



*A Celebration of Life for Junior Seau*

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Friday, May 11, 2012 | Qualcomm Stadium, San Diego, CA | 6:30pm

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## **Welcome**

The Spanos Family is honored to host tonight's *Celebration of Life* and thanks you for attending.

Seating is open on all levels of the stadium.

We invite you to stop by the Plaza Concourse, between Gates C & D and sign personal messages that will be given to the family.

San Diego Food Trucks and beverage portables are located on the Plaza Concourse. Select Fan Stands are open on each level for refreshments.

Field Level 4 and 38, Club Level 1 and 41, Loge Level 17 and 25,  
Press Level 45 and 58, View Level 8 and 31

## **Master of Ceremonies**

**Miles McPherson**

Former Safety, San Diego Chargers &  
Senior Pastor of The Rock Church, San Diego

## **Invocation**

**Shawn Mitchell**

Senior Pastor at New Venture Christian Fellowship, Oceanside

## **Special Guest Speakers**

**Mayor Jerry Sanders**

City of San Diego

**Dan Fouts**

Hall of Fame Quarterback, San Diego Chargers

**Billy Ray Smith**

Former Linebacker, San Diego Chargers

**Bobby Ross**

Former Head Coach, San Diego Chargers

**John Lynch**

Former Safety, Tampa Bay Buccaneers & Denver Broncos

**LaDainian Tomlinson**

Running Back, San Diego Chargers & New York Jets

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**Donations in Seau's honor can be made to the Junior Seau Foundation. Visit tables tonight on the Plaza Concourse.**

Donations can also be mailed to: the Junior Seau Foundation, 5275 Market Street, Suite B, San Diego, CA 92114.

Or online at [www.juniorseau.org](http://www.juniorseau.org).



# TIAINA “JUNIOR” SEAU

*January 19, 1969 - May 2, 2012*

Junior Seau lived life with a smile.

His positive spirit and passion for life energized those around him, particularly his teammates and his community, leaving everyone better for knowing him.

Although the football player is most recognized by San Diegans and fans worldwide, it's the man that became one of the world's most iconic sports figures.

The fifth of six children, Junior was born Tiaina Seau Jr. on January 19, 1969 in San Diego. At an early age his family moved to American Samoa, but they returned to the mainland prior to him entering grade school and Seau did not learn to speak English until age seven. He went on to play linebacker and tight end at Oceanside High School and was named CIF San Diego Section Defensive Player of the Year, all-state and USA Today All-USA honorable mention, as well as All-North County and Avocado League Offensive Player of the Year as a senior. He was also the consensus San Diego Section Basketball Player of the Year and was named to California's all-academic team with a 3.6 grade-point average.

Seau was a leader and the heart and soul of the Chargers from 1990-02. His stellar playing career was highlighted by 12 consecutive Pro Bowl appearances, the most by any player in Chargers history and tied for the third-longest streak ever. Seau was chosen one of the 50 greatest Chargers of All Time in 2009, inducted into the Chargers Hall of Fame in 2011 and he is undoubtedly a lock to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame when he becomes eligible in 2015.

Seau's NFL statistics are beyond Hall of Fame worthy. He appeared in 268 regular season games, including 200 as a Charger, tied for second all-time in team annals. This total ranks second in NFL history among players whose primary position was linebacker (Clay Matthews, 278). During his stellar 20-year career, Seau racked up 1,524 tackles, 56.5 sacks and 18 interceptions. He was the team leader in tackles in eight of his 13 seasons in San Diego, averaging 116 tackles a year. Seau led the Chargers in tackles in 84 of the 200 games he played for San Diego and he recorded 10 or more tackles 47 times.

Seau's greatness as a player on the field was equaled only by his leadership and generosity in the community. He was a loving father, an astute businessman and a community leader. He established the Junior Seau Foundation in 1992 to raise money and resources for programs that inspire young people to face life's challenges with enthusiasm, hope and dignity. The Foundation's mission: "to educate and empower young people through the support of child abuse prevention, drug and alcohol awareness, recreational opportunities, anti-juvenile delinquency efforts and complimentary educational programs." He oversaw all the efforts of the Foundation and through his work awarded hundreds of scholarships to college-bound students throughout the San Diego region. Every December, he led the holiday charge, taking several hundred underprivileged kids on a shopping spree to buy gifts for friends and family through the "Shop with a Jock" program.

As a testament to the contributions he made to enrich young lives in San Diego and around the country, Seau and his foundation were presented at the White House by President George W. Bush with the "Volunteer Service Award," as part of the Asian Pacific Heritage Month celebration in May of 2005. Other honors bestowed upon Seau for his charitable efforts include: National Boys and Girls Clubs Hall of Fame (1999); San Diego Hall of Champions Professional Star of the Year (1992); NFL United Way representative (San Diego Chargers: 1992 and 1999); A Magazine: One of 100 most influential Asian Americans (1990s); JB Award which recognizes NFL players for dedication to build better families and stronger communities (2005); Sporting News Miami Dolphins Good Guy (2004), and spokesman for the National Beer Wholesaler's Association appearing on national PSAs to curb underage drinking and stop illegal alcohol consumption among youth. He received the 2003 Spirit of San Diego Award from the San Diego Chamber of Commerce for community commitment and leadership.

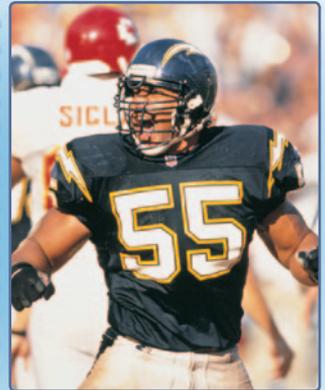
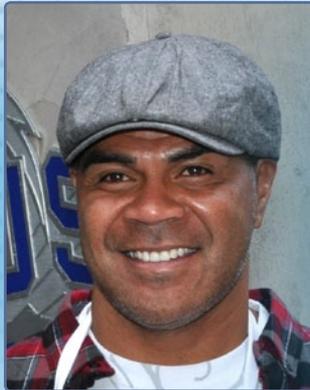
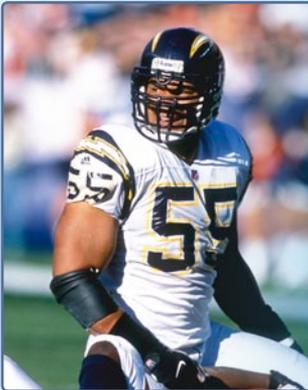
Perhaps the most memorable year of Seau's career came in 1994 when he led the Chargers to Super Bowl XXIX against the San Francisco 49ers and was selected as the True Value NFL Man of the Year for his leadership and contributions off the field. Among his many honors, Seau was named the Chargers' Most Valuable Player a team-record six times (1993, 1997-2001) and the Defensive Player of the Year twice (1998-99). He also was voted the Chargers' Most Inspirational Player in 1997 and 2002. In 2000 he was named to the Chargers 40th Anniversary All-Time Team, the Pro Football Hall of Fame's All-Decade Team for the '90s and selected as the NFL Alumni Association's Linebacker of the Year. He was a first-team All-Pro pick by the Associated Press six times during his career (1992-94, 1996, 1998, 2000) and was a second-team selection on two occasions (1995, 1999). He also received the Miami Dolphins' Don Shula Leadership Award following the 2003-04 seasons.

In 1996, Junior opened SEAU's the Restaurant, one of San Diego's most popular sports-themed restaurants. Each year on Thanksgiving Day, the restaurant opens its doors to feed 600 residents of homeless shelters, victims of domestic violence, military families, and families from local Boys & Girls Clubs.

With so much to be proud of, Seau's most treasured accomplishment is his children. His spirit and passion for life . . . and his smile . . . will carry on in his daughter Sydney and sons Tyler, Jake and Hunter.

## JUNIOR SEAU'S NFL HIGHLIGHTS

- Selected by the San Diego Chargers with the fifth overall pick in the 1990 NFL Draft. He played in the NFL longer than any other first-round choice that year.
- Voted to a Chargers team-record 12 consecutive Pro Bowls (1991-2002 seasons), as he became just the fourth NFL player since 1970 to be selected 10 or more straight times to the Pro Bowl, joining Randall McDaniel (12), Mike Singletary (10) and Lawrence Taylor (10) for that honor.
- Named the NFL Alumni Association's Linebacker of the Year in 2000.
- In 2000, named to the Chargers' 40th Anniversary Team.
- Named to the All-Decade Team of the 1990s by the Pro Football Hall of Fame.
- Selected the Chargers' Most Valuable Player five straight seasons (1997-2001), while he shared the award with Leslie O'Neal in 1993.
- Voted the Chargers' Defensive Player of the Year twice (1998-99).
- Voted by his teammates as the Chargers Most Inspirational Player in 1997.
- Voted first-team All-Pro by the Associated Press six times during his career (1992-94, 1996, 1998, 2000) and was a second-team selection on two occasions (1995, 1999).
- First-team All-Pro selection by College & Pro Football Newsweekly twice (1992, 1994) and a second-team pick three times (1993, 1995, 1999).
- First-team All-Pro pick by Pro Football Weekly on four occasions (1992, 1994-95, 1998).
- First-team All-Pro by the Pro Football Writers of America four times (1992-95).
- First-team All-Pro selection by USA Today in 1996.
- Recorded 10 or more tackles in a game 59 times.
- Led team in tackles in 89 of his 230 career regular season games.
- Led the Chargers in tackles in eight of his 13 NFL seasons.
- Averaged more than 115 tackles a season and more than seven tackles a game over his career.
- Is tied for first on San Diego's all-time list for games played with 200.
- Registered 47 sacks during his tenure with San Diego, third on the Chargers' all-time list.
- For his philanthropic efforts, was named the NFL Man of the Year in 1994.
- Chosen one of the 50 Greatest Chargers of All Time in 2009.
- Inducted into the Chargers Hall of Fame in 2011.



### SPECIAL THANKS

Golden State Graphics for providing this evening's program.

Digital One Color for providing the surfboard inspired Tribute Wall.

Ace Parking, Centerplate

The Junior Seau Foundation

NFL Films, NFL Network, ESPN, Channel 4 San Diego, FOX 5, KFMB, KGTV, KUSI  
NBC San Diego, San Diego 6, Groovy Like a Movie, University of Southern California