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MIKE CAREY NAMED 2022 NFLRA HONOREE

The union recognizes Carey for his outstanding NFL officiating career and his service to the NFLRA

SAN ANTONIO – The National Football League Referees Association (NFLRA) announced the selection of Mike Carey as its 2022 Annual Honoree. Carey will be honored on April 9 at the NFLRA’s Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet. The Honoree Award recognizes an NFL official’s outstanding career – both on the field and as a member of the NFLRA Board of Directors.

“Officiating is reflective of life,” said Carey. “It teaches how to be a representative citizen of the U.S.: Be fair to all and make decisions from a neutral mindset. Beginning as a player, I value playing the game on the edge, while respecting the rules. A big benefit from my time with CBS was learning how strong the football community is and how much players and coaches truly respect what we do as officials.”

“Mike’s leadership and all-business with a smile approach with clear, concise announcements earned him the respect of fellow officials, coaches and players,” said Scott Green, NFLRA Executive Director.

Carey’s officiating career began in San Diego in 1972 and was hired by the WAC as a Back Judge in 1985. Carey joined the NFL in 1990 as a Side Judge and was promoted to Referee in 1995. Carey’s jersey, with his 24-year career No. 94, is enshrined in the NFL Hall of Fame. Carey worked 20 postseason games, including two conference Championships, and in Super Bowl XLII he became the first African American Referee to work a Super Bowl. This honor he attributes to the many who pioneered the path but did not live in an era to reap those rewards.

Other firsts in Carey’s accomplished career: First referee to wear an open television mic in the NFL Playoffs and the Super Bowl. In 2008, Mike and Don Carey became the first brothers assigned on a crew together, and in 2009, they were the first brothers to serve as Referees. He was the first from the storied San Diego County Football Officials Association (SDCFOA) member to work in the NFL. To date, six SDCFOA members followed that path to the NFL. Coincidentally, four officiating coaches came through his crew, as well as two SVPs, Walt Anderson and Mike Pereira.

Mike Carey is committed to equity. He requested not to work Washington games while they used their racially degrading nickname. He also teamed with Byron Boston's leadership prompting the NFL to acknowledge data based racial bias in the officiating department. This led to the NFL’s defined commitment to inclusion and diversity in the department.

He and his wife Wendy built Seirus Innovations Inc, a leader in the snow-sports industry. Carey served on the board of the Snowsports Industries of America for 12 years and was its Chairperson for four years.

A San Diego native, Carey earned a BS degree in Biology from Santa Clara University (SCU) in 1971 where he was a varsity running back all four years. Mike was appointed to SCU's Board of Trustees in 1995 through 2016 and retains Emeritus status. In 2008, he received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from SCU. Mike served on the Board of the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Diego from 1993-2013. In 2008, Mike was inducted into its National Hall of Fame and the San Diego Officials Hall of fame. In 2019, he was inducted into SCU's Athletics Hall of Fame. In 2014, Carey joined CBS Sports as their NFL rules analyst. Carey also served 12 years on the NFLRA Board.

Mike is married to his college sweetheart and long love of his life, Wendy. They have two exceptionally accomplished daughters, Drisana and Danica.

"We recognize Mike's great career with the NFLRA's highest honor," said NFLRA President Carl Paganelli. "He is a good example of everything we all strive to achieve as officials."

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