



JEFF TRIPLETTE NAMED 2023 NFLRA HONOREE

The NFLRA recognizes the former union President for his outstanding NFL officiating career and his service to the NFLRA.

WASHINGTON – “I am humbled to be honored in the same company as so many NFL officiating greats who have been past NFLRA honorees,” said Jeff Triplette after being notified by NFLRA President Carl Paganelli that he would be the 2023 Honoree.

Triplette grew up on a dairy farm in North Carolina with an affinity for sports, lettering in football, basketball and track while in high school, but when he refereed his school’s JV basketball games, he found his passion for officiating. To help pay for his Wake Forest education, Triplette officiated high school football, basketball, and baseball contests and countless youth sporting events.

Triplette entered the ranks of collegiate officiating in 1977 with the Southern Conference. In 1993, he joined the Big East Football officiating staff and worked the 1995 Holiday Bowl.

The NFL hired Triplette in 1996 as a Field Judge/Back Judge and quickly elevated him to Referee in 1999, where he remained until retirement following the 2017 season. He wore No. 42 for his entire 22-year career and was assigned to a post-season game every season.

After enduring the NFL’s lockout of its officials at the start of 2001 season, Triplette joined the NFLRA’s Board of Directors and the Negotiating Committee as its primary financial analyst. This contributed to an early 2006 CBA with significant pay and retirement benefit increases for NFLRA members and retirees.

He was then elected NFLRA Vice President in 2008 and again asked to be the financial analyst for the 2012 Negotiating Committee. The Committee spent most of the spring and early summer negotiating a new CBA with League representatives but were again locked out in June 2012.

In September, the season began with replacement officials. The Committee had spent over a week negotiating with Commissioner Goodell and his team when the Monday Night Football debacle occurred. Days later, a new CBA agreement was reached, affirming numerous job

protections for NFLRA members including increased pay and retirement benefits protection for current and retired members.

In early 2013, Triplette assumed the NFLRA Presidency and fought to protect members on numerous issues, including the NFL's attempts to violate the CBA by hiring full-time officials as non-union members. He retired from the post of President following the 2016 season.

Triplette has had a successful and diverse off-the-field career. After 32 years at Duke Energy in several senior leadership roles, he led numerous companies in the risk management, software analytics and real estate sectors. He is a retired Colonel with over three decades of service in the U.S. Army National Guard and Reserve and was awarded the Bronze Star while serving in the first Persian Gulf War.

Triplette and his wife Laurie now reside in Oxford, Mississippi. He sits on the governing council of the Oxford-University United Methodist Church, the Board of Visitors for Wake Forest's School of Business, and the Board of Wake Athletics' Deacon Club. He is also the Executive-in-Residence for the School's Allegacy Center for Leadership and Character and the Executive Chair of Arbitersports.

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