

Armed Forces Merit Award

Presented by the Football Writers Association of America



The Armed Forces Merit Award will be presented by the Football Writers Association of America (FWAA) in conjunction with the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl (BHAFB). The award recipient will be officially announced annually on Veteran's Day. The award will be presented to an individual and/or a group who have created, developed and produced a program within the realm of the sport of football that provides care, concern and support for past or present members of the United States Armed Forces and/or their families.

The Armed Forces Merit Award will be selected by a panel of individuals from the Football Writers Association of America (a minimum of five members) and the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl (a minimum of two individuals). Nominations will be sought from various groups and associations, including the American Football Coaches Association, The College Sports Information Directors of America, The National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame and USA Football. The nominee's "contribution" will be assessed by reviewing various items, including the completion of a nomination form, supporting documents and letters of recommendation.

When considering an individual and/or group for the Armed Forces Merit Award, a nomination form must be submitted along with letters of support for the individual and/or group. In addition to their military-based program, the nominee for the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl Merit Award for will also be evaluated on evidence and examples of the following attributes.

- **A**uthentic, **R**eliable, **M**otivating, **E**nthusiastic, **D**etermined
- **F**air, **O**rganized, **R**espectful, **C**ommitted, **E**ffective, **S**elfless

The Armed Forces Merit Award presented by the Football Writers Association of America in conjunction with the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl will be awarded for the first-time prior to the playing of the 2012 post-season game at Amon G. Carter Stadium in Fort Worth, Texas.

As the official bowl game that honors all branches of the United States armed forces, the **Armed Forces Bowl** (www.armedforcesbowl.com) is owned and operated by ESPN Regional Television, Inc. (ERT). The Armed Forces Bowl was inaugurated in 2003 as the Fort Worth Bowl under corporate title sponsorship from PlainsCapital Bank. After the 2005 game was played without a corporate sponsor, Fort Worth-based Bell Helicopter took over title sponsorship in 2006 as the post-season intercollegiate football game became officially known as the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl. The game has been televised annually on ESPN since its inception with radio coverage provided the past five years by ESPN Radio.



The **Football Writers Association of America** (FWAA, www.sportswriters.net) consists of the men and women across North America who cover college football for a living. Founded in 1941, the membership includes journalists, broadcasters and publicists, as well as key executives in all the areas that involve the game. The FWAA works to govern areas that include game day operations, major awards and an All-America team.



Through its website, the FWAA works to improve communication among all those who work within the game. The FWAA also sponsors scholarships for aspiring writers and an annual writing contest. Behind the leadership of President Lenn Robbins and Executive Director Steve Richardson and a board of veteran journalists, the FWAA continues grow and work to help college football prosper at all levels. There are now over 1,000 members.

Associated Groups

Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl
 Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl
 Football Writers Association of America
 Football Writers Association of America

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