuesday, July 14 at 4 p.m. ET. They will join the 66 Major League Baseball All-Stars, AL and NL All-Star team managers, and Cardinals Hall of Famers who are scheduled to appear including Lou Brock, Bob Gibson, Stan Musial, Red Schoendienst, Ozzie Smith and Bruce Sutter.

The 30 "All-Stars Among Us" (summarized with photos and bio information on the following pages) are individuals who dedicate their time and energy to helping others and improving the lives of those around them.

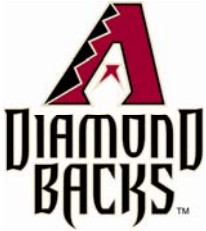
### **About the 2009 Major League Baseball All-Star Game**

The 80<sup>th</sup> Major League Baseball All-Star Game will be played on Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> in St. Louis and will feature the best of the American League taking on the top players of the National League. Major League Baseball has responded to United States of America President Barack Obama's call for community service through "United We Serve," a program which encourages Americans to engage in sustained and meaningful community service. Building up to the excitement of the All-Star Game, Major League Baseball will conduct a wide variety of special events and charitable activities for fans both inside and outside of Busch Stadium. At the ballpark, the events will include Taco Bell All-Star Sunday on Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> featuring the XM All-Star Futures Game and the Taco Bell All-Star Legends & Celebrity Softball Game, and Gatorade All-Star Workout Day on Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup> featuring the State Farm Home Run Derby. Outside of the ballpark, fans will have an opportunity to experience All-Star Summer through a variety of special events including Major League Baseball All-Star FanFest, the five-day interactive fan festival; the MLB All-Star Charity Concert presented by Pepsi benefiting Stand Up To Cancer, a free concert for fans under The Gateway Arch featuring Sheryl Crow; the All-Star Charity 5K & Fun Run presented by Sports Authority and Nike, a charity run on a baseball-themed route to benefit three cancer organizations; and the All-Star Game Red Carpet Show presented by Chevy, a free parade of All-Stars leading into Busch Stadium. The Midsummer Classic will be televised nationally on FOX Sports and will be shown around the world by Major League Baseball International. For more information about 2009 All-Star Summer, visit [www.allstargame.com](http://www.allstargame.com).

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**People**  
**ALL-STARS**  
**AMONG US**  
PeopleAllStars.com



**Arizona Diamondbacks – Bruce Petillo – Gilbert, AZ**

At age 4, Bruce Petillo's son was diagnosed with epilepsy. Understanding the financial challenges of caring for a seriously ill child, Bruce started the Fans Across America Charitable Foundation to help other families. In a time of need, the foundation helps offset everyday living expenses so parents can focus on their child's health. Fansacrossamerica.org



**Atlanta Braves – Ryan Housley – Tyrone, GA**

Inspired by conversations with his younger brother Evan, deployed in Iraq, Ryan Housley started HeroBox to support soldiers in combat. The nonprofit organization supplies packages customized to a soldier's specific needs. Demand grew quickly, and Ryan now works full time to fulfill requests so that every soldier feels appreciated.



**Baltimore Orioles – Frank Kolarek – Baltimore, MD**

Frank started League of Dreams for children with mental and physical disabilities. His foundation enables kids to play baseball and softball in a safe and loving environment, and gives them an opportunity to feel like big leaguers.



**Boston Red Sox – Rob Dixon – Brockton, MA**

Rob works to transform at-risk youth into serious students. He founded the non-profit Project RISE to give these children the skills and motivation to succeed. Many at Project RISE are referred by probation officers. Amazingly, 90 percent of participants graduate from high school and 146 students have attended college.



**Chicago Cubs – Erin Leyden – Chicago, IL**

Erin started a foundation to help families who have children suffering from epilepsy. She offers support by listening to their struggles and calming their fears. Erin's foundation is educating the public about epilepsy and seizure first aid while working to eliminate the stigma and dispel myths surrounding epilepsy.



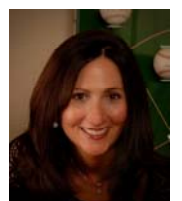
**Chicago White Sox – Joe Schmitz – Morris, IL**

Joe Schmitz transforms his passion for baseball into generosity. He is the founder of Operation St. Nick, an organization that has donated over \$1 million to 3,700 families in Morris, IL. With fundraising bus trips to Chicago White Sox games and an impressive baseball collection, Joe helps families in need every day.



**Cincinnati Reds – Sherri J. Friedman – Cincinnati, OH**

Sherri understands the magic that comes from exposing kids to live sports and cultural events. She founded and runs Most Valuable Kids of Greater Cincinnati, an organization that distributes unused tickets to underserved children. Sherri has helped 22,000 kids experience these events, including more than 4,800 tickets to Cincinnati Reds games.





**Cleveland Indians – Dr. Michael Konstan – Bratenahl, OH**

Dr. Konstan has focused his life's work on cystic fibrosis and those with the disease. Due to his research and leadership, the life expectancy of CF patients has nearly doubled. His care and compassion have brought comfort and hope to his patients and their families.



**Colorado Rockies – Darrell Scott – Littleton, CO**

His daughter was the first person killed at Columbine High School in April 1999. Darrell launched the nonprofit Rachel's Challenge to spread her message of good will and compassion. By sharing Rachel's story and inviting students to "start a chain reaction" of kindness, Darrell has helped change lives and prevent suicides.



**Detroit Tigers – Kathleen Brooks – Sterling Heights, MI**

Kathleen Brooks has worked tirelessly to recruit bone marrow donors for the Be The Match Registry. As the coordinator for the Southeast Michigan District of the United States Postal Service, Kate has secured more than 1,000 potential donors under the USPS Delivering the Gift of Life Campaign.



**Florida Marlins – Kristen Malfara – Melbourne Beach, FL**

When her son was diagnosed with leukodystrophy, Kristen resolved to help other families in her situation. She founded the M.O.R.G.A.N. Project to support parents caring for their special-needs children with information, equipment and small grants, and to enhance the quality of life for these families.



**Houston Astros – Gary Lynn – Houston, TX**

Gary has cerebral palsy and is wheelchair bound. Refusing to be defined by his disability, today he is a straight-A student at Spring High School in Houston. In addition, he has his own foundation, which has raised and donated \$12,000 for CP research.



**Kansas City Royals – John Lair – Pittsburg, KS**

In 2001, John started a Special Olympics team for people with Developmental Disabilities. Today, it has grown to be the best in Kansas. John volunteers over 600 hours of his time a year to Special Olympics and has coached three World Champion Special Olympians.



**Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim – Christine Shively – Newport Beach, CA**

Since 2007, Christine Shively has brightened the lives of more than 20,000 strangers suffering from the ravages of cancer. Through her organization, Knots-of-Love, she crochets cancer caps and sends them to 140 cancer centers around the US, Canada and Mexico, providing warmth and TLC in a time of need.



**Los Angeles Dodgers – Barbara Palilis – Los Angeles, CA**

Teens with disabilities such as autism, Down Syndrome, etc. are often isolated, ignored, and invisible on high school campuses. Barbara Palilis created Circle of Friends, a social skills program of inclusion, to bring the understanding of differences to high schools. After seeing its success at Santa Monica High, Barbara brought this program to 21 sites throughout California and hopes to expand it nationwide.





**Milwaukee Brewers – Loyal Mehnert – Milwaukee, WI**

Loyal Mehnert takes an adventurous approach to fundraising. His “Everyday Journeyman Project” began with January’s 4,200-mile Plymouth-Dakar charity rally. It continues with a 2,175-mile solo hike from Georgia to Maine on the Appalachian Trail. All money raised will be donated to assist Habitat for Humanity’s Hurricane Katrina rebuilding efforts.



**Minnesota Twins – Marylou Krest – Lima, NY**

Marylou and her husband have spent years collecting school supplies, used little league equipment and uniforms and donating them to the children of the Dominican Republic. With a \$100,000 school building project underway, they are now looking for another project in the Caribbean.



**New York Mets – Tara Suri – Scarsdale, NY**

Tara was galvanized by the sexism she encountered in India at 13. She founded Turn Your World Around to engage young people in initiatives ranging from empowering sex trafficking victims to increasing access to education. She has impacted thousands globally and is dedicated to forging a movement of youth creating change. Turnyourworldaround.org



**New York Yankees – Michael and Christina Pesci – Parsippany, NJ**

Siblings Christina and Michael share more than a family: they’re both committed activists. Christina is president of Bridging the Generation Gap, an outreach club encouraging friendship between young people and seniors. Michael founded the nonprofit Perfect Pitch, which has raised \$175,000 for mentally and physically handicapped children and young adults.



**Oakland Athletics – Duane Silverstein – Albany, CA**

Duane’s organization, Seacology, finds win-win environmental solutions. It has built 85 schools and established over 35 scholarship programs benefiting indigenous peoples around the world. In exchange, they have preserved over two million acres of threatened forests and coral reefs. The rock group Daughtry featured Duane in a music video about unsung heroes.



**Philadelphia Phillies – Brad Hennefer – Cherry Hill, NJ**

Brad Hennefer is the only person with Down Syndrome in his high school Hall of Fame. He started the Golf For Life Foundation to introduce Down Syndrome individuals to the game of golf. Started locally, Brad’s foundation has grown into an outstanding national program. Golfforallife.org



**Pittsburgh Pirates – Matt Kuntz – Helena, MT**

Matt Kuntz’s stepbrother Chris committed suicide in 2007 after returning from Iraq with undiagnosed Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Matt made it his mission to ensure that all National Guard Troops in his home state of Montana receive adequate PTSD screening. He continues to campaign for PTSD awareness and screening for all veterans.



**San Diego Padres – Richard Nares – San Diego, CA**

Richard Nares started the Emilio Nares Foundation after his young son died of cancer. Its Ride With Emilio program transports sick children to their weekly cancer treatments and medical appointments when their families lack access to transportation. For families coping with a child’s illness, it’s a vitally important service.





**San Francisco Giants – Kendra Robins – San Francisco, CA**

Kendra is the founder of Project Night Night, which helps homeless children “one sweet dream at a time.” It donates tote bags filled with childhood essentials: a security blanket, a book and a stuffed animal. The Night Night packages comfort young children in homeless shelters and promote their emotional and cognitive well-being. ProjectNightNight.org



**St. Louis Cardinals – Julieann Najar– St. Louis, MO**

Julieann started sending packages to troops in 1968 during the Vietnam War. In that same spirit, she started A Soldier’s Wish List in 2004. It conducts fundraisers and collects donations to finance care packages for soldiers overseas. Julie’s organization also coordinates an “adoption” program, matching soldiers with volunteers who send them packages.



**Seattle Mariners – Leo McCarthy – Butte, MT**

Leo McCarthy’s activism stems from a tragic incident. In 2007, his teenage daughter Mariah was struck and killed by an underage drunk driver as she walked home. Leo started Mariah’s Challenge to keep teens from drinking—and to promote responsible behavior by adults. mariahschallenge.com



**Tampa Bay Rays – Tommy Timberlake – Tampa, FL**

Tommy makes it possible for disabled people to experience the joy of sailing in a safe, supportive environment. A qualified instructor, Tommy has spent hundreds of hours teaching sailing to individuals with physical and mental disabilities, including paraplegia, autism and Down syndrome. He takes sailors age 16-70 to local regattas.



**Texas Rangers – Ben Sater – Plano, TX**

Ben Sater was a visionary by the age of 10. He applied that vision to create KidSwing, a benefit golf tournament for children. Now in its seventh year, it has helped raise \$660,000 for the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, where Ben was once a patient.



**Toronto Blue Jays – Melanie Burton – Belleville, ON**

At age five, Melanie helped send thousands of Christmas shoeboxes to war-torn countries. Now she runs Reading Rocks, a program that encourages children with reading difficulties to love reading and improve their literacy. Melanie does most of her own fundraising and has helped children read thousands of books.



**Washington Nationals – Dr. John Glaspy – Northridge, CA**

Oncologist and UCLA Professor of Medicine John Glaspy pushes the boundaries of his role. A strong voice for patients, he speaks out to dispel the social isolation that affects cancer patients and their families. Dr. Glaspy believes we will soon win the battle against cancer, and he is helping to make that happen. His ideas inspired Stand Up to Cancer, a program of the Entertainment Industry Foundation that awards grants to researchers who could change the face of cancer treatment.

