



PRESS RELEASE, OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

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Football Legend, Ronnie Lott Returns to Eisenhower High School for NFL recognition

RIALTO – Years after he left the City of Rialto, Ronnie Lott publically stated that some of the “best years of my life were spent” at Eisenhower High School. Well, he’s coming home.

Ronald “Ronnie” Mandel Lott, a 1977 Eisenhower High School graduate and NFL football Hall of Fame player, will be at his alma mater, on Monday, May 9, 2016, at noon, for the “Hometown Hall of Famers” recognition. The Pro Football Hall of Fame and the Ford Motor Company are partners in a program which honors the hometown roots of football's greatest players.

“This is a great honor for Eisenhower High School and for our students,” said Principal of Eisenhower High School, **Scott Sparks**, who is also a former student, teacher, coach, and current resident. “Ronnie Lott was my hero when he attended USC, and then drafted by the San Francisco 49ers. This honor shows our current students, as well as our future students, that successful people do come from our schools, including Eisenhower High School.”

Lott, who was a cornerback, free safety, and strong safety in the NFL for 14 seasons during the 1980s and 1990s, was invited back to Eisenhower High School in 2009, when the **Rialto Unified School District Board of Education** approved renaming the high school stadium after him.

RUSD Board of Education President, **Nancy G’ O’Kelley** was the principal of Eisenhower High School during Ike’s 50th School Anniversary and she personally invited Lott, and his family, for the renaming of the stadium.

“I am extremely proud and excited that Ronnie Lott will be returning to Eisenhower High School again to present his alma mater with the Hometown Hall of Fame plaque,” stated O’Kelley. “In 2009, we recognized Ronnie Lott’s enormous contributions to the sport of football by renaming our football stadium, *Ronnie Lott Stadium* as part of our 50th Anniversary Celebration. We were proud and honored that Ronnie Lott and his family returned to Eisenhower to celebrate with us! Ronnie Lott’s impressive career and charitable work have had a positive, meaningful impact on the sport of football, the city of Rialto and most of all his alma mater, Eisenhower High School.”

Lott was a first-round pick in the 1981 NFL Draft. He played professionally for the San Francisco 49ers, Los Angeles Raiders, New York Jets, and Kansas City Chiefs of the NFL. He, impressively, earned four Super Bowl rings, ending his career with the 49ers. Lott was elected into the *Pro Football Hall of Fame* in 2000, and is considered one of the best of all time at the safety position in NFL history. Lott was also the winner of the 1977 Ken Hubbs Award (awarded to the San Bernardino County’s top male high school athlete). According to *USA Today*, After his professional football career, Lott was “one of the most successful athletes at making the transition to business.”

“Our District has a proud history of graduating many talented students, of which Ronnie Lott is definitely one,” replied RUSD **Superintendent, Dr. Cuauhtémoc Avila**. “We join Eisenhower High School and of course, Frisbie Middle School, because Ronnie Lott was also a Frisbie *Falcon*, in honoring him at his alma mater, Eisenhower High School.”

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