



National Council For Adoption Welcomes Hoda Kotb, Greg Louganis, Kitty Carruthers, and DeMarcus Ware to Nationals Park to Celebrate Adoption

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April 14, 2022 – Alexandria, VA – On Friday, April 29, National Council For Adoption (NCFA) will welcome *Today Show* host **Hoda Kotb**, Olympians **Greg Louganis** and **Kitty Carruthers**, and Super Bowl Champion **DeMarcus Ware** to Washington, D.C.'s Nationals Park for *Safe at Home: A Ball at Nationals Park*, as NCFA celebrates over 40 years of service to adopted children and adoptive families.



Originally planned for Spring of 2020 to mark NCFA's 40th anniversary, *Safe at Home: A Ball at Nationals Park* will honor and celebrate the contributions of individuals

and organizations in the adoption community, as well as support NCFA's work to increase pathways to adoption, provide affirming support for birth parents, build capacity among adoption agencies in their service to children and families, help more families begin their own adoption journeys, and provide robust post-adoption support.

NCFA's special guests for *Safe At Home: A Ball at Nationals Park* represent many different types of adoption journeys and personal connections to adoption. Attendees will hear personal stories about the impact adoption has had on the lives of NCFA's special guests, as well as celebrate our award honorees, all against the backdrop of Nationals Park.

The featured guest speaker for the evening is Hoda Kotb. Known for her role as co-host of the *Today Show*, Kotb is the mother of two daughters through adoption. During the event, she will be presented with NCFA's *Friend of Adoption Award*, highlighting her compelling public advocacy for adoption.

Joining Kotb will be Olympic Gold Medalist and NCFA's 1990 *Adoption Hall of Fame* awardee Greg Louganis. Adopted as an infant, Louganis represents and advocates from the unique perspective of adult adoptees.

Alongside Louganis will be fellow Olympian Kitty Carruthers Conrad, an adult adoptee whose journey brought her to the Olympic stage and then on to adopt children of her own. She has also been recognized by NCFA for her impact in the field of adoption with her 1991 induction into the *Adoption Hall of Fame*.

Finally, NCFA will also be honoring former Dallas Cowboys and Denver Broncos linebacker and defensive end and a Super Bowl champion DeMarcus Ware with their *Friend of Adoption Award*. During his NFL career, Ware became a father through adoption, and has enthusiastically championed adoption over the past decade

Also receiving awards during the program are longtime NCFA leaders and strategic partners. Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP and Charles E. "Chuck" Johnson will be inducted into the *Adoption Hall of Fame*, Stacey and Kevin Reynolds will receive the *Friend of Adoption Award*, and Wayne and Linda Sharp will receive the *Ruby Lee Piester Adoption Award*.

Following the program, attendees will enjoy all that Nationals Park has to offer, from speed pitching, batting practice, and stadium tours to a gourmet taste of the ballpark.

The presenting Home Plate sponsor of this event is NCFA partner The Opt Institute. Also making this event possible are the Coach's Box sponsors, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, Greg and Jane Castanias, Stacey and Kevin Reynolds, SLCG Economic Consulting, and Wayne and Linda Sharp. More than forty additional sponsors are participating in this event and are listed at adoptioncouncil.org/ball. Sponsorship packages and individual tickets are still available.

If you are interested in attending or learning more *about Safe at Home: A Ball at Nationals Park*, please contact Megan Ritter Judt, Director of Development, at [mjuddt@adoptioncouncil.org](mailto:mjudt@adoptioncouncil.org) or (703) 299-6633.

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ABOUT NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION

Founded in 1980, National Council For Adoption (NCFA) is a global adoption advocacy nonprofit that promotes a culture of adoption through education, research, legislative action, and collaboration. As the authoritative voice for adoption, NCFA's areas of focus include domestic infant adoption, adoption and permanency outcomes for youth in foster care, and intercountry adoption. Passionately committed to the belief that every child deserves to thrive in a nurturing, permanent family, NCFA serves children, birth parents, adopted individuals, adoptive families, and adoption professionals. In addition, we work tirelessly to educate U.S. and foreign government officials and policymakers, members of the media, and all those in the general public with an interest in adoption.

For more information, visit www.AdoptionCouncil.org