

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LA RAMS NFL HALL OF FAME RUNNING BACK ERIC DICKERSON ANNOUNCED AS SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT HONOREE AT VALLEY OF THE STARS GALA

The Sky's the Limit for the Valley Economic Alliance 2022 Valley of the Stars Awards Gala.

SHERMAN OAKS, CA (February 9, 2022) LA Rams NFL Hall of Fame Running Back **Eric Dickerson** will be the Sports & Entertainment Honoree at this year's Valley of the Stars Gala, April 8, 2022, at Castaway in Burbank, CA. This event is presented by The Valley Economic Alliance annually to an iconic, difference maker in sports and entertainment. "I'm honored to be recognized by the Valley Economic Alliance but my contribution to Sports is made possible by my fans. They make the game," stated Dickerson.

"It's with great pride that we honor Hall of Famer Eric Dickerson, who set the NFL's single season rushing record in 1984 and continues to leave a legacy off the field by inspiring and encouraging our youth with his powerful story of overcoming life's obstacles," said Sonya Blake, President and CEO, The Valley Economic Alliance. "We are so thrilled to have - in the year of the LA Rams - Eric as our Sports & Entertainment honoree for the Valley of the Stars Gala. We recognize his incredible leadership both on and off the field. He is an essential voice in the LA business and sports community and a voice always for positive change."

Dickerson, whose star-studded NFL career spanned 11 seasons with the LA Rams, Indianapolis Colts, LA Raiders, and Atlanta Falcons, rushed for over 13,000 yards. Dickerson still holds the NFL single-season rushing record which he set in 1984 while a LA Ram of 2,105 yards. In 2019 Dickerson was named to the NFL 100th Anniversary All-Time Team. Dickerson has worked since 2017 in the LA Rams front office as Vice President of business development. He has also served as NFL Analyst for FSI. Dickerson will be one of the most visible and likely, most enthusiastic stars on the Rams sideline during Sunday's Super Bowl Rams clash against the Cincinnati Bengals at SoFi Stadium. Dickerson stood tall on the field as a very imposing and solid 6'3", and 220



Ibs. Dickerson is a six-time Pro Bowl Pick and a five-time First-team All-Pro. Dickerson once rushed 248 in an NFL playoff game.

Actor, director, and television personality Jerry O'Connell will serve as Master of Ceremonies for the 2022 Valley of the Stars Awards Gala on Friday evening, April 8, 2022. The in-person event themed "The Sky's The Limit" will be held at the Castaway Burbank located at [1250 E. Harvard Road](#) in Burbank, CA. O'Connell, San Fernando Valley resident and host of THE TALK, CBS' Daytime Emmy Award-winning talk show, returns to the Gala following his role as emcee of the 2021 virtual event.

"This will surely be the event of the year for the San Fernando Valley offering all the inspiration and entertainment our guests have come to expect," O'Connell said. "The gala serves to strengthen the valley's economic recovery and support provides critical business assistance for local small businesses, job search assistance for local residents, advocacy for improving the quality of life in the San Fernando Valley region."

He first received widespread critical acclaim for his role as quarterback Frank Cushman in "Jerry Maguire." Most recently he appeared in the film "Endangered Species," with additional credits including "Scream 2," "Can't Hardly Wait," "Mission to Mars," "Tomcats," the Jerry Bruckheimer-produced comedy "Kangaroo Jack," "Yours, Mine and Ours," "Man About Town," "Obsessed," "Piranha 3-D," "The Lookalike," "Deep Murder," and "The Secret: Dare to Dream." O'Connell was also seen in the big-screen follow-up to the cult hit television series "Veronica Mars." In addition to his film work, he has been seen in multiple hit television series, including "Scream Queens" (FOX), "Mistresses" (ABC), "The Big Bang Theory" (CBS), "Billions" (SHOWTIME), "The Mysteries of Laura" (NBC), "Carter" (OWN) and currently voices Commander Jack Ransom in "Star Trek: Lower Decks" (PARAMOUNT+).

Honorees named for the Valley of the Stars Gala include Menchie's Frozen Yogurt Company of Encino CEO Amit Kleinberger. He will receive the Valley of the Stars Jane & Bert Boeckmann Business Leadership Award at the Valley of the Stars Gala.

Ken Craft, founder, and CEO of Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission has been named as the 2022 Star of the Valley Humanitarian Award. Craft joins past notable honorees in that category including Judge Harry Pregerson, the Eisner Foundation with Michael and Jane Eisner, David Fleming, Dennis McCarthy, Rickey Gelb, the Pump Brothers, Patrick McClenahan, and Mel Wilson. Additional honorees will be announced before the event.

The sky's the limit for the San Fernando Valley's future with sponsorship opportunities available as a 2022 Valley of the Stars Gala Sponsor. Contact Jacqui Matsumoto, Director of Investor Relations at 818.379.7000, ext. 113 or jmatsumoto@economicalliance.org for details regarding sponsorship and tickets.

ABOUT THE VALLEY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

The Valley Economic Alliance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization comprised of business, government, education, and community leaders. Our mission is to engage and unite Valley stakeholders to raise standards of living and economic vitality across the San Fernando Valley, a five-city region encompassing Burbank, Calabasas, Glendale, Los Angeles, and San Fernando. This region consists of more than 1.9 million residents, over 160,000 businesses, and covering more than 350 square miles. To learn more about The Valley Economic Alliance, visit www.TheValley.net



Eric Dickerson, Sports & Entertainment Honoree, Valley of the Stars Gala

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